



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC) – 7/28/2021

These are post session notes from the third 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 recruitment and screening of students is August 11th, 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 to 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
- Partnership development
- Program leveraging

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.

Post Session Notes Session 258, July 28th, 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](#)

Submit Phoenix Awards Nominees by September 3rd

HMTRI encourages EWDJT grantees to submit a Phoenix Award nomination for the good work they are doing to promote environmental justice in their community. Phoenix awards reflect the progression of brownfield redevelopment over the past 20+ years by recognizing people, projects and organizations, public, private, and nonprofit across the country focused solely on brownfields, economic development, environmental quality, and community development.

The 2021 Phoenix Awards nomination process closes on Friday, September 3rd, 2021.

Winners will be notified on or before November 1, 2021, and announced at a

Brownfields 2021 evening event on December 10th, 2021.

For application information, go to:

<http://brownfields2021.org/phoenix-awards-nomination-application/>
[Phoenix Award Application](#)

2. From HMTRI

HMTRI Program evaluation

As HMTRI begins a new project year, we would like to review our progress over the past year. Your input regarding things we are doing right, things we can improve and things you would like us to undertake will help us to determine if our objectives are being met and if there are any necessary adjustments that need to take place going forward. The first part of the scan relates to ongoing projects. The last three narrative questions give you the opportunity to let us know, in more detail, about your perceptions of our technical assistance efforts and ways we can improve.

If you haven't already completed an Evaluation form for us, please consider doing so. Go to:

[HMTRI Evaluation Form](#)

If you have already responded to a recent email request,
"Thank You,"

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. When compiled and updated the Grantee directory will provide many benefits including the following.

- Provides potential employers the ability to contact EWDJT programs for graduate recruitment.
- Allows employers to coordinate graduate availability with workforce needs.
- Creates networking opportunities among grantees.
- Facilitates grantee information exchange regarding curriculum, student retention and services provided.
- Collects data for special studies regarding certifications, curriculum, graduate availability, and social media.

Look for the 2021-2022 Grantee Directory Scan in coming the first week of August.

3. EWDJT News

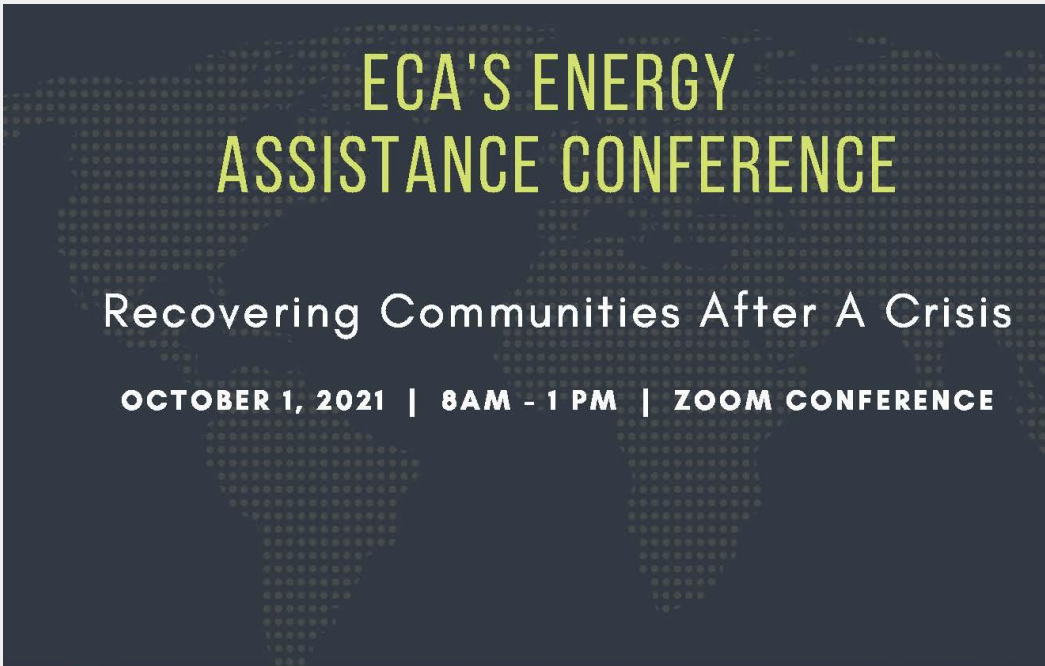
Unpacking EPA funded EWDJT grants

In previous PLC notes, we have acknowledged FY21 funded programs. With a new Request for Applications (FY22 RFAs) expected this summer, we thought it would be informative to review previous awards and summarize possible competition going into the FY22 funding cycle.

- Currently there are 43 active cooperative agreements.
- 26 cooperative agreements were awarded in FY20.
- 17 cooperative agreements awarded in FY21 will not be eligible to apply for FY22 funding.

- Among FY21 grantees, 7 were new and 10 were previously funded.
- 8 grantees previously receiving EPA funds have not been refunded since 2017.
- A total of 34 experienced grantees in addition to new applicants are eligible to submit applications this summer.


The number of grants awarded during each competition varies and depends upon program budgets allotted to EWDJT. While applications for FY22 assistance will be competitive, well-constructed proposals from both experienced and new applicants have an excellent chance of being considered.




ECA'S ENERGY ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE

Recovering Communities After A Crisis

OCTOBER 1, 2021 | 8AM - 1 PM | ZOOM CONFERENCE

 Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA)
106 West Clearfield Street Philadelphia, PA 19133
www.ecasavesenergy.com


FB/IG @ecasavesen
Twitter @phillyener

ECA Energy Assistance Conference Recovering Communities After a Crisis

Vaccines are here but the pandemic isn't over- and neither is the virtual format! With less carbon impact from travel and greater accessibility for mobility-impaired audiences, virtual is here to stay for our Community Energy Conference.

Save the Date; October 1st 8AAM to 1PM via ZOOM.

Registration details coming soon

About The Energy Coordinating Agency

The Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) has received three EPA environmental job training grants, first in 2014, again in 2016, and recently in 2021. Here is a summary of ECAs current training program.

Program participants

The Energy Coordinating Agency plans to train 54 students and place 48 in environmental jobs including the following communities.

- Returning citizens
- Latino residents
- Unemployed and underemployed residents
- Recent high school graduates of North Philadelphia's low-income West Kensington neighborhood

Core curriculum

- 40-hour HAZWOPER
- OSHA-10
- Mold and Moisture
- Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting
- Whole House Air Sealing and Insulation
- Four federal certifications

Key partners

- Clean Water Action,
- En-Staff
- Johnson Controls International
- JEVS Human Services
- Solar States

4. Questions and concerns

Question:

Why are EWDJT grants called cooperative agreements?

Response:

The purpose of a grant is to provide assistance, hopefully for a perceived public need. When grants are awarded, there is generally little involvement by the sponsor other than general terms and conditions established by the provider of the grant. Cooperative agreements (often referred to as grants) also provide support, but with sponsor involvement, typically described in a set of specific terms and conditions or work plans. EWDJT cooperative agreements are, in simple terms, grants where EPA has a role in program planning and operation. Cooperative agreements permit the EPA's Project Officers involvement to oversee the work performed by EWDJT grantees. Once a work plan is agreed upon, EPA involvement may include the following.

- Monitoring of the grantee's performance to verify the work plan.
- Collaborating during performance of the scope of work.
- Review of proposed procurements.
- Reviewing qualifications of key personnel.
- Reviewing and commenting on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement.
- Reviewing outputs and outcomes to ensure substantial progress is made in accordance with the cooperative agreement terms and conditions.
- Approval of project phases, such as curriculum development, prior to the implementation of training.

Prospective grantees should not be intimidated by involvement of Project Coordinators in their cooperative agreements, as it is only their intention to assist and promote a smooth execution of the EWDJT work plan as agreed upon as part of the application process.

5. Partnership development

Why partnership development is important in evaluating EWDJT applications

During the FY21 evaluation cycle, community and employer partnerships combined with leveraging made up 34 Ranking Criteria points (including 28 points for community and employer partnerships and 6 points for program leveraging) making partnership development the most important criteria for selecting EWDJT awards. Unless an organization has all the resources necessary to deliver a successful environmental job training program, partners are essential to fill resource gaps. The EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program operates with limited funds and tight restrictions on how funds may be used. EPA essentially supports environmental remediation, health and safety training which also includes recruitment, placement, tracking and associated administrative activities. Curriculum is limited to specific program areas in addition to related health and safety certifications. Remedial education, life skills training and student services are not supported. Casework, special counseling, and rehabilitation services are also not covered by grant funds. Grants and stipends to students are disallowed as with other types of remuneration to program participants. Restricted funding is not an oversight by EPA program managers but rather a requirement that EWDJT remain an environmental remediation program rather than a duplicative Department of Labor jobs program.

Addressing Ranking Criteria

Responding to Ranking Criteria for partnership development is straight forward. Partnership development is divided into three target groups. Similar relationships need to be developed for each group. As a result, almost identical strategies can be used to engage each group of partners. Representatives from each group should be involved in project development, act in an advisory capacity and provide support to the overall program.

- **Collaboration with local environmental related projects** that effectively involve and inform residents, community groups, and employers from and around the target area including other EPA programs such as assessment, cleanup, and environmental justice projects.
- **Community partnership building that includes relationships with organizations active in the target community** which include religious and influential neighborhood groups.
- **Development of relationships with potential employers** interested in program, support, involvement to the extent they are willing to provide commitment letters.

In last year's competition, applications were evaluated on the quality and extent to which they demonstrated the following.

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).

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 during the development of your application including local community groups, workforce investment boards (WIBs), One Stop Centers, and academic institutions located in or near the target community (2 points).
- The level of involvement of these organizations and the benefits these 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).

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 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).

Partnership development strategies

The first step is a critical assessment of resources, available staff to work on EWDJT and the extent training and services not supported by EPA grant funds can be provided. Initial budget reviews may also indicate that EPA funding will not be sufficient to completely cover costs

associated with activities that must be completed. Partnership development encourages the use of existing community services and resources to leverage EPA support. An example would be recruitment, student assessment and placement. Recruitment, assessment, and placement support may be readily available from local organizations such as the Workforce Investment Board/ One Stops, Department of Health or community nonprofits. Even though EPA supports costs associated with these activities, local resources can leverage, and supplement, Federal funds. This example applies to virtually every activity EWDJT programs undertake. The next step is to learn which organizations provide goods or services the EWDJT program would like to supplement (at minimal or no cost). Below are examples of organizations providing leveraged goods and services to EWDJT grantees:

- Resources and support- City council, departments of environmental quality, economic development, neighborhood development, commerce department, municipal agencies
- Training – colleges and universities (extramural and noncredit programs), local trade associations, banks and financial institutions, local unions, emergency response and law enforcement, consultants, equipment suppliers, contractors
- Student services, counseling, life skills and case management- Health and Human Services, Public Assistance, WIBs, religious and nonprofit organizations
- Recruitment and placement partners – One Stops/WIBs, Chamber of Commerce, business advisory boards, business organizations
- Community awareness – Faith based and community organizations, local TV, radio, newspaper
- Financial support partners – Utilities, foundations, local grants, fund raising organizations, attorney general (fines and penalties)

It should be noted that some of the partners noted will be critical to program operation. Others, while important, may not be individually identified in the application. For those included in the application, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) should be developed. The MOU describes the relationship between the EWDJT program and the partner providing facilities, goods, or services. If the relationship changes during the grant, the EPA Regional Project Officer should be consulted.

How do we find the best partners?

Partnership development begins and continues with community and labor market assessments. During the community assessment effort, organizations working in the target community will be identified as a potential partner already providing necessary goods and services to the community. Transportation services, social and community centers, philanthropic organizations, governmental services, and public aid agencies will have been identified. Partnership development should begin with conversations among these organizations. Here are example inquiries that should be discussed.

- Is the potential partner interested in the program if funded?
- Is there interest from the potential partner to become a major contributor or sub grantee?
- To what extent will the potential partner participate in the program (networking, training, student support, meetings, recruitment/placement, etc.)?
- To what extent can the potential partner provide leveraged resources?
- Are volunteers available that can serve on an advisory board?
- Are their additional contacts, programs or organizations that may be interested in partnering with the proposed EWDJT program?

6. Leveraged partnerships and administration

Leveraged partnerships allow EWDJT grantees to incorporate into their program the services mentioned. Developing local partnerships allows the EWDJT program to utilize existing services and resources. In return, the EWDJT program provides community residents an opportunity to participate in the economic development associated with environmental remediation and restoration. This opportunity is missing in most underserved contaminated communities. The EWDJT program was initially conceived to provide “seed” money to organizations interested in developing local environmental job development programs. After demonstrating success, the intent was to allow other governmental agencies and nonprofits to institutionalize EWDJT by merging them into existing programs, providing operating grants or including EWDJT in local budgets. While some grantees have been able to achieve sustainability, others have not. While the EWDJT program allows existing grantees to reapply for continued funding, partnership development is encouraged to promote the possibility of a sustainable environmental job training program with reduced Federal support.

Addressing Ranking Criteria

When partnership development is “well on its way”, responding to leveraging Ranking Criteria will “fall into place.” The important issues to keep in mind is to follow the pathway presented and always remembering to document commitments discussed with partners.

Leveraging evaluation points were subdivided into three subcategories with a total of 6 points.

- 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).

Leveraging strategies

Always leave or end meetings with an action plan, commitment, or closure. Always invite partner organizations to attend board meetings, classes, graduations, and social events.

- Finding the best partners requires extensive networking and a systematic search effort.
- Partner relationships are time and labor intensive.
- Start as soon as possible with partner development.
- From the labor market assessment, define the types of training the EWDJT program needs to deliver. Determine if the training requested will be funded by the EWDJT grant. If not, search for partners to provide unfunded instruction.
- Based on the community assessment determine the need for rehabilitation services, remedial education, and life skills training.
- Assess the need for student services and support.
- Review in house capabilities for recruitment and placement efforts.
- Establish long-term relationships with leveraged partners and contractors.
- Document meetings and develop MOUs when partners are included in the grant proposal.

Partnership administration

From a grant’s management perspective, partners can be subdivided into one of three administrative categories, sub grantees, fiscal partners, or in-kind partnerships. Sub grantees are written into the grant and are subject to all the terms and conditions of the primary grantee. Sub grantees have the same qualifying criteria as the primary grantee and are subject to audit on the same terms as the primary EWDJT grantee. Partnering as sub grantees does not require a

competitive bid. If a sub grantee is part of the grant, they need to be “signed up” before the proposal is written. Any change in sub grantee status requires EPA approval and a revision of work plans.

When EPA funds are involved

Fiscal partners are simply identified as those partners where grant money exchanges hands. Trainers and consultants are the most common fiscal partners. Fiscal partners need to be vetted and selected by a competitive bid. Contractors are required to comply with standard Federal contractor rules and regulations. If a contractor is not already employed by the prospective grantee, he may be selected prior to the grant development process and included in the proposal. It should be noted that the RFP for prospective consultants should be contingent on receiving Federal funding, training schedules and work plans.

Supporters and in-kind partners

The third type of partner provides in-kind goods and services. This type of partner is the least restrictive. In-kind partners may vary from community volunteers to employers, training providers, support services, infrastructure, and financial supporters. The important aspect of in-kind partners is that Federal grant money is not exchanged. If contractors or in-kind partners are written into the grant, changes in those relationships should be noted to the EPA Regional Coordinator. In-kind partners not written into the grant often “come and go” but can be a valuable resource during implementation of the grant.

A final word regarding partnerships and leveraging. Always document any type of support provided to the EWDJT program. Stakeholders and program advocates deserve the credit.

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>

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](#)

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](#)

Jumpstart your Brownfields Grant Application

Hosted by KSU TAB in partnership with EPA Region 8

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.

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](#)

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

Needs and Challenges in PPE Use for Underserved User Populations

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) requests information on the needs and challenges in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) by underserved user populations. The NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory is expanding its portfolio to include activities that consider the needs of U.S. worker populations who are underserved related to PPE. Comments must be submitted by Aug. 23. For information, go to:

[Federal Register](#)

Update on OSHA Guidance for Workers Not Covered by the COVID 19 ETS

On June 10, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) updated its guidance to help employers and workers not covered by the Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) identify COVID-19 exposure risks and take appropriate steps to prevent exposure and infection. The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) hosted a webinar to discuss OSHA's guidance.

[Webinar Recording](#)

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](#)

8. In person events

Who's Up for an IN-PERSON GBA Event?

Join Us Wednesday, August 25 for a Little Programming and a Lot of Networking!

Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021 from 5 to 7 p.m.

United Consulting, 625 Holcomb Bridge Rd, Norcross, GA 30071

Registration: \$10 members / \$20 nonmembers / \$15 government & students

Grab your business cards and get ready to mingle: GBA is going face-to-face on Wednesday, Aug. 25! We'll share a brief update from GBA, and then turn you all loose to reconnect with long-time friends and associates, meet new contacts, swap business cards and war stories - all while enjoying refreshments. More details to come, but be sure to register now!

Take advantage of this opportunity for visibility and help make our event a success - sign up to sponsor today! Contact Jennifer Jezyk at Jennifer@HLStrategy.com for sponsorship details.

[Click Here if you're Ready to Mingle](#)

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.](#)

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

PFAS Forum II

May 2-4, 2022

Renaissance Tampa International Plaza Hotel

Tampa, Florida

The PFAS Forum II is being organized to provide an understanding of the environmental issues related to PFAS, educate the environmental/remediation industry and regulatory community on the potential risks from PFAS, as well as discuss regulatory and legal issues, monitoring, treatment, cleanup and disposal technologies. Go to:

<https://pfasforum.org>

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](#)

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 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](#)

The CWP is a national non-profit that works to advance the science of watershed & stormwater management.

www.cwp.org

We are proud to offer a Clean Water Certificate Training Program that was created to partner with workforce development programs. CWP offers an opportunity to participate in the ANSI accredited program as well as the CWC Instructor Preparation Program.

Go to.

[Clean Water Certificate Training Program - Center for Watershed Protection \(cwp.org\)](http://www.cwp.org)

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grant program

National Park Service

[Grants.gov](https://www.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](https://www.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.

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-mo 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>

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

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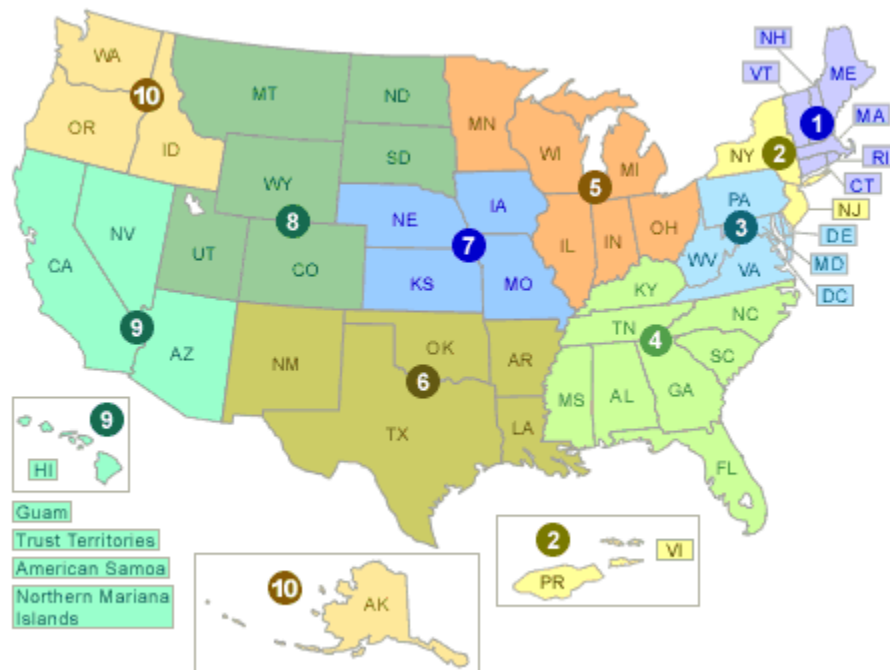
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11. Join us for the next Professional Learning Community call

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, August 11th, 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 email to:

hmtri@eicc.edu.

