



## **Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC) – 7/14/2021**

These are post session notes from the second call in a new 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 addressing EWDJT leveraging, and partnership development will be July 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 cycle we are focusing on tuning up existing programs and preparing for the next EPA Request for EWDJT funding applications this summer.

### **This week's discussion topics - Previewing the FY22 EWDJT Request for Applications**

- Updates from Washington
- Participant questions and concerns
- Labor market assessments
- EWDJT jobs
- Things to do now

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](mailto: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 257, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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## 1. Latest from Washington

### **Brownfields 2021**

**December 8-11, 2021**

#### **Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

Cosponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the National Brownfields Training Conference is the largest gathering of stakeholders focused on cleaning up and reusing formerly utilized commercial and industrial properties. Mark your calendars for three days of training, networking, and business development!

In 1996, a cross-section of stakeholders came together in Pittsburgh for the very first federally co-sponsored National Brownfields Training Conference. Now join us as we celebrate the 19th event from December 8th-11th, 2021, in Oklahoma City, OK at the Oklahoma City Convention Center!

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

[Visit the conference website](#)

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### **Brownfields 2021 Phoenix Awards**

This year’s awards reflect the progression of brownfield redevelopment over the past 20+ years by recognizing people in addition to projects. What was once a niche activity has grown into a practice area of its own with public, private, and nonprofit practitioners across the country focused solely on brownfields as an essential function of planning, economic development, environmental quality, and community development.

Phoenix Awards were established to increase public awareness of brownfield redevelopment. Recognizing exemplary projects is a tradition at National Brownfields Training Conference.

Nomination applications are due September 3, 2021. All winners will be notified on or before November 1<sup>st</sup> and will be announced at a Brownfields 21 evening event on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

For application information, go to:

[Phoenix Award Application](#)

<http://brownfields2021.org/phoenix-awards-nomination-application/>

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## 2. From HMTRI

### **HMTRI Grantee Directory**

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 facilitate networking opportunities among grantees. Look for the Grantee Directory Scan in coming days.

## HMTRI Program evaluation

As HMTRI begins a new project year, we would like to review our progress over the past year. We want your input regarding things we are doing right, things we can improve and things you want us to undertake. We will be sending a scan and would appreciate your input.

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### 3. EWDJT News

#### A “Shout Out” to Ronike Haynie

##### West End Neighborhood House, Wilmington. DE

Last week Ronike from informed us he would be leaving his position at the West End Neighborhood House. We are sorry to see Ronike leave EWDJT, we wish him our best, and would like to thank him for his contributions to the Professional Learning Community. Mia Harvey is replacing him at the Education and Employment Department.

We would like to revisit a success story Ronike shared with the PLC in 2020 which illustrates the value of a good labor market assessment.

“FYI this past fall cohort of 2019 was my first cohort here at West End Neighborhood House in Wilmington, DE. I serve as the recruiter; case manager and I do the Job Placement. With the help of my Director Anya Lindsey, we created a sound curriculum and focused on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and worked on creating a community with our students through properly engaging them the first two weeks in our five-week program. **I was able to recruit successfully by using a newly created needs assessment that our admin and case mangers developed.** I brought in 17 students and all 17 graduated, this was our biggest class to date for our program. We currently have seven placed. One of the 17 started last week as an Asbestos Abatement Worker with the School District of Philadelphia. During the cohort he worked as waiter at local restaurant making \$2.50 an hour plus tips. Below is an outline of the job description, job requirements, and current salary.

##### Asbestos removal program

Repair and/or remove asbestos containing materials from buildings, Install HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filtering equipment; removed suspended ceilings; Remove acoustical plaster, steel beam fireproofing and/or pipe and boiler insulation.

##### Job requirements

High School Diploma or GED equivalent; Three years of full-time asbestos abatement experience; Valid Asbestos Worker license issued by Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia; Valid EPA- approved Asbestos Worker/Supervisor Certificate; Valid Driver's license.

##### Benefits at a Glance:

Salary starting at \$48,791

Comprehensive medical benefits package

Paid holidays, vacation, and personal leave

Enrollment in PA State Retirement System (PSERS)

Salary up to \$52,464.00 /year

Multiple work locations, Health insurance

Paid time off, Biweekly pay

Work schedule - Monday to Friday

Nice! \$2.50/ hour plus tips to \$48,791 starting plus benefits – Great Job...

*Ronike Haynie*

Employment Specialist

Education & Employment Department

West End Neighborhood House

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#### 4. Questions and concerns

##### Question:

Can I require program participants to be vaccinated before entering the EWDJT program?

##### Response:

This is an important yet unresolved question. Likely, the answer will depend upon State mandates. Here are various points of view on the topic.

“You cannot mandate any of these vaccines yet, because they are all emergency-use authorization,” New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, said Tuesday. “A state cannot mandate a vaccine that is authorized by emergency use. It has to receive a full federal approval first.”

Despite those legal questions, hundreds of colleges and universities, including the University of California and California State University systems, have already said students must be vaccinated to learn on their campuses during the 2021-22 academic year. Some have made that requirement conditional on full FDA approval, and some have not.

While some colleges and universities have made COVID-19 vaccines mandatory for their students, experts say it is unlikely states will issue similar requirements for other students any time soon. There is a host of legal, political, and ethical questions involved in setting a new requirement, especially as COVID-19 vaccines are administered under an emergency-use authorization, which has allowed health providers to administer shots more quickly as the Food and Drug Administration considers more permanent approval.

While courts have generally upheld states’ authority to require vaccines for school attendance, some policymakers said it would not be possible to require COVID-19 vaccines without full authorization from the FDA.

Feedback from EWDJT grantees indicate that using masks and distancing during training will continue to be a best practice during this post COVID period. Most grantees have indicated that they do not intend to require vaccinations as a condition of acceptance into the program. However, at least one PLC participant indicated they do require vaccinations. Another pointed out that unvaccinated graduates will be unplaceable as employers will require vaccinations as a condition of employment. Clearly, until full authorization from FDA is granted, each grantee will need to make their own determinations based on local conditions and accepted norms.

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#### 5. Labor market assessments – Is there work for EWDJT graduates?

“Build it and they will come” is **not** the mantra of the EWDJT program. A better approach is “work backwards from jobs, to curriculum, to recruitment, and target community selection.” EWDJT is an environmental justice and workforce development program. As such the foundation of the program is based on solid community and labor market assessments. Those assessments influence the entire program including the community to be served. The first 20 application evaluation points focus on community need of which half are devoted to community assessment and half to labor market assessment.

##### Ranking Criteria and labor market assessments

As we discussed in the last PLC call, The first Ranking Criteria to be addressed is “Community Need” Community need investigates why applicants have selected a particular target community (community assessment) and whether there is an actual demand for program graduates (labor market assessment). Out of a total 109 evaluation points, 10 points are allocated to community assessment and 10 points to labor market assessment.

##### **Labor Market Demand**

As presented in the FY21 Request for Applications Guidelines, EPA evaluators will be looking for the following information.

“Provide a description of the local labor market assessment and/or employer survey you, as the applicant, conducted. Detail the methods and results of these steps taken to assess the local labor market demand and indicate when they took place. Discuss how these labor market assessments informed the development of your proposed training curriculum. Discuss how these results indicate a demand for skilled environmental professionals with the certifications you are proposing to incorporate into your curriculum.

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) ”

To properly address labor market demand, EWDJT applicants need to begin early establishing a comprehensive labor market assessment. Comprehensive labor market assessments go way beyond superficial surveys projecting potential job creation. Properly conducted, labor market assessments identify community supporters, training needs, leveraging partners and recruitment strategies. Rather than being an afterthought or justification for training, comprehensive labor market assessments serve as a foundation for planning and developing the entire workforce development program. Labor market assessments guide the training program, but in the process, also provide the following benefits.

- Creates business and industry support of the EWDJT program.
- Assures employers that EWDJT graduates will meet their hiring criteria and performance standards.
- Becomes a marketing tool to demonstrate how EWDJT partnerships can benefit the community.
- Creates a database of prospective employers as graduation approaches.
- Establishes a list of potential supporters, advisory board members and instructors.
- Announces to the community a source of screened, trained, and certified workers for first hire, project labor agreements, and other local cleanup efforts.
- Allows employers to support environmental justice locally.
- Promotes local jobs for community residents.

### **Needs assessment - Collecting data**

#### **The easy part**

The best strategies when responding to Ranking Criteria are as quantitative and specific as possible. Present numbers to back up subjective statements whenever possible. However, numbers are easier to collect than hiring commitments from potential employers. -- First the easy part:

As a start, an abundance of data is available from several sources including the following.

- The Mayor's Office or County Office of procurement and purchasing - their vendor information is likely the most detailed and has the potential to identify special projects and local contractors.
- Traditional directory and print media advertising that still exists
- Google searches such as environmental consultants, recycling, hazardous materials technicians, asbestos workers
- Departments of economic development and city council purchasing agents
- Workforce Investment Boards or One-Stop data bases
- Local disaster response organizations
- School district job postings
- Governmental and municipal job postings sites
- Local union organizations

Local employers identified in the general scan of the community may include names of labor unions, consultants, cleanup service providers, municipal utilities, large manufacturing, and construction firms. This effort will be useful in identifying companies with a reoccurring need for certified graduates. "Cold calls" and inquires to HR departments are a good start although the best job leads come from current employees.

A good approach for identifying potential employers is to “proceed from general to specific”. Organizations including Department of Labor occupational outlook reports can provide general information, however, this type of general information is only a starting point and will not contribute much to your understanding of potential local employer needs. After an overview of general labor conditions, it is time to begin identifying specific employers who may have jobs that are suited to the training, skills, and knowledge EWDJT graduates can provide.

### **Labor market assessment tools**

Previously in our discussion, we discussed the collection of general information regarding potential community-based employers. This effort is useful before moving to a more detailed assessment contacting individual organizations. EPA maintains two powerful tools not explicitly designed to collect labor market assessment data but can be useful in an overall effort to understand environmental remediation activity in target communities.

The first is called Cleanups in My Community. Cleanups in My Community identifies locations of EPA assessment and cleanup grants. It can provide valuable information on where and the extent of assessment and cleanup. Where those activities occur, employer opportunities exist and their location in relation to the proposed target community. To access the Cleanup in My Community mapping tool, go to:

#### **[Cleanups in My Community](#)**

A second tool is the EJ Screening and Mapping Tool to help address environmental concerns and equitable development. The same tool can be used to locate potential employers, pollutions sources and remediation activities. This comprehensive and detailed tool can be used to characterize just about any neighborhood providing location, demographic, and environmental data in detail.

The mapping tool uses high resolution maps combined with demographic and environmental data to identify places with potentially elevated environmental burdens and vulnerable populations. EJSCREEN’s color-coded maps, bar charts, and reports enable users to better understand areas in need of increased environmental protection, health care access, housing, infrastructure improvement, community revitalization, and climate resilience. EJSCREEN can highlight communities with greater risk of exposure to pollution based on 8 pollution and environmental indicators, including traffic proximity, particulate matter, and proximity to superfund sites. These indicators are combined with demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community 5-year Summary Survey allows users to identify areas with minority or low-income populations who also face potential pollution issues. EJSCREEN identifies and locates Superfund sites and major emitters in the community.

To access the tool, go to:

**<http://www2.epa.gov/ejscreen>**

### **Needs assessment – Obtaining employer commitments**

#### **The hard part- direct engagement**

It is now time to develop personal relationships with individuals among potential employers who value the training and type of graduates motivated to begin a new career. Obtain contact information for individuals who may have influence or responsibility for filling vacant positions. It is best to set up an in-person meeting. If that is not feasible, a phone call/email exchange can serve as an adequate introduction to the EWDJT program. Always plan your employer recruitment conversations with an action plan, commitment, or closure. How detailed the conversation gets depends on the enthusiasm of the employer. Discussions may occur over several weeks and meetings with additional employees. Note that labor market assessment begins with proposal development but continues past graduate placement and tracking. Discussions might include the following topics.

- Is the potential employer interested in vetted, trained, and certified graduates?
- Is there interest from the potential employer to become an active partner?
- To what extent will the potential employer participate in the program (references, meetings, emails etc.)?
- To what extent can the potential employer provide leveraged resources?
- Are staff available that can serve on an advisory board?
- Can volunteers provide curriculum guidance?
- Are there experienced workers that can participate in the training process?

- Will the organization consider interviewing EWDJT graduates for available jobs? (Ask if the employer would write a letter of support)
- Are their additional contacts, programs or organizations that may be interested in the proposed EWDJT program?
- Always invite employers to attend classes, graduations, and social events.

The objective of the labor market assessment is to establish long-term relationships with potential employers. These relationships will provide EWDJT applicants with specific assurance that there is a demand for graduates and that local employers are eager to look at program graduates. Applying “best practices”, labor market assessment identifies supporters who will participate in program activities. It must be noted that meetings with potential employers should be documented for inclusion in the proposal. We will discuss this important activity in a future PLC. Labor market assessments should be more than simple information gathering efforts. When done properly they form a solid base upon which to direct and implement the entire EWDJT program. If this session sounds like a discussion of graduate placement, you are correct. **The best EWDJT programs place graduates before they begin the program. This is the ultimate outcome and “best practice” for a successful labor market assessment.**

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## 6. Jobs where EWDJT graduates find employment

### Traditional environmental jobs

Stakeholders and program managers new to the EWDJT program may associate environmental careers with specific job titles rather than with a set of knowledge, skills, and certificates. Providing environmental remediation, health and safety job skills and certifications are integral to the environmental workforce training program. Many program graduates seek employment in traditional environmental fields such as those listed below.

- Asbestos abatement and remediation
- Lead abatement and remediation
- Environmental technician
- Water, wastewater operation
- Hazardous materials handling
- Environmental consulting
- Hazardous materials hauling
- Waste recycling and deconstruction
- Environmental training
- Hazardous spill response and cleanup
- Environmental assessment and sampling

### Employers looking for workers with EWDJT training

However, there is more to this story. The universe of government, business and industry looking for EWDJT graduates is much larger than the fields just described. The reality is that EWDJT graduates have employment opportunities way beyond traditional environmental centric organizations. Job openings, titles and job descriptions need to be reviewed to match graduate credentials with requirements for employment. Here is a partial list of employers who have employed EWDJT graduates with environmental remediation skills and certifications:

- Local, state, and federal government environmental offices and programs
- Businesses having a chemical or transportation orientation
- Insurers specializing in hazardous materials, production, and transport
- Construction, deconstruction, remodelers, and development corporations
- Municipal agencies (water, solid waste, transportation, and facilities management)
- Community development corporations
- Consultants, including training, remediation, and service providers

- Environmental, health or safety equipment sales or distribution
- Material handling firms including scrap, recycling, storage, and landfill operations
- Hospitals
- Production facilities with environmental, health or safety concerns
- Mining and mineral extraction companies
- Energy firms (including oil, gas, wind, solar and innovative energy technologies)
- Local unions and pre apprentice programs – check with the business manager
- Manpower and temp firms – especially those specializing in cleanup and restoration
- Manufacturing firms – those requiring the use of potentially dangerous materials
- Chemical and refining facilities
- Municipal facilities and utilities – landfill and waste handling substations
- Water/wastewater facilities – private and public
- Pest control companies
- Painting companies – particularly in older communities
- Railroad repair and maintenance facilities
- Trucking and hazardous materials transportation

As one can see, potential employers are diverse and cross many governmental and private sector applications. The challenge of the labor market assessment is to find employers looking for attributes EWDJT graduates possess regardless of position title. Because environmental work may be grouped with, embedded in, or incorporated into “non-environmentally titled” occupations, job seekers need to expand their search. Large organizations not normally involved in environmental remediation also need individuals with knowledge of environmental, health, safety and/or Brownfields issues. Insurance companies, banks, realtors, architects, shippers, landscaping, and governmental organizations are just a few examples of employers looking for workers with attributes that EWDJT graduates can provide.

### **Occupational titles**

Many job titles do not mention or would not be associated with environmental training; however, job descriptions often require EWDJT skills, knowledge, certifications, and teamwork. Work responsibilities, skills and knowledge base are often buried in a larger more inclusive job description. The job title may not be recognized as a traditional environmental occupation but is well suited for EWDJT graduate careers. Identifying employers interested in workers with environmental remediation skills and certificates can be challenging. Job titles do not always relate to environmental jobs. This is because environmental remediation skills are often integrated into traditional occupations. For example, many construction and deconstruction jobs may require workers with environmental remediation certifications. Welders may need asbestos training. Painters may require lead testing, remediation training and confined space certifications. A variety of trades working with potential hazardous exposures are required to have HAZWOPER training. Even workers directing the movement of hazardous materials may need flagger certifications in addition to hazardous materials training. To create a meaningful labor market assessment, traditional job titles and associated job descriptions need to be closely examined to determine if EWDJT skills and certifications are required as part of that job.

- Welders and refinery workers may need asbestos training when working around insulated piping.
- Painters may require lead testing, remediation training and confined space certifications.
- Highway and railway workers may work in areas where hazardous materials are present.
- Law enforcement and first responders often encounter situations involving hazardous materials.
- All trades working with potential hazardous exposures are required to have 1910.120 certifications.
- Many construction and deconstruction occupations require environmental remediation skills and certifications.
- Directing traffic involving hazardous materials movement or located on hazardous waste sites requires environmental certifications.

Since many environmental jobs are embedded in occupations without environmental nomenclature, placement efforts need to extend beyond jobs having environmental titles. Potential employers must be approached with graduate certification, skill and knowledge attributes that may be relevant to current job openings.

**Job titles from a recent HMTRI graduate scan**

HMTRI has reviewed job titles associated with 16 EWDJT grantee placements. The table below illustrates the variety and frequency of job titles associated with EWDJT placement. Titles such as crew member, driver, environmental technician, service, and maintenance technician are popular “catch all” titles for EWDJT graduates but give little detail regarding worker expectations, knowledge, certifications, or life skills. The general nature of job titles demonstrates the importance of discussing specific requirements associated with prospective employers. Employment criteria may include certifications, technical skills, work hours, teamwork, or life skills. Developing a needs, or labor market assessment, allows for the application of a variety of job titles best describing program graduates.

**Job Titles associated with graduates from 16 EWDJT programs**

Abatement Worker	Inspection & Packaging
Air Duct Cleaner	Installation Tech
Angle-matic operator	Iron Worker-Apprentice
Asbestos Worker/ Asbestos Handler	Janitor
Asbestos/lead abatement handler	Laborer
Bronze Finisher	laborer
Carpenter	Laborer-Renovating
Carpenter (journeyman)	Land Management Specialist;
CDL B Driver's License - Construction	Landscaper
CDL B Driver's License - Environmental Remediation	Lawn Care Company Crew Member
CDL B Driver's License - Fuel	Lead Solar Crew
CDL B Driver's License - Waste Management	Lead Technician
Chemical Plant Security Guard	Lead/Gayk Operator
Community Workers	Low Voltage Technician
Construction Attendant	Machine Operator
Construction Laborer	Maintenance Technician
Construction Technician;	Maintenance Technician
Corrections officer	Maintenance Worker
Crew Chief	Material handler
Crew Member	Material Handler
Crew Member	Mining Operations Coordinator
Crew Member	Nuclear & Hazardous Waste Technician 2
Custom Cabinetry Installer	Nurse's aide
Customer Service	Office Workers
Deconstruction Team Member	Operator/Assembly/Production Worker
Demufacturing Specialist	Packager
Direct Care Worker	Paint Crew-HAZWOPER
Dispatcher	Panel Installer
Dock Worker	Production
drafter	Production
Driver	Production Associate

Driver
Driver in Training
Educational specialist
Emergency Response Technicians
Enterprise Director
Environmental Construction Laborer
Environmental Safety and Security Manager
Environmental Scientist II
Environmental Service Tech
Environmental Specialist
Environmental Tech
Environmental Technician
Environmental Technician
Environmental Technician
Environmental Technicians
Environmental Technicians
Equipment manager
Equipment Operator
ES&H Technician I
Facilities Manager
field technician
Field Technician
Field Technician;
Finisher
Food Co-op manager
Forklift Operator
Forklift Operator
Foundry Operator
General Laborer
General Laborer
General Manager
GIS specialist
GIS Technician
Grounds Labor/ Pesticide Management
Handyman
Hazardous Waste Technician
HAZMAT
Heavy Equipment Operator
Home Health Aide

Production Tech
Production Worker
Program Assistant
Project specialist
QA specialist
quality inspector
Radiation Control Technician Apprentice
Receiving Supervisor
Retail Sales Specialist/Tyson DRT
Roofer
Safety Attendant
Safety Inspector
Safety Officer
Sales
Scalehouse Attendant
Semi-skilled Laborer
Service Rep
Service Technician
Service Technician
Service Technician
Site Supervisor
Slam Latch Assembly
Solar Installer
Solar Installer
Solar Panel Installer
Sorter
Spill Response Technician
Staff Associate
Stock Associate
Stocker
Sweeper Driver
Team Lead
Technician
Technician-Mold and Vaper Barrier
Tow Truck Driver
Truck Driver
Utility Worker
Warehouse Forklift Operator
Warehouse Worker
Waste Management Technician
Watershed Outreach Specialist
Waver/Tasker
Welder/Fabricator

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## 7. Webinars and recordings

### US EPA REGION 6

#### 2021 VIRTUAL REGIONAL

#### “Ready, Set, Go!”, “Level Up”, and “Reach Your Brownfields End Game”

**August 16, 2021 to August 19, 2021 (Monday to Thursday)**

“Ready, Set, Go!”, “Level Up”, and “Reach Your Brownfields End Game” is a virtual conference hosted by the Region 6 EPA Brownfields team and our partners. It is designed to help you be successful, whether you are new to the Brownfields Program or a seasoned pro. The conference will be hosted over four afternoons via the Microsoft Teams platform.

Please feel free to share this conference information with others who may be interested in attending.

To Register, please e-mail: Susan Johnson at:

**mailto:johnson.susan@epa.gov**

Once confirmed, a calendar invitation will be sent with a Microsoft TEAMS link.

**Agenda for all four days is listed on the following pages.**

[Agenda](#)

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox?projector=1>

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### Groundwork USA’s resources

Groundwork USA is a national organization with local roots that works to empower people and engage local businesses, organizations, and government officials to revitalize neighborhoods and transform community liabilities into community assets. US EPA is funding Groundwork USA to help communities understand and integrate environmental justice and equitable development principles into local brownfields assessment, cleanup, and reuse projects. Through May 2024, brownfield communities can access Groundwork USA’s resources and technical assistance for free!

[Learn more here](#)

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### California Land Recycling Conference

Recordings of the California Land Recycling Conference are now available. CCLR, U.S. EPA, and DTSC created this year’s Conference to address head-on the relationship between redevelopment and the struggles we’re facing in public health, climate change, and racial injustice.

[Check out the recorded sessions here](#)

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### Jumpstart your Brownfields Grant Application

**Hosted by KSU TAB in partnership with EPA Region 8**

**July 20th, 12pm—2pm EST**

**August 31, 12pm—1:30pm EST**

Hosted by KSU TAB in partnership with EPA Region 8, this virtual

workshop will be offered as a two-part series and focus on information for those entities interested in applying or reapplying for U.S. EPA Assessment (Community-Wide, Site-Specific or Coalition), Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) and Cleanup Grants.

**July 20th, 12pm—2pm EST**

Part 1 will have participants thinking about their community's brownfields projects and the types of funding resources to meet project needs. Participants will also leave the workshop with a rough outline for a U.S. EPA Brownfields grant application.

[Register Here](#)

**August 31, 12pm—1:30pm EST**

Part 2 will focus on tips for writing a successful narrative and include an interactive grant-writing exercise. Optional one-on-one working sessions for those intending to apply for a FY22 EPA brownfields grant will be offered at the conclusion of Part 2. The working sessions are for grant eligible entities only. Sign up is required and may be done during registration. Consultants partnering with a community must have a community representative present during a working session.

[Register Here](#)

**Brownfield Redevelopment Process Interactive Webinar Series****July 21, 2:30pm—4:30pm EST**

Module 8—Sustainability and Brownfields Redevelopment

The 120-minute interactive session is designed for participants with beginner to intermediate levels of understanding of brownfield redevelopment and sustainability. However, sustainability can be taken further by incorporating smart growth principles into project design.

[Register Here](#)

For an overview of the entire series please visit [main webpage](#).

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## **Attracting Investments to Rural Opportunity Zones**

**July 21, 2:30pm—4:30pm EST**

**July 29, 10am EST**

Is your rural community experiencing challenges attracting investors or developers to your Opportunity Zone? Please join KSU TAB and EPA Region 7 for the Attracting Investments to Rural Opportunity Zones webinar where we will share with you proven approaches to encourage economic investment in rural opportunity zones. This 90-minute webinar will discuss what Opportunity Zones are and how rural communities specifically can benefit from them. This webinar will also share how to develop a community prospectus to attract investors or developers to your project, as well as examples and best practices from rural communities that have leveraged their rural Opportunity Zones for economic growth.

Register Here:

<https://www.ksutab.org/events/webinars/details?id=454>

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## **Learn about the Canadian Brownfields Network**

The 2021 Brownfields Conference hosted by the Canadian Brownfields Network took place last week, but you can still learn about future events. The 2-day program involved many exciting opportunities for engagement including presentations on case studies, delivery barriers, and technical challenges in addition to the signature HUB Awards, recognizing Canadian individual excellence in brownfields.

[Learn more on the Canadian Brownfields Network website](#)

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## **8. In- person conferences**

### **Florida & Alabama Brownfields Conference**

**Hilton Pensacola Beach**

**October 24-27, 2021**

Join the Florida Brownfields Association and the Alabama Brownfields Association for the first joint Florida & Alabama Brownfields Conference. This is a unique opportunity to connect with brownfield leaders, visionaries, and stakeholders from two states. The 2021 conference will be held at the Hilton Pensacola Beach on October 24-27, 2021.

[Learn more and register here](#)

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### **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

**[For more information](https://floridaremediationconference.org/)**

<https://floridaremediationconference.org/>

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**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 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](#)**

**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.

**<https://brownfields2021.org/brownfields-university/>**

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**9. Funding, leveraging and outreach opportunities**

**U.S. Department of Labor**

**Workplace Hazards, Infectious Diseases**

**Applications are due July 19**

U.S. Department of Labor Announces Availability of More Than \$21m in Grants for Training on Workplace Hazards, Infectious Diseases.

The U.S. Department of Labor announced funding opportunities for more than \$21 million in Occupational Safety and Health Administration training grants for non-profit organizations. The first availability will provide \$10 million under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for Workplace Safety and Health Training on Infectious Diseases, including the Coronavirus grants. Applications are due July 19.

[Department of Labor](#)

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## **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](#)

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## **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:

[Emergency response](#)

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

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## **Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grant program**

### **National Park Service**

#### **[Grants.gov](#) through September 24**

The Department of the Interior has announced that the National Park Service will distribute a total of \$150 million to local communities through the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grant program. The program enables urban communities to create new outdoor recreation spaces, reinvigorate existing parks, and form connections between people and the outdoors in economically underserved communities.

Funding applications are now being accepted in [Grants.gov](#) through September 24. States may apply for the grants, whether on behalf of themselves or eligible urban jurisdictions. Interested jurisdictions should contact their state lead agency for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). A list of contacts can be found at LWCF's [contacts page](#). Project sponsors must match the grant award 1:1 with non-federal dollars.

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## **OSHA Announces Susan Harwood Grants for 2021**

### **Proposals due August 23, 2021**

#### **No match required**

Susan Harwood Grants: Proposals due August 23, 2021 except for Infectious Disease training (see #4 below).

Grant period: Sept 30, 2021, to Sept 30, 2022. Must serve small businesses with an extra point for serving an Opportunity Zone.

There are four types of Harwood grants, described below. You may apply for only one unless you are submitting an Infectious Disease Training proposal. You may be funded for one of the other three grants and an Infectious Disease Training proposal.

- 1 Training and Education Materials Development: FOA SHTG-FY-21-02--\$75,000 maximum grant; 80 awards anticipated.
- 2 Capacity Building Grants, FOA SHTG-FY-21-3, \$4.5 Million for 80 grants. Capacity Building offers two options for one-year grants. The proposal must address what capacity will be developed over a 12-month period.
- 3 Targeted Topic Training Grants, SHTG-FY-21-01, \$7.3 million for 80 grants funded at a max \$160,000 for one year.
- 4 Infectious Disease Training, FOA SHTG-FY-21-05. \$200,000 max, 80 awards. Proposal due date is July 26, 2021. Training dates: 9/30 to 3/31/23. Must use existing materials.

Targeted Topic Training grant applicants must emphasize delivering quality occupational safety and health training on one, and only one, OSHA-specified topic. Proposals may include acquiring training materials, revising existing Susan Harwood training materials, or developing new training materials. Training must reach workers and employers from multiple small businesses.

[For more information](#)

<https://www.osha.gov/harwoodgrants>

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## **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. When the next Request for EWDJT Applications is issued, Regional Coordinators will no longer be able to discuss specific circumstances.

**EPA Region 1**

CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

Myra Schwartz

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E-mail: [schwartz.myra@epa.gov](mailto: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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**EPA Region 4**

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

Wanda Jennings

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**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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E-mail: [blazej.nova@epa.gov](mailto:blazej.nova@epa.gov)



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.

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*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 email to:

[hmtri@eicc.edu](mailto:hmtri@eicc.edu).

