

Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC) – 4/21/2021

These are post session notes from the seventh call in this cycle of Workforce Development Professional Learning Community (PLC) conversations. The Environmental Workforce PLC meets every other Wednesday from 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm Eastern time via conference call from any telephone. Each PLC session includes discussions related to workforce development and the successful implementation of EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) programs. **The next PLC will be May 19th** – two weeks after the HMTRI Virtual All Grantee Meeting, May 4th to May 6th same time, place, and call-in number.

The objective of the (PLC) is to promote and share innovative strategies among Brownfields Job training communities and assist new communities develop environmental job training programs.

This week's discussion points included

- Updates from Washington
- The 2021 Virtual All Grantee Meeting
- Building an EWDJT support team
- Looking forward to FY22 EWDJT Requests for Applications

If you received these notes, you are on our list to continue receiving announcements and session notes. Return this email with subject "Remove" if you are no longer interested in receiving PLC notes and announcements.

If you or an associate would like to be added to the PLC participant list, send contact information to:

HMTRI@eicc.edu

Ideas presented during these sessions represent individual opinions. They do not represent EPA, state, local or organizational policy. Information presented should not be taken as such.

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Post Session Notes

Session 252, April 21st, 2021

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1. Latest from Washington

Two important webinars are upon us. Each has a potential for influencing the scope and direction of the EWDJT program. Here is a quick summary of each. A more detailed description and registration links appear in section 8 of these notes.

EPA Brownfields Stakeholder Discussion with Nonprofits

April 23, 2021

1-3pm Eastern

Please join EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization for a Brownfields Stakeholder Discussion with Nonprofits and Community Foundations on Friday, April 23, 2021 from 1-3pm EDT! See section 8 for details and registration.

CCLR with David Lloyd, Director of EPA Brownfields and Land Revitalization

April 29, 2021

2-3pm Eastern

Both the Moving Forward Act and President Biden's proposed Build Back Better Plan include major provisions that support brownfields redevelopment and land reuse. Join CCLR for an in-depth discussion on federal funding coming down the pike and how grantees could leverage it to turn neighborhood liabilities into community assets. See section 8 for details and registration.

As of now, Brownfields 2021 is still scheduled as an in-person event for September 27-30, 2021

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Sign up for the latest information on the 2021 Brownfields Conference, including featured speakers, sponsorship opportunities, and more.

[Visit the conference website](#)

2. From HMTRI

Mark your calendar

Return your registration ASAP for the annual and virtual All Grantee Meeting May 4th, 5th and 6th. Send several people from your organization interested in the EWDJT program. Open to all.

12:00 to 3:00 pm Eastern each day

The All-Grantee Meeting provides a unique opportunity to share a variety of approaches to Brownfields' job training and workforce development. This year participants will exchange information and ideas with each other and with EPA regional/headquarters representatives. The goal of the meeting is to assist stakeholders interested in developing an EWDJT program, learn from experienced grantees, share tips and best practices.

This year's All Grantee Meeting is a Zoom event with a format similar to last year's. Sessions are scheduled from 12:00 to 3:00 pm Eastern each day. The event will feature networking

opportunities with EPA staff, Regional Coordinators, current, past, and prospective grantees, student videos, break-out rooms for discussion and grantee tours.

Please send questions to:

HMTRI@eicc.edu.

Register today for the free Annual Virtual All-Grantee Meeting

Open to All – Invite others from your organization....

May 4-6 from 12-3 pm Eastern.

Registration link:

<https://brownfields-toolbox.org/2021-all-grantee-registration/>

3. Preparing for 2021 Virtual All Grantee Meeting

As in the past, we use grantee input to develop an agenda with topics and talking points of interest. The agenda includes three regional breakout sessions, ten plenary sessions and eighteen breakout sessions addressing a variety of topics related to environmental workforce training. After-hour sessions will feature home videos and grantee tours. Each plenary session is coded with a “P” number and breakouts with a “B” number. These codes allow us to automatically move participants from room to room between sessions. As part of your registration, you will be asked to choose the breakout you wish to attend. We encourage several participants from each organization attend the meeting allowing them to split their attendance between sessions. Detailed descriptions and talking points appear as part of the registration. They can also be accessed as part of the meeting schedule. To review breakout sessions, go to:

<https://brownfields-toolbox.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2021-All-Grantee-Meeting-Schedule.pdf>

To make this year’s even better we are collecting the following.

- As you can see from the Agenda, we are having eighteen Breakout Sessions. While the sessions are open discussion, if you would like to get on the agenda for a specific topic, send your request to Steve Fenton at the address below.
- Student Experiences Attending an EWDJT Program: We are always looking for examples of student experiences of what it’s like to go through an EWDJT program, and what the experience means to the individual going forward. As with video tours, send your videos, emails or photos to sfenton103@aol.com. Phone videos are also welcome.
- In preparation for the regional coordinator sessions, it is helpful to jot down some questions you would like to have addressed by your EPA project officers.
- Video Tour of Programs: We would want to showcase EWDJT programs. A short, 5-10-minute video tour of your facility is an excellent way to do so. If you have an existing video, or could make one to share, we are delighted to show it. The videos shown last year were well received and are a great way to showcase your program.

Even photos of your operation in lieu of a video would work as well. Send your videos or photos to: sfenton103@aol.com. Phone videos are welcome.

Note: we are not talking about formal videos. A simple “walk thru” of your facility, a graduation clip or outside training exercise taken by phone would be great. Please respond to **Steven Fenton**, with your clips sfenton103@aol.com as soon as possible.

4. EWDJT news

FY21 EWDJT funding announcements

Congratulations to this year’s FY21 applications recommended for funding. The full text of the announcement can be found at the following address.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-selects-18-organizations-receive-33-million-brownfields-job-training-grants-build>

New grantees from Region 1

Congratulations to new grantees from Region 1 including the WorkPlace, Inc., The Vermont Rural Water Association, and the City of Worcester. Summaries of their proposed programs are presented in section 7.

Happy Earth Day to all our EWDJT partners

Thursday, April 22nd we celebrate the 51st earth day. In spring of 1970, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson was [inspired by a disastrous oil spill](#) off the coast of Santa Barbara to launch a day of teach-ins and demonstrations. Coupled with numerous environmental disasters like the Cuyahoga River fire in 1969 and late 60s student activism, the time was right to focus on the mounting environmental damage caused by human neglect. Later that year, President Nixon formed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency combining environmental authority scattered among several agencies including the Department of Interior and Public Health Service. By 1972 Federal legislation commenced including the Clean Water Act followed by the Clean Air Act. Today 51 years later, with a renewed appreciation of our planet, it is hard to believe how little attention we gave to our environment.

An Earth Day message to EWDJT grantees from Dream Corps Green for All

“In order to take care of the planet, we have to take care of each other. On the first Earth Day in 1970, 22 million people stood together to demand environmental justice, resulting in groundbreaking environmental laws that protect human health. Today, it stands as a reminder that when we come together, we have the power to create meaningful change—for our planet *and* our communities.

At Dream Corps Green for All, we know that protecting the planet isn’t just about reducing pollution and planting trees—it’s also about protecting *people*. Everything good for the planet, from clean energy to electric vehicles, can bring better jobs, better health, and better opportunities to our communities. Amplifying and uplifting the talent in black, brown, indigenous, and rural communities is especially key to finding real solutions to the climate crises and ensuring the green economy works for *ALL*. Dream Corps Green For All works at the intersection of the environmental, economic, and racial justice movements to advance solutions to eliminate poverty and pollution. We advocate for strong, resilient, and healthy

neighborhoods by mobilizing for policies that center the health and wealth of the communities hit first and worst by pollution and poverty.”

5. Questions from PLC participants

Question: Our EWDJT application has not been funded. What can we expect from asking for a grant proposal debriefing Any ideas?

Response: *If you are still interested in the EWDJT program, it is important to set up a call with your Regional EPA Coordinator to critically review your application. (Critical is being used in a positive way). After passing threshold criteria, reviewers used ranking criteria to identify the best proposals (until the budget was exhausted). How applicants responded to ranking criteria is the primary determination of fundable proposals. Frequent topics of a critical review often relate to the following questions.*

- *Was each ranking criteria question completely answered?*
- *What were the depths of your partnerships?*
- *Did your training conform to EPA priorities?*
- *Did you leverage partners such as job centers and workforce investment boards?*
- *How did you coordinate with other nonprofits?*
- *Did you present conflicting information?*

Unfunded applications and reviewer comments should be taken with a positive attitude. Remember, EPA Regional Coordinators are on your side and are championing your success. EWDJT grant applications require a level of detail to which many grant writers are not accustomed. Many organizations used the first try as a springboard to a more comprehensive and fundable proposal in the next cycle. EPA is only months away from the FY22 Request for Applications and it is important to begin establishing new partnerships, employer relationships and community participation. For applicants who have not started an EWDJT program, work to keep the idea of community environmental training current. Beginning May 19th, the PLC will begin addressing FY22 Requests for Applications with a focus on responding to ranking criteria.

6. Refreshing your EWDJT team

First, a note to new applicants and those unfunded in FY21

By now, first time EWDJT applicants and those not funded for FY21 have learned of the effort, lead time and level of detail required to write a fundable EWDJT proposal. EPA cooperative agreements are not like many academic grants. They require specific goals, milestones, deliverables, and performance standards.

Starting from zero, new programs need at least six months to a year to establish networks, partnerships and leveraged resources. The 60 day response time between issuance of the RFA and application closing date does not provide enough time to do the homework required of a fundable proposal. Those 60 days are only sufficient for writing the application. Approximately 6 months are required to establish the content of the proposal. We are not talking about six months of full-time effort. Much of the work requires developing relationships, networks and collecting background information. These activities require chronological time rather than actual

working hours of effort. Although, when totaled, the EWDJT application requires several months of effort distributed among several contributors, each with diverse skill sets. We call these contributors the EWDJT support team. Today's PLC discussed assembling a team of committed participants interested in developing or energizing your community environmental workforce development and job training program. While the EWDJT team does not have full-time workers on pre-proposal preparation, contributors must commit their time to a collective effort and reach various milestones during application development.

Second, a note to current grantees interested in submitting FY22 applications

Clearly, existing and EWDJT alumni have an advantage over new applicants. They have established relationships with employers, partners, and experience in environmental workforce training. However, EPA is aware of the advantage current grantees have and go to great lengths insuring a level playing field is part of a subjective competition. During the FY21 competition of 18 fundable grants, 9 were new grantees and 9 were previously funded. Two years ago, 26 grantees were approved for FY20 funding. There is a high expectation that those 26 grantees will compete with new applicants and previously unsuccessful grantees for available FY22 funds. The task to develop new and expanded proposals will be as difficult for existing grantees as for those interested in establishing new programs.

- Previous performance is not a "slam dunk" or guarantee of continued funding.
- The EWDJT program was established as "startup funding" because EPA would like to see environmental training expanded to new communities across the country with limited available funds.
- Due to this, legacy programs must demonstrate why their program deserves refunding.
- Proposal reviewers do not want to fund recycled applications.
- Relationships must be updated with new commitments of support and expanded partnerships.

Having presented issues working against existing grantees, EPA would like to see successful programs continue. With issues facing new programs and working against existing grantees, it is time to discuss the development of comprehensive and fresh proposals for the FY22 EPA request for EWDJT funding. Both new and legacy applicants need to build strong EWDJT support teams providing information that impresses reviewers and demonstrates the depth of resources committed to EWDJT.

Building an EWDJT support team

Address "who, how, what, why and when" issues before submitting an EWDJT application. Who will be investing the time and effort required to coordinate EWDJT proposal preparation? How will those individuals be supported? What will be the responsibilities of each contributor? Why is each task contributing to the final application? When will each contributor's effort begin, continue, and end?

Initially, the team leader may be the only staff member available to begin the pre-proposal effort. Working closely with senior management, everyone needs to be "on board" and committed to environmental justice. Recruiting, training, and finding meaningful employment

for underserved unemployed residents needs to be a passion and is not recommended for 9 to 5 office workers or academics.

With the commitment of senior management, candidates for program contributors will come forward as feasibility planning and partnership development proceeds. Team members should include individuals with the following skill sets, interests, and responsibilities listed below:

- **Project coordination and reporting**- The “taskmaster” - orchestrates the entire project - sets milestones and deliverables
- **Community outreach** - Interested in community development - comfortable working with target communities, residents, and community organizations - enjoys fieldwork
- **Governmental outreach** – Not shy when interacting with the Mayor’s Office and City Council - familiar with local legislation, grants, and state supported programs
- **Employer and advisor outreach** – Knowledgeable about the business environment - has employer contacts - outgoing personality regarding graduate placement & job development – enjoys fieldwork
- **Student recruitment and assessment**- A people person - identifies with program participants - will be instrumental in student support services and retention – will work closely with community outreach
- **Technical training** – The “techie” of the team - familiar with environmental and OSHA training = has training experience and contacts
- **Leveraging, program development and sustainability** – A team effort of individuals previously discussed
- **Grant writing and administration** – May involve several individuals including grant writing, editing, budgeting, accounting, and grants administration

As previously noted, the EWDJT support team consists of a long list of contributors with diverse skill sets and personalities. As grant development proceeds, the project coordinator must have the authority to call on each contributor during the construction of a successful application. During the “long wait” between application and authorization to spend funds, members of the EWDJT support team return to their traditional jobs with the anticipation of working together again on the newly funded EWDJT program.

7. Region 1 new grantee EWDJT program plans

Congratulations to first time grantees from Region 1 including the WorkPlace, Inc., the Vermont Rural Water Association, and the City of Worcester. Here is a summary of their proposed programs and work plans.

The WorkPlace, Inc.

The WorkPlace plans to train 55 students and place at least 42 in environmental jobs in the city of Bridgeport, CT

The training program includes 222 hours of instruction

- 40-hour HAZWOPER
- OSHA 30-hour Construction Industry Outreach
- CT Asbestos Supervisor
- CT Lead Worker
- Lead Safety RRP
- Deconstruction
- Underground/Aboveground Storage Tanks
- Forklift Safety Awareness
- Mold Identification and Remediation
- Two state certifications
- Eight federal certifications

Key partners include

- Connecticut Department of Labor
- Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
- Career Resources, Inc.
- Homes for the Brave
- Groundwork Bridgeport
- Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport
- T. Arduini Company
- Down To Earth LLC
- Primrose Construction Company
- VASE Management
- Viking Construction, Inc.

Vermont Rural Water Association

The Vermont Rural Water Association plans to train 15 students as part of a Wastewater Operator Apprenticeship Program targeting apprentices working at drinking water and wastewater facilities across the State of Vermont. Graduates will increase the number of

qualified wastewater operators across the state, while increasing diversity in the water resources field.

The training program includes 288 hours of instruction

40-hour HAZWOPER,
OSHA 10-Hour Industry
Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants
Basic Wastewater and other wastewater classes
OSHA Trenching and Excavation
Confined Space Entry
Four state
Four federal certifications

Key partners include

Vermont Department of Labor Workforce Development Programs
Vermont Works for Women

City of Worcester

The City of Worcester plans to train 54 students and place at least 48 in environmental jobs targeting newly naturalized citizens, low-income residents, and veterans in the five urban-core Opportunity Zone census tracts in Worcester.

The training program includes 90 hours of instruction

40-hour HAZWOPER
OSHA-10
Asbestos Supervisor
Three federal certifications

Key partners include

MassHire Central Region Workforce Board
Institute for Environmental Education
Ascentria Care Alliance
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
Worcester Community Action Council
Strategic Environmental Services
Kyle R. Blood General Contracting
Environmental Remediation
Muchkin Construction

8. Upcoming Webinars

EPA Brownfields Stakeholder Discussion with Nonprofits

April 23, 2021

1-3pm Eastern

Please join EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization for a Brownfields Stakeholder Discussion with Nonprofits and Community Foundations on Friday, April 23, 2021 from 1-3pm EDT

We invite representatives from nonprofit organizations and community foundations to join this online and open discussion about nonprofit leadership in brownfields assessment, cleanup and redevelopment projects. We will use these questions to guide our discussion:

- How does your nonprofit organization view its role in brownfields cleanup and redevelopment?
- What benefits and barriers exist to nonprofits leading brownfield cleanup and redevelopment projects?
- How can EPA best engage with nonprofit organizations that are most interested in leading brownfields cleanup and redevelopment?

[REGISTER HERE](#)

If unable to attend or if you prefer to share your thoughts on the guiding questions via email, please submit comments to EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization at

BUILDAct@epa.gov.

The comment period is open through April 23

Redefining the 'Green' Job

Friday, April 23rd

7-7:30 pm Eastern

Sign up to receive a reminder to join our Green Dialogues Series Live series

We're excited to bring you our "Green Dialogues Series" in partnership with ECOS, a series of conversations on the green economy and sustainability that will be streamed LIVE on Instagram. Featuring sustainability influencer Isaias Hernandez and Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks (CEO of ECOS), and Harry Johnson (Government Affairs Manager of Dream Corps Green for All).

Join us for 30-minute LIVE conversations on key sustainability issues and how they shape our work building a green economy that creates good opportunities for all. Green For All will be joined by our partners at ECOS, as well as experts, influencers, and impacted community members from across the country. All three sessions will include a live Q&A, so come with questions!

Sign up on this page to receive reminder texts before each IG Live with the link to join our conversations

[Sign up for reminder texts](#)

Environmental Justice – what is it, really?

Atlanta University Center Environmental Justice and Collaboration for Westside Transformation

April 27, 11:30 am Eastern

Dr. Yomi Noibi will lead a discussion on the Development of the Atlanta University Center (AUC) Green Infrastructure Plan: Why Environmental Justice is its centerpiece and why this plan was needed. Student involvement is at the heart of Environmental Justice, and students embraced the movement for Green Infrastructure at AUC. Participants will:

- Learn how to put an equity lens on environmental justice
- Gain a deeper understanding of the need for integrated stormwater management and benefits of green infrastructure
- Understand the role of administration, faculty, students, community leaders, non-profits, and community leaders in adopting equity in developing stormwater infrastructure and increasing greenspace in low-income communities
- Learn about strategies for university-community partnerships that lead to equitable outcomes

[Registration](#)

Passed and Proposed: What the Federal Budget Means for Brownfields Redevelopment

April 29, 2021 | 2:00-3:00 pm EST

The graphic features three circular headshots of speakers arranged horizontally. Below each headshot is their name and title. The background is a solid blue color. At the bottom, there is a row of stacks of gold coins of varying heights. On the left side, there is a logo for the Center for Creative Land Recycling, which includes a stylized house icon and the text 'CENTER FOR CREATIVE LAND RECYCLING' and 'RECLAIM. CONNECT. TRANSFORM.' below it.

David Lloyd
Director | Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization, U.S. EPA

Matt Ward
Co-Founder and CEO | Sustainable Strategies

Darnell Moses
Vice President | Council for Development Finance Agencies (CDFA)

CENTER FOR CREATIVE LAND RECYCLING
RECLAIM. CONNECT. TRANSFORM.

Moving Forward Act

You've no doubt heard of the Moving Forward Act and President Biden's proposed Build Back Better Plan. But, did you know both include major provisions supporting brownfields redevelopment and land reuse? The Moving Forward Act authorizes \$2.25 billion for the EPA Brownfields program for FY 2021 through FY 2025; Build Back Better, if passed, would support community-wide revitalization initiatives including brownfields redevelopment as it applies to clean energy development, climate resilience, environmental justice, and more. And we haven't even mentioned the newly reinstated congressional earmarks or current agency appropriations!

Join CCLR for an in-depth discussion on federal funding coming down the pike and how you can, and should, leverage it to turn neighborhood liabilities into community assets.

[Register Here](#)

Climate Safe Neighborhoods

May 5, 12:00 Eastern

Learn about the Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership and how youth in two of Groundwork's Trusts, Groundwork Hudson Valley, and Groundwork Richmond, VA, and other places are leading the way in working closely with residents and stakeholders to organize, mobilize, and effect systems change to make communities more resilient to extreme heat and flooding.

[Register Here](#)

Cultivating a Positive Workforce Culture from Apprenticeship to Career

A career in the water sector offers meaningful and challenging work that makes a difference in local communities. By building an inclusive and supportive workplace that encourages employee

growth from apprenticeship to career, the sector can attract and retain the qualified candidates it needs.

Joone Lopez from Moulton-Niguel Water District (MNWD) describes her organization's journey to build a culture that allowed MNWD to become recognized as one of the outstanding water utilities in the country.

Tim Friday and Eric Dunker from Castle Rock Water and Arapahoe Community College describe a utility/community college partnership that trains and places students into jobs in the water workforce.

As we indicated during the webinar, here is the link to the recorded version of the webinar and the webinar slides. Go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/water-sector-workforce-webinars>

Other Water Sector Workforce Webinars

EPA hosted a series of webinars highlighting ways in which many organizations across the water sector are implementing programs to help utilities as they address their own workforce challenges.

View recordings of previous webinars below:

- Cultivating a Positive Workforce Culture from Apprenticeship to Career (April 2021)
- Technology Adoption at Utilities (December 2020)
- Role of State and Local Workforce Boards (September 2020)
- Utility Workforce Diversity Program (June 2020)
- Project WET Assistance to Utilities (February 2020)
- People Are a Utility's Most Important Asset (October 2019)
- Achieving and Maintaining Economic and Social Health for the Community (May 2019)

9. Virtual and in person conferences



GBA Virtual Brownfields Conference
June 22-23

Join to support GBA in its mission to ensure Georgia benefits from the continued clean-up and reinvestment in environmentally impacted and underutilized properties. We hope you will be a part of this exciting work, benefitting you as an individual and the industry as a whole. [Click here](#) to download an overview of 2021 membership levels and benefits. Sign up for Early Bird Registration for the 2021 Brownfield Seminar and you'll receive discounted registration. And, thank you to those of you who submitted abstracts for this year's conference.

[Click here to learn more](#)

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

The 26th Florida Remediation Conference

November 17-19, 2021

In Person conferences are back

Call for Speakers and Poster Presenters

Rosen Centre Hotel

Orlando, Florida

The Florida Remediation Conference (FRC) is one of the premier soil, air and water remediation conferences of the year. Though FRC started out as a Florida-centric event 25 years ago, it has developed a solid reputation for fostering the remediation and redevelopment industries across the Southeast. FRC attracts over 600 attendees comprised of a mix of industry representatives,

developers, consultants and contractors, and over 100 exhibitors and sponsors from across the country. It is far from being just a Florida event.

Topical areas for consideration include:

- Innovative Remediation Technologies
- Environmental Assessment and Analysis
- Emerging Contaminants
- Vapor Intrusion Investigation and Remediation
- Brownfields and Redevelopment
- Characterization, Fate and Transport
- Risk Assessment Practices, Applications, and Benefits
- Environmental Forensics
- Innovative Strategies and Approaches to Expedite Site Closure
- Remediation of Petroleum and Heavy Hydrocarbons
- Funding and Insuring Remediation Projects
- Business Aspects for the Environmental Professional
- Other

Oral Platform and Poster Session Format

FRC 2021 Oral Platform Sessions allow three (3) 30 minute speaking slots. We suggest presenters plan for a 20 minute talk and allow 10 minutes for Q&A.

Poster presentations will be on display for the entire event with a Poster Reception held on Thursday, November 5th in the exhibit hall.

If you have an interest in presenting an oral or poster presentation please click on the button below.

Submission Deadline: July 15, 2021.

[SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT, CLICK HERE](#)

10. Funding, leveraging and outreach opportunities

EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant Program

Closing Date: May 7, 2021

\$2,800,000

\$50,000 per award

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to improve the environment and public health conditions of low-income communities and communities of color through the advancement of racial equity and environment justice. This funding announcement supports the priorities detailed in President Biden's Executive Order 13985 titled Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government and Executive Order 14008 titled Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. The EPA continues to make effective responses to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the climate crisis top priorities. To address these multiple crises, this announcement places emphasis on projects focusing on COVID-19 impacts, as well as climate and disaster resiliency. Additionally, EPA is emphasizing projects addressing diesel pollution in underserved communities living near ports and railyards as part of EPA's Ports Initiative (see details further described in this solicitation). Finally, to promote equitable accessibility to EPA grant funding and to assist small entities, approximately half of the total available funding under this announcement is intended to be reserved for small non-profit organizations with 10 or fewer full-time employees subject to the quality of applications received and other relevant considerations. Under this solicitation, therefore, there will be two separate ranking lists developed- one for small non-profit organizations of 10 or fewer full-time employees and one for all other eligible applicants as further described in the solicitation.

[For more information](#)

EJ grant opportunities

(EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program

Request proposal packages on or before May 7

\$50,000 per award

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the availability of up to \$6 million in grant funding under The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program and The Environmental Justice Small Grants (EJSG) Program. "These grants are crucial to supporting vulnerable and overburdened communities disproportionately affected by environmental health risks," said Office of Environmental Justice Director Matthew Tejada. "With renewed leadership to address environmental justice under the Biden-Harris Administration, we are excited to support community efforts to address historically challenging issues." The EJSG Program estimates approximately \$2,800,000 will be awarded to approximately five applications per EPA region in amounts of up to \$50,000 per award. This includes the EPA's Ports Initiative program which anticipates funding up to six additional projects that address clean air issues at coastal and inland ports or rail yards.

The EPA will be giving special consideration to the following focus areas:

- Addressing COVID-19 concerns faced by low-income communities and communities of color
- Climate Change and Natural Disaster Resiliency outreach and planning
- New applicants to either opportunity
- Ports Initiative to assist people living and working near ports across the country
- Small non-profits

The EJCPs Cooperative Agreement Program's total estimated funding for this opportunity is approximately \$3,200,000. The EPA anticipates awarding two cooperative agreements of \$160,000 each within each of the 10 EPA Regions.

To learn more about pre-application assistance calls and how to apply for funding, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0>.

To learn more about pre-application assistance calls and how to apply for funding, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program>

Applicants interested in either opportunity must submit proposal packages on or before May 7, 2021 to be considered for the available funding. Applicants should plan for projects to begin on October 1, 2021.

For more information on environmental justice grants, funding, and technical assistance visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>

CPWR

Accepting applications for funding from the Small Study Program

Open applications accepted

CPWR's Small Study Program provides seed money of up to \$30,000 to investigate promising new research initiatives. Many major research projects began with a Small Study to demonstrate its viability or test the approach, and other studies have resulted in important stand-alone projects. A survey of researchers funded under this program found that more than 60 percent had published their findings in peer-reviewed journals.

How to apply for a Small Study Grant

Researchers interested in funding should review the Small Study Guidelines, which explain the requirements and process in detail. Applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis and can come from investigators from a wide range of disciplines, including applied computer sciences, communication sciences, construction management, consumer marketing, economics, engineering, psychology, and work organization. We also welcome innovative proposals from occupational safety and health researchers, ergonomists, epidemiologists, researchers partnering with industry practitioners, and others.

Learn more from reviewing the list of Funded Small Studies, go to:

[Additional information](#)

11. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators

Regional Coordinators are the first place to go regarding questions about EWDJT grants, extensions, budgets, or work plans. Many Regions maintain a Listserv for past, current, and potential grantees. It is important to be on their contact list for conference calls and newsletters.

EPA Region 1

CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

Myra Schwartz

Phone: (617) 918-1696

E-mail: schwartz.myra@epa.gov

EPA Region 2

NJ, NY, PR, VI

Schenine Mitchell

Phone: (212) 637-3283

E-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov

EPA Region 3

DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV

Gianna Rosati

Phone: (215) 814-3406

E-mail: Rosati.Gianna@epa.gov

EPA Region 4

AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN

Wanda Jennings

Phone: 404-562-8682

E-mail: jennings.Wanda@epa.gov

EPA Region 5

IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI

Linda Morgan

Phone: (312) 886-4747

E-mail: morgan.linda@epa.gov

EPA Region 6

AR, LA, NM, OK, TX

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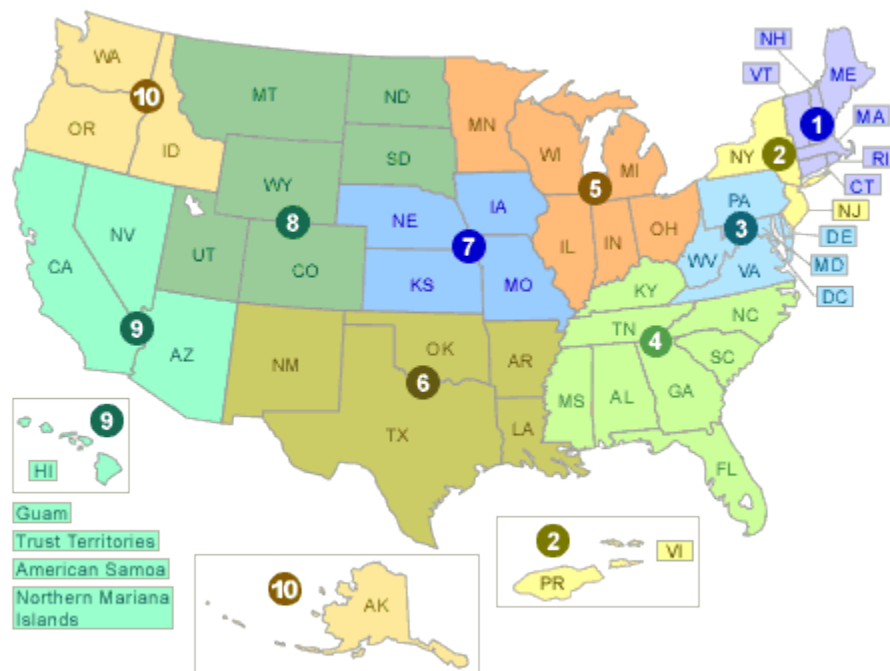
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12. Join us for the next Professional Learning Community call

Missed a few of our PLC sessions? Post session notes are available on the brownfields-toolbox.org . Go to the PLC corner.

The objective of the (PLC) is to promote and share innovative strategies among those interested in establishing community based environmental job training programs. Our sessions allow participants to stay in touch with EWDJT happenings, ask questions, showcase their programs

and help others. The Environmental Workforce PLC is open to all and there is no cost or obligation to attend. Join us when you can.

Next PLC call – Wednesday, May 19th, 2021 – Same time and “call in”

Email questions or to be placed on the PLC register send contact information to:

HMTRI@eicc.edu

To participate in our Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community session call:
(319) 527-3513

Use access code 550105 followed by # to be connected to our session.

Sign up a friend – no cost – no obligation

Join us for helpful hints & open discussion

Call from any phone at: 1:55 pm Eastern time (5 minutes early) Discussions last about 30 minutes.

-- PLC notes and recordings of past sessions are also uploaded to our website at:

<http://brownfields-toolbox.org/plc-sessions/>.

If you would like to invite a guest, feel free to forward this email.

HMTRI is part of Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and has provided environmental workforce development technical assistance since the inception of EPA's Brownfields Initiative.

PLC notes presented represent individual opinions and ideas from Professional Learning Community participants and EWDJT grantees. They do not represent EPA policy, guidance or opinions and should not be taken as such.

For more information on HMTRI technical assistance services or to be added to our Grantee and Community Outreach Listserv, please contact Heather Ballou at:

hkballou@eicc.edu

