



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community

(PLC) – 6/16/2021

These are post session notes from the tenth 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 June 30th, same time, and call-in instructions.**

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 topics

- Updates from Washington
- Participant questions and concerns
- Grantee news and updates
- Preparing for the next EWDJT funding cycle
- Previewing the FY22 EWDJT Request 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. You can also respond to these notes or the PLC call with comments by returning this email.

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

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 255, June 16th, 2021

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1. Latest from Washington

Brownfields 2021

December 8-11, 2021

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

EPA and ICMA are committed to ensuring the National Brownfields Training Conference provides the best networking and learning environment possible for the brownfields' community. Several considerations were made related to the current, and anticipated, Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. We have rescheduled Brownfields 2021, yes again, from its September dates to December 8 - 11, 2021, in 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](#)

Network with EPA Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) Grants

151 communities have received Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) Grants to be used for a variety of activities over the next three-years. Activities include brownfields site inventories, Phase I and II environmental site assessments, cleanup of contaminants, and redevelopment planning. It is especially important that current grantees and prospective grantees be aware of the remediation activity underway in their community. It is suggested that EWDJT grantees contact

the agency responsible for brownfields redevelopment. Governmental agencies may include an Office of Brownfields, Department of Environment, Community or Economic Development or as a special department in the mayor's office.

Shout Out for Sharon Beard

Sharon Beard, Acting Chief of the NIEHS [Worker Training Program](#) (WTP) has received the [2021 Rachel Carson Award](#) from the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA). The honor is conferred in recognition of the recipient's outstanding work in environmental and industrial health and safety. Rachel Carson authored the 1962 book "Silent Spring," widely credited for launching the modern environmental movement "Sharon is highly regarded and recognized by her peers for her leadership, vision, and role in elevating the profession, and AIHA is proud to have her as a member," wrote AIHA CEO Lawrence Sloan in his announcement letter. Sharon is an industrial hygienist who became acting chief of WTP after longtime branch head [Joseph "Chip" Hughes](#) left to become the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Pandemic and Emergency Response in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which is part of the U.S. Department of Labor. Sharon has worked in the program for more than 25 years, and she heads the [Environmental Career Worker Training Program](#) (ECWTP; see first [sidebar](#)). In 2013, Sharon won the [Lorin Kerr Award](#) from the American Public Health Association Occupational Health and Safety Section for her leadership of ECWTP. This article was written by John Yewll from Environmental Factors Newsletter.

[Read the Full Article](#)

2. From HMTRI

HMTRI projects under development

To facilitate communications among grantees and with potential employers, HMTRI is in the process of publishing an EWDJT Grantee Directory. The EWDJT Grantee Directory will provide contact information, curriculum, graduate certifications, and training schedules allowing national employers searching for certified environmental workers to contact local programs. The directory will also facilitate networking opportunities among grantees.

All Grantee Meeting materials

We are currently processing recordings from the 18 breakouts, 7 plenaries and Power Point presentations. PowerPoints have been posted on the brownfields-toolbox.org website. We apologize for the delay and will announce when remaining recordings have been posted.

3. Questions and concerns

Question:

Will alternative training plans be required as part of FY22 Threshold Criteria?

Response:

Not sure. As with the release date for the RFA, we may not know until the Request for Applications is posted (sometime this summer). Last year, an alternative training plan was required due to COVID19 public health concerns. It will be interesting to see if applicants will be asked to address lessons learned and actions taken resulting from in-person training restrictions.

Question:

We are interested in starting an environmental jobs program. Attending the last PLC, it appears that EWDJT grants may be “over our head” when it comes to passing Threshold Criteria. Any suggestions?

Response:

There are options for those interested in developing an EWDJT program but not yet ready or able to pass the EPA Threshold Criteria. Consider partnering with an organization experienced and able to provide resources your organization currently lacks. As a sub-grantee, organizations are subject to all the rules and regulations of the primary grantee. Together the partner relationship may develop an EWDJT program stronger than either would individually. This is often the case when partnering with Workforce Investment Boards, city or county government, a community college or large nonprofit organization with common goals.

4. EWDJT News

Congratulations to two grantees from regions six and seven selected for continued EPA support. Each grantee is an example of an outstanding EWDJT program required to compete on a “level playing field” with new communities interested in starting workforce development programs. In FY21, about half of the awards went to new communities and half to current or past grantees. Here is a summary of their proposed programs.

Limitless Vistas

Limitless Vistas is a star among EWDJT grantees. They have competed and received 6 EWDJT grants beginning in 2010 and continuing uninterrupted to 2021. Limitless Vistas, Inc., plans to train 60 students and place at least 45 in environmental jobs.

Training program includes 232 hours of instruction

- 40-Hour HAZWOPER
- 8-Hour DOT HAZMAT
- 10- or 30-Hour OSHA Outreach Safety Training
- First Aid/CPR/AED

- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Introduction to Wastewater
- Asbestos Inspector
- Lead-Based Paint Inspector
- Brownfields
- Phase I and II Site Assessments
- Emergency Preparedness
- FEMA Incident Command System
- Solid Waste Management and Remediation
- Stormwater
- Underground Storage Tank Awareness
- Students who complete the training will earn up to two state and four federal certifications.

Target community in New Orleans

- Dislocated residents
- Unemployed residents
- Underemployed residents
- Low-income residents
- Minority residents
- Returning citizens
- Veteran residents

Key partners

- City of New Orleans
- Urban League of Louisiana
- The Corps Network
- New Orleans Regional Planning Commission
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Louisiana Brownfields Association
- Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans
- Leaf Environmental
- Neel-Schaffer, and Barnes, Ferland & Associates, Inc.

Santa Fe Community College

Santa Fe community College has been an EWDJT alumni twice with awards in 2011, 2017, and 2021. Santa Fe Community College plans to train 58 students and place at least 47 in environmental jobs.

Training program includes 172 hours of instruction

- 40-hour HAZWOPER
- OSHA 30-hour Construction Standards
- RCRA Hazardous Waste Management
- Solid Waste Management
- CPR/First Aid
- Phase I and II Environmental Assessments
- Forklift Operation
- Environmental Sampling
- Confined Space Entry and Non-Entry Rescue
- DOT Hazmat
- Students who complete the training will earn up to five state and four federal certifications.

Target community from Rio Arriba and Santa Fe Counties and Pueblos served by the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, which include Ohkay Owingeh, Nambe, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, Taos, and Tesuque pueblos.

- Low-income residents
- Unemployed individuals
- Veteran residents
- Native Americans
- Disconnected residents

Key partners

- Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Los Alamos Technical Associates
- Newport News Nuclear BWXT Los Alamos (N3B)
- Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council
- Associated General Contractors of New Mexico
- HELP New Mexico
- YouthWorks
- New Mexico Groundwater Quality Bureau
- New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions
- Northern Area Local Workforce Development Board
- Northern New Mexico College

5. EPA's process for selecting fundable proposals – Ranking Criteria

With FY22 requests for EWDJT applications (RFAs) expected this summer, all indications are that guidelines will be similar to the FY21 RFA. Undetermined are the number of applications to be funded and if a “plan B” alternative or hybrid training plan will be required if public health concerns persist. When RFAs are posted on Grants.gov, applicants are given 60 days to prepare and submit a

comprehensive proposal including partnerships, work plans and proposed leveraging opportunities. The approach used by EPA in selecting the best proposals include three independent evaluations.

- A review of Threshold Criteria to qualify eligible applications for funding consideration. This is pass fail. Ineligible applications will be notified in 15 days of application submission. Check out the June 2nd PLC for more details regarding Threshold Criteria.
- Evaluation of Ranking Criteria to establish the most comprehensive and complete applications. An objective approach awarding points to each criterion by assigning points based on the response to each request for information. Applications with the highest scores will be considered for further review.
- Consideration of special situations that “level the playing field” for a diverse set of community issues, experience, and circumstances.

The number of awards will be limited by available funding. While FY21 awardees are not eligible to apply, 26 FY20 grantees are eligible for consideration. Add to that, additional former grantees, and new applicants. With funding levels uncertain, it is likely that competition will be intense. For this reason, the PLC is “jump starting” discussions early previewing the anticipated RFA.

6. Previewing FY22 EWDJT Ranking Criteria

Partnership development with target communities, support partners and employers can take several months to establish. With the RFA expected in July or August, it is important that applicants begin planning and cultivating their partners immediately. We are not certain how the FY22 Request for Applications Guidelines will look until they are finalized and posted. In the past, Ranking Criteria have been similar with minor changes and point assignments. Because of the limited time provided for proposal development, HMTRI is going to preview the FY22 Request for Applications based on FY21 Guidelines. Ranking Criteria Guidelines from last year are summarized and reformatted below. They represent requests for information totaling 109 points. It is likely that the FY22 RFA will have a similar structure and evaluation methodology. Future PLCs will address specific Criteria in detail.

1. COMMUNITY NEED (A total of 20 points)

Your application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it:

- Demonstrates a compelling picture of need in the community, and specifically, the identified target area.
- Makes a connection between the public health, welfare, environmental, and/or economic challenges faced by the community and/or target area and the presence of brownfield sites and other cumulative environmental issues.

Specifically, this criterion will evaluate the quality and extent to which you clearly, concisely, and realistically address the community need criterion in your application considering the following items.

1.A. Community Description (10 points)

- The depth and degree of environmental and economic challenges confronting your city/town/geographic area and the specific area where you plan to serve. (3 points)

- The impact of current community challenges on residents and an explanation of how/why you selected your target area. (3 points)
- Demographic statistics provided compared to city, state, and/or national averages and how well they demonstrate a community indicative of need. (2 points)
- The extent to which the application seeks to serve target communities with high indicators of need such as high rates of unemployed individuals, dislocated workers, individuals laid off as a result of recent manufacturing plant closures, severely under-employed individuals or unemployed individuals, low income and minority residents of environmentally impacted communities, veterans, and individuals with little to no advanced education. (2 points)

1.B. Labor Market Demand (10 points)

Your application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- The depth and degree you conducted a labor market assessment to gain an understanding of the current job market in your target area. (3 points)
- The methods used to conduct your assessment. (3 points)
- The extent to which the labor market assessment resulted in an indication that your target area has the demand for a skilled environmental workforce your training program would provide. (2 points)
- The extent to which the results of your assessment were incorporated into the development of your application and training program curriculum. (2 points)

2. Training Program Description (A total of 10 points)

Your application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- The proposed training curriculum is comprehensive and realistic. (2 points)
- The training curriculum is structured to be of benefit to students and the community. (2 points)
- The training program incorporates sustainable practices. (2 points)
- The logic behind why the training curriculum was designed and structured the way it was. (2 points)
- How the certifications and knowledge gained by graduates of your program will help ensure successful employment. (2 points)

3. Budget (A total of 6 points)

Your application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- A clear and logical rationale for each cost included in the proposed budget for which EPA funds are intended to be used and all costs are accounted for and add up to the total requested funding amount. (3 points)
- A realistic basis for program costs and an efficient and effective use of EPA funds and the probability/likelihood the applicant will be able to execute the proposed training program within the cost parameters of the funding estimated, and a plan to expend funds in a timely and effective manner. (3 points)

4. Program Structure, Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes (A total of 19 points)

Your application will be evaluated, as further described below, on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- Clear anticipated outputs and outcomes that meet the anticipated goals of this program (i.e., to place at least 70% of graduates in full-time employment).
- A comprehensive strategy to recruit and retain students.
- Resources available to students to ensure their successful completion of the program.
- The ability of the applicant to sustain this program once EPA funds are expended.
- Specifically, this criterion will evaluate the quality and extent to which you clearly, concisely, and realistically address this criterion in the application considering the following items.

4.A. Outputs and Outcomes (5 points)

- How appropriate and applicable your anticipated outputs and outcomes are to the training program described in the application? What is the quality of your plan to achieve your anticipated outputs and outcomes? How robust your plan is to track and evaluate your progress towards achieving these outputs and outcomes? How well your program goals are aligned with the outputs/outcomes and likelihood of program success? (5 points)

4.B. Recruitment and Screening (8 points)

- How the strategies and processes by which the applicant plans on recruiting residents from the target area demonstrates a likelihood for success. (2 points)
- The effectiveness of the processes the applicant will use to screen potential students and benchmarks they must pass in order to participate in the proposed program. (2 points)
- The robustness of these benchmarks in helping to ensure students are retained and finish the program successfully. (2 points)
- The accessibility of your program to your target populations, both geographically in terms of transportation and any costs they may incur to participate. (2 points)

4.C. Program Support (4 points)

- Support and resources that are secured to help ensure the proposed program will be able to place graduates in jobs. (2 points)
- The quality of the system in place to track graduates of the program and the length of time the applicant plans to track their graduates, and the number and quality of any hiring incentives the applicant plans on using to market graduates to employers and place them in jobs. (2 points)

4.D. Program Sustainability (2 Points)

- The quality and extent of the resources or partnerships that are acquired or entered into and the likelihood these will sustain the program once EPA funds are expended and the grant is closed. (2 points)

5. COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS (A total of 28 points)

Your application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- Actions or plans to effectively involve and inform residents, community groups, and employers from and around the target area in the development and/or execution of your training program.

- Thoughtful integration of the needs of the community into the program and foraged partnerships that will help enhance the success of students; and
- Relevant roles of community organizations, local environmental entities, and employers and affirms their involvement to the program through commitment letters.

Specifically, this criterion will evaluate the quality and extent to which you clearly, concisely, and realistically address the following in the application.

5.A. Collaboration with Entities Involved with Local Remediation Activities and Environmental Projects (8 points)

- The extent to which the applicant collaborates with entities performing environmental work in and around the target area including, but not limited to, brownfields assessment, revolving loan fund, cleanup, and area-wide planning grant recipients, Superfund site cleanup contractors, EPA-funded state or tribal regulated corrective action or landfill closure projects, recycling facility operators, or personnel from city-operated wastewater treatment facilities in your community. (2 points)
- The quality of the partnership(s) and benefits these partnerships may bring to your program and graduates. (2 points)
- The number and types of entities which have made commitments to support your program. (2 points)
- The quality and applicability of the information provided in letters of support from entities which have made any commitments, detailing the depth and degree to which they intend on being involved in your program. Letters of support provided in the attachments should be consistent with the commitments or statements made within the Narrative. (2 points)

5.B. Community Partnership Building (8 points)

- The extent to which the applicant collaborates with the affected community in your proposed job training program, including efforts made to notify and involve the local community, and/or hold any public comment sessions in the during the development of your application (2 points); e.g., local community groups, workforce investment boards (WIBs), One Stop Centers, and academic institutions located in or near the target community
- The level of involvement of these organizations in your program and the benefit partnerships will bring to your program and graduates. (2 points)
- Commitments made to support your program and letters of support from community partners. (2 points)
- The quality and applicability of the information provided in letters of support from community partners who made any commitments, detailing the depth and degree to which they intend on being involved in your program. Letters of support provided in the attachments should be consistent with the commitments or statements made within the Narrative. (2 points)

5.C. Employer Involvement (12 points)

- The extent to which the applicant collaborates with employers within or near the target area and, if applicable, any employer partnerships that have resulted in previous graduates of your job training program being hired. (3 points)
- The depth and degree of employer involvement in the design of your program including, but not limited to, meeting dates, advisory council participation, and curriculum development. (3 points)

- Level of involvement and commitment from employer partners that will enhance a graduate's chance of success including, but not limited to, commitments to interview students, hire graduates, provide on-the-job training, and/or mentoring. (3 points)
- The quality and applicability of the information provided in letters of support from employers who have made any commitments, detailing the depth and degree to which they intend to be involved in your program. Letters of support provided in the attachments should be consistent with the commitments or statements made within the Narrative. Commitments accompanied by letters of support affirming these commitments may garner more points. (3 points)

6. Leveraging (A total of 6 points)

Your application will be evaluated, on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- Additional funds, in-kind services, and or other resources, beyond EPA funds awarded, that will be obtained and used to support the proposed job training program. (2 points)
- The overall applicability and benefit these additional resources will bring to the program. (2 points)
- Whether the leveraged resources are firm (have already been committed or confirmed), or if they are an anticipated leveraged resource. Applications with firm leveraged funding and resources may garner more points. (2 points)

7. Programmatic Capability (Total of 20 points)

Your application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- The ability of your organization to successfully manage and complete the project, considering your programmatic and administrative capacity.
- Successful performance under past and/or current federally and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements.
- Resolution of any audit findings.
- A reasonable plan to track and measure project progress.

Specifically, this criterion will evaluate the quality and extent to which you clearly, concisely, and realistically address the following items in the application:

7.A. Grant Management System (4 points)

- How efficient and effective of a system the applicant has in place to manage and administer this grant, including information regarding a program manager or dedicated staff assigned to help run the proposed program. (2 points)
- If necessary, expertise is not readily available within your organization, the applicants plan for acquiring such expertise and ensuring experts have the necessary knowledge and experience demonstrating their qualifications. (2 points)

7.B. Organizational Experience (8 points)

- How efficient and effective your organization is at working with the local community of your proposed target area. (4 points)
- How efficient or effective your organization is at providing training and developing a local workforce. (4 points)

7.C. Audit Findings (2 points)

- Whether the applicant has any adverse audit findings, and if they do, how the applicant has corrected, or is correcting, the adverse audit findings and the likelihood that these findings will not continue to be a problem. (2 points)

7.D. Past Performance and Accomplishments (6 points)

In evaluating an applicant's response to this criterion, in addition to the information provided by the applicant, EPA may consider relevant information from other sources including information from EPA files and/or from other federal or non-federal grantors to verify or supplement information provided by the applicant.

Applicants never receiving any type of federal or non-federal assistance agreement

If the applicant has never received any type of federal or non-federal assistance agreement, they should provide a response to such effect. The applicant will receive a neutral score (3 points) for this criterion, however, failure to respond to this criterion may result in zero points for this criterion.

Current or Past EPA EWDJT Grant Recipients

Demonstrated ability to successfully manage past EPA EWDJT or Brownfields Job Training Grant(s) and proven success throughout the different phases of work under the grant.

- Funds drawn down in a timely and appropriate manner; explanation of need for additional funds if you have an open grant with funds remaining. Provide information on whether you have been able to submit quarterly reports in a timely manner as well as on going ACRES reporting. (3 points)
- Demonstration of success towards achieving expected results; proven compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms and conditions. Provided accomplishment data that demonstrates success of program (or an explanation of issues encountered that may have hindered meeting program goals) including the number of individuals you trained and placed versus what goals were set in your approved workplan and your program's placement rate. (3 points)

Applicants who have Not Received an EPA EWDJT Grant

Recipient of Other Federal or Non-Federal Assistance Agreements Demonstrated ability to successfully manage federal or non-federal grant(s), and the performance of all phases of work under each grant.

- Demonstrated ability to successfully complete and comply with the workplan, including schedule, progress, grant/project goals, use of funds in timely and appropriate manner, and terms and conditions. (3 points)
- Demonstrated success in meeting and complying with reporting requirements, including quarterly reporting, technical reports, final reports, and data entry into required systems such as ACRES, as applicable. (3 points)

Other Factors

It is important to complete the Other Factors Checklist as part of the RFA's appendix. EPA's Selection Official may consider the following other factors, in addition to the evaluation results based on the criteria already discussed, in making final funding decisions.

- In their applications, applicants should provide a summary on whether and how any of these "Other Factors" apply to their EWDJT project.
- Applicants must also complete and submit the Other Factors Checklist and attach supporting documentation as needed. Failure to do so may affect EPA's ability to consider these other factors during selection decisions. EPA may verify this information prior to selection and consider this information during the evaluation process.
- Fair distribution of funds between urban and non-urban areas, including an equitable distribution of funds to "micro" communities (those communities with populations of 10,000 or less). EPA strongly encourages non-urban communities, including micro-communities, to apply.
- A balanced distribution of funds among EPA's 10 Regions and among states and territories.
- Fair distribution of funds between new applicants and previous job training grant recipients; ("New" applicants are defined as organizations that have not received EPA brownfields job training grant funding since 2013.
- Whether the applicant is a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory or is an organization that will primarily serve tribal or territorial residents.
- Whether the applicant is located within or includes a county experiencing "persistent poverty" where 20% or more of its population lived in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates.
- Applications that seek to serve veteran.
- Whether the applicant's project is located in an IRS-designated Qualified Opportunity Zone.

Grantee Tips and suggestions

As few as two points have made a difference between funded and unfunded proposals. To be among the top proposals, applicants should consider the following.

- Seek every point possible
- Leave no question unanswered
- Answer each question independently
- Do not assume evaluators know anything about your program. Many may not be familiar with EWDJT.
- Be as specific as possible when providing information
- Be quantitative rather than subjective. Use numbers whenever possible.
- Include partner names and secure MOUs.
- Hold public meetings
- Do not forget to involve the community
- Engage city government
- Never exclude the Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

A suggested approach to researching and gathering data for the RFA proposal is to group topic areas. Address each topic group in depth and then use that information as a reference when reconstructing a response to each Ranking Criteria as the grant is written. This approach allows for a "deep dive" in information gathering for each topic area.

Sites that may be helpful in collection Other Factor information

Federally recognized Indian Tribes

<https://www.bia.gov/about-us>

Income and Poverty Estimates

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html>

Opportunity Zones

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/businesses/opportunity-zones>

7. Resources, webinar recordings and posted materials

WTP Spring Awardee Meeting and Workshop Materials Are Now Available

The WTP Spring Awardee Meeting and Workshop, "Using Best Practices to Sustain Training Programs During COVID-19 and Other Disasters," was held in April 2021. While we heard many stories of challenges and frustration during the COVID-19 pandemic, people adapted to overcome gaps in worker training and protection. The workshop reviewed the best practices of WTP, awardees, and partnering organizations to sustain training programs during COVID-19 and other disaster preparedness and response efforts. Presentations are now available. Videos will be coming soon.

[WTP](#)

Building Programs to Protect Workers from COVID-19 in the Workplace

A new Training Tool: Building Programs to Protect Workers from COVID-19 in the Workplace, Replaces the Essential and Returning Worker Training Tool. Among other additions and revisions, the updated version adds the following:

- An icebreaker to gauge participants' concerns, a graphic illustrating transmission,
- Information on asymptomatic and PR symptomatic transmission
- A new slide on vaccines
- Information on portable air cleaners
- Data on mental health effects during COVID-19
- New slides on ventilation filtration
- A slide on the use of ultraviolet light to disinfect air

Go to the following site for the updated training tool.

8. In- person conferences

The 26th Florida Remediation Conference

November 17-19, 2021

Call for Speakers and Poster Presenters

Rosen Centre Hotel

Orlando, Florida

The Florida Remediation Conference (FRC) is one of the premier soils, 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 just being 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 have been designed to allow for three (3) 30-minute speaking slots. We suggest presenters plan for a 20-minute talk and allow 10 minutes for Q&A.

For Poster presentations, posters will be on display for the entire event with a Poster Reception to be 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**](#)

Brownfields 2021

December 8-11, 2021

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

EPA and ICMA are committed to ensuring the National Brownfields Training Conference provides the best networking and environment possible for the brownfields' community. Several considerations were made related to the current, and anticipated, Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. We have rescheduled Brownfields 2021, yes again, from its September dates to December 2021, in 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](#)

Brownfields University

Big news! Brownfields 2021 will be the inaugural event for Brownfields University as our pre-conference training. The curriculum for Brownfields University will provide core brownfield concepts and practices to prepare attendees for the full educational program content.

BU provides valuable hands-on learning and engagement for emerging brownfield practitioners and seasoned professionals alike. Attendees will be better prepared to select educational sessions to attend, and better prepared to engage presenters and exhibitors with freshly informed understanding of subjects covered throughout the conference.

[Learn More Here](#)

9. Funding, leveraging and outreach opportunities

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](#)

SBIR E-Learning for HAZMAT and Emergency Response

Application Due Date - July 30, 2021

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant applications from small business concerns (SBCs) that propose to further the development of Advanced Technology Training (ATT) products for: the health and safety training of hazardous materials (HAZMAT) workers; waste treatment personnel; skilled support personnel associated with an emergency/disaster; emergency responders in biosafety response, infectious disease training and cleanup; emergency responders in disasters and resiliency training; and for ATT tools to assist in responding to environmental disasters. ATT as defined by the Worker Training Program (WTP) includes, but is not limited to, online training, mobile device training, virtual reality, and serious gaming, which complement all aspects of training from development to evaluation including advanced technologies that enhance, supplement, improve, and provide health and safety training for hazardous materials workers. These products must complement the goals and objectives of [WTP](#). The major objective of the NIEHS WTP is to prevent work related harm by assisting in the training of workers in how best to protect themselves and their communities from exposure to hazardous materials. The financial support for this initiative comes directly from NIEHS Worker Education and Training Branch SBIR funds.

Go to:

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-21-005.html>

10. 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

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EPA Region 3

DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV

Gianna Rosati

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E-mail: Rosati.Gianna@epa.gov

EPA Region 4

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

Wanda Jennings

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E-mail: jennings.Wanda@epa.gov

EPA Region 5

IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI

Linda Morgan

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EPA Region 6

AR, LA, NM, OK, TX

Rita Ware

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EPA Region 7

IA, KS, MO, NE

Alma Moreno Lahm

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EPA Region 8

CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY

Christina Wilson

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EPA Region 9

AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU

Nova Blazej

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Noemi Emeric-Ford

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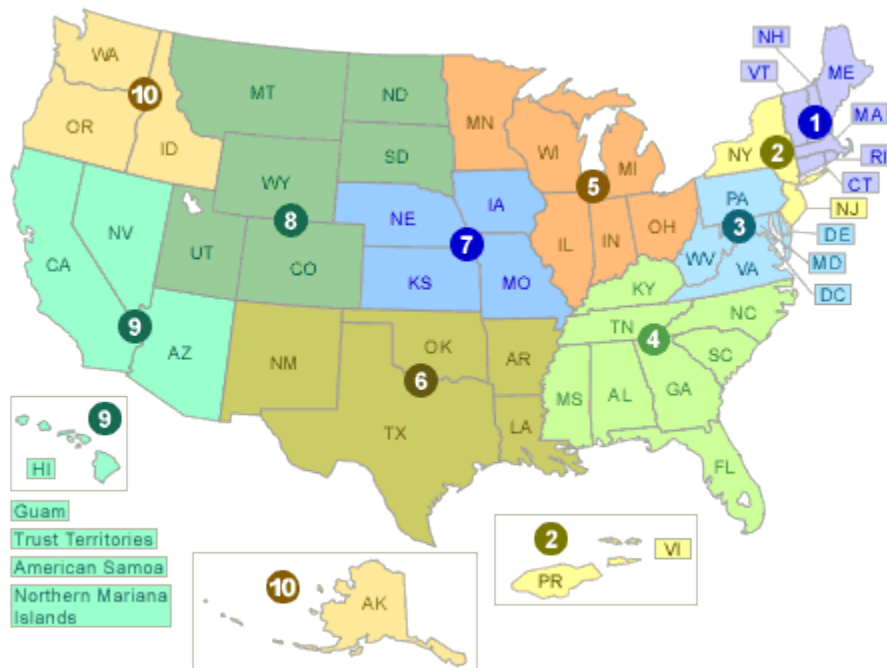
EPA Region 10

AK, ID, OR, WA

Susan Morales

Phone: (206) 553-7299

E-mail: morales.susan@epa.gov



11. 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, June 30th, 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 an email to:

hmtri@eicc.edu.



