



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community
(PLC) –3/23/2022

Return this email with subject “Remove” if you are no longer interested in receiving PLC notes and announcements. You can also respond with comments, questions or adding an associate’s name to the PLC list by replying to this email.

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 271, March 23rd, 2022

CONTENTS

1. Latest from Washington
2. HMTRI scheduled events
3. Questions and concerns
4. City of Richmond, CA – Fred Lucero
5. Things to do now (successful candidates) – After FY22 funding announcements
6. Things to do now (unsuccessful candidates) – After FY22 funding announcements
7. Virtual conferences, webinars, and recordings
8. In- person events
9. Funding and leveraging opportunities
10. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators
11. Join us for the next PLC April 6th

1. Latest from Washington

EPA Region 6 Brownfields – Job Training Outreach Panel Discussion
Flyer, Slides and Zoom recordings

Tuesday, March 1, 2022, Region 6 facilitated a panel for organizations interested in developing an environmental job training program. Slides, flyer, and a video recording are now available on the KSU TAB website:

<https://www.ksutab.org/events/webinars/details?id=516>

National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

April 19th, 2022

2 p.m. Eastern

The purpose of these calls is to inform communities about EPA's environmental justice work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with environmental justice advocates. As environmental justice continues to be integrated into EPA programs and policies, the Agency hopes that these calls will help reaffirm EPA's continued commitment to work with community groups and the public to strengthen local environmental and human health outcomes. Topics to be discussed include Leadership Updates, Listening Session, and Dialogue: Q&A about ongoing EJ initiatives

Click the link below to join the webinar on April 19th.

Registration not required. To access this Zoom call:

[EPA Nat'l Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call \(April 19, 2022\) Registration, Tue, Apr 19, 2022 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Brownfields 2022

August 16-19

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Brownfields 2022 registration opens 12:00PM ET on Monday, April 4th.

At Brownfields 2022, you will learn about the unprecedented Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's \$1.5 billion investment in your communities through the EPA Brownfields Program, and directly interact with the nation's leading brownfield practitioners.

<https://brownfields2022.org/>

Follow on Twitter:

@Brownfields2022

Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) grants available from Regional Offices

Job Training grantees may wish to inform their Brownfield partners of this opportunity available from regional offices. TBAs are conducted at no cost to communities requesting assistance. Applications are accepted and assessments are performed throughout the year. Assistance may include one or more of the following activities:

- Phase I environmental site assessments
- Phase II environmental site assessments
- Cleanup options and cost estimates based on anticipated future uses and redevelopment plans

See section 9 of these notes for more details.

2. HMTRI scheduled events

2022 Mid-Year Virtual Networking Workshop

May 4th, 2022

12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Eastern

Tentatively scheduled for May 4th, 2022, HMTRI will be hosting a 2022 Mid-Year Virtual Networking Workshop for JT grant recipients and stakeholders interested in environmental job training. The structure of the event will include informal networking sessions guided by facilitators and time with EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators, and headquarters staff. Registration will begin in early April.

2022 In person Annual All Grantee Meeting

An in-person event October 11th – 14th

Full day sessions on October 12th and 13th

HMTRI's 24th Annual All-Grantee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 12th - 14th in Alexandria Va. Topics including grant administration, recruitment, retention, curriculum, placement, and partnership development will be discussed. The All-Grantee Meeting provides a platform to continue conversations on critical issues and best practices among successful JT programs. The workshop is facilitated by HMTRI, grant recipients, EPA staff and outside experts. As in the past, the meeting will include complementary registration and housing. Travel, meals, incidentals, and other costs are not included.

Both events are open to JT grant recipients and organizations interested in establishing local environmental job training programs.

Join the conversation

Visit with EPA Brownfields Job Training grant recipients, alumni, and interested stakeholders. PLCs are scheduled every other week on Wednesdays. The next PLC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6th at 2:00 p.m. Eastern, same time, same Zoom link. Log in instructions appear at the end of these notes.

3. Questions and concerns

Question 1:

We are in year three of our JT grant and were not successful in the FY22 competition. Any suggestions?

Response 1:

In FY20, 26 applications were funded. Unfortunately, in FY22 only \$3.8 million was available to award 19 grants leaving several excellent programs with a funding gap. FY23 brings a dramatic increase in funds available for JT. HMTRI is encouraging unfunded FY20 grantees to keep their program together and reapply during the FY23 competition. Section 6 of these notes discusses sustainability strategies in detail.

- If grant recipients have not spent their budgeted funds, they may want to check with their project officers for a no cost extension. No cost extensions allow the grant to stay active as long as funds have not been exhausted.
- EPA grant recipients may also request administrative relief from a requirement due to COVID-19. Recipients should email their Grant Specialist with a copy to their Project Officer providing a description of the action they want EPA to take. The email should include a brief justification that includes how the COVID-19 public health crisis has impacted their ability to comply with requirements in the agreement. An authorized EPA official such as an Award Official, Grant Management Officer or Associate Grant Management Officer will provide EPA's decision on the request via email. Depending on the type of action, the grant agreement may also be amended.

Question 2:

I met with a tribal community college that is interested in applying for an EPA Job Training grant and I was wondering if you have recommendations of a successful tribal community college or JT recipient that they could contact and if you have plans for any tribal community colleges present on the PLC call in the near future?

Response 2:

After today's PLC, Rachel Mowatt from the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nation (who just received an FY22 JT award) had an opportunity to talk with us about their grant. We had a chance to discuss helping others apply for the EPA Job Training Grant. Rachel would be happy to discuss their grant with other tribes interested in the EPA Job Training program.

Rachel's contact information:

- [rmowatt@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov/](mailto:rmowatt@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov)

Their website is:

- <https://cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov/>

Other grantees (not tribal) who have experience training Native American participants, include Santa Fe CC, and Alaska Forum. Here is their contact information.

- Janet Kerley - Santa Fe CC
janet.kerley@sfcc.edu
- Amy Tannahill - Alaska Forum
ATannahill@akforum.org

For more information about EPA's programs in Indian Country, visit:

Question 3:

- Will HMTRI be hosting an all-grantee meeting prior to the conference? (as in 2019)
- Will HMTRI be covering housing/hotel costs? (as in 2019)

Response 3:

For budget and scheduling purposes, here is a summary of upcoming HMTRI environmental job training events and expenses we are able to support.

2022 Mid-Year Virtual Networking Workshop

May 4th, 2022

12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Eastern

Scheduled for May 4th, 2022, HMTRI will be hosting a 2022 Mid-Year Virtual Networking Workshop for JT grant recipients and stakeholders interested in environmental job training. The Mid-Year Virtual Networking Workshop will replace a preconference workshop we have hosted in the past at the National Brownfields conference in August. Registration will begin April 4th. **No expenses or costs involved.**

Brownfields 2022

August 16-19

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

HMTRI is not planning a preconference event prior to Brownfields 2022. We have found a number of competing events the day prior to the conference that Job Training grantees would be better served attending. **As such we will not be able to cover attendee costs for the Brownfields 2022.**

We are planning an Environmental Job Training Booth as a place where grantees can meet potential employers and network with other grantees. Later this summer we will be registering participants to work the booth.

2022 In-person Annual All Grantee Meeting

An in-person event

October 11th – 14th

Full day sessions on October 12th and 13th

HMTRI's 24th Annual All-Grantee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 12th - 14th in Alexandria Va. Topics including grant administration, recruitment, retention, curriculum, placement, and partnership development will be discussed. The All-Grantee Meeting provides a platform to continue conversations on critical issues and best practices among successful JT programs. The workshop is facilitated by HMTRI, grant recipients, EPA staff and outside experts. **As in the past, the meeting will include complementary registration and housing for three nights in Alexandria, VA.** Travel, meals, incidentals, and other costs are not included.

4. City of Richmond, Richmond CA – Fred Lucero

Thank you, Fred, for today's presentation

The City of Richmond, CA was one of the early EPA Job Training programs dating back to 2009, successfully competing in the next 7 EPA Job Training competitions with funding awards from 2009 to 2022. The City of Richmond is located 16 miles northeast of San Francisco, directly across San Francisco Bay.

Between 1940 and 1945, tens of thousands of workers streamed into Richmond to support wartime industries. As the post wartime economy deteriorated, Richmond became the 11th most dangerous city

in California with the chances of being the victim of a crime became one in 17. In response to the high crime rate, public officials turned to job training as an approach to reducing crime. With a philosophy of “working citizens are too busy to commit crimes” RichmondBUILD (The Mother Ship) was organized in 2007 to teach construction trades. Today, RichmondBUILD offers training in 11 qualifications including Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) Certification, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) Training and Blueprint Reading. Time to complete education training ranges from 2.8 weeks to 1 year depending on the qualification, with a median time to complete of 3 months. The cost to attend RichmondBUILD is free for everyone.

The RichmondBuild job training model is an example of combining EPA Job Training with a synergistic skills training program to provide comprehensive environmental remediation and construction trades job development.

Working side by side RichmondBUILD is able to provide the following services.

- Wrap around services
- Case management
- Pre-apprenticeship opportunities
- Strong employer relationships
- Strong life skills and financial literacy training
- Expanded job opportunities



Target community

The racial makeup of Richmond is about 31.4% white, 26.6% African American, 40% Hispanic or Latino and a diversity of Asian, Pacific Islander and mixed ethnicities. 14.7% of the population live below the poverty line, a number that is considerably higher than the national average. The City of Richmond JT

program is targeting low-income, unemployed, and underemployed students in the community. This cycle, the program plans to train 60 students.

The training program includes 234 hours of instruction

40-hour HAZWOPER

OSHA-10

Confined Space Entry

First Aid/CPR

Customized Utility-Scale Solar Installation

Refinery Safety

Richmond BUILD Pre-Apprenticeship Construction

Students who complete the training will earn up to three federal certifications

Placement

Richmond is surrounded by post war industrialization, refineries and large solar projects built on Brownfield properties. With such a large number of contaminated sites, RichmondBUILD graduates have a competitive advantage having 40-hour HAZWOPER, OSHA-10 and Confined Space Entry allowing graduates to enter contaminated sites. Manpower and staffing organizations allow potential employers an opportunity to “try out” prospective new hires.

Key partners

Having an advantage of 13 years in environmental training, RichmondBUILD has developed MOUs (memorandum of Understanding) with many of its partners. Strong relationships with the Richmond Workforce Investment Board, 5 primary local trade unions, and leveraged service providers provide RichmondBUILD the resources it needs to deliver a comprehensive training program. Partners include the following organizations.

- Marin Clean Energy
- Brand Energy Services
- IQ Environmental Staffing
- Overaa Inc.
- Laborers Training Trust
- Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council
- Carpenters and Joiners of Local 152
- City of Richmond Community Development Department
- Literacy for Every Adult Program
- Richmond Workforce Investment Board
- Northern California Laborers' Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee

Fred would be happy to speak in more detail about his program and share his ideas regarding RichmondBUILD and their approach to environmental job training.

Fred Lucero, RichmondBUILD
flucero@richmondworks.org

If you have a chance, check out the social media sites below.

<https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1243/RichmondBUILD>

5. Things to do now (successful candidates) – After FY22 funding announcements

Now that award announcements have been made, there is still work to be done and hard decisions made which will greatly influence implementation of the program for the next three years. The primary administrative objectives of the time between announcement and authorization to spend funds are

- Finalize work plans and grant deliverables
- Review budgets presented in the application
- Comply with EPA grants management requirements and procedures

All of this must be completed before the end of the fiscal year (September 30st).

It is important that grantees respond to requests for information quickly as EPA coordinators are unusually busy this time of year. On an administrative level, here are some ideas on what to expect between announcements and the authority to spend funds.

- Grantees must first convene a small internal meeting among principles to discuss specifics of the grant, timelines, deliverables, and responsibilities. Decisions regarding resource allocation and commitments to move forward must be approved by senior management.
- Soon after announcements are made, Regional Coordinators will contact and send a package or templet with all the information the EPA grants office needs to process the grant.
- After the award letter has been received, grant recipients must acknowledge their acceptance of the terms and conditions. In the case of governmental organizations, acceptance may have to be approved by City Council, community colleges, nonprofit and tribes may need approval from the Board of Directors, Tribal Council or Director. Don't assume these approvals will be automatic.
- Next, are a series of meetings including program staff, key partners, EPA Regional Coordinators, followed by public announcements, community, and stakeholder events.
- Terms and Conditions with approved work plans should be the primary focus for the next 4 months.
- It is suggested to respond to EPA's requests for information quickly as the EPA grants office will be busy processing JT in addition to other brownfield related grants. If the approval progress gets delayed, as a last resort, expenses may be charged to the grant 90 days before final paperwork is complete. This requires EPA approval and is reserved for unforeseen special situations such as attending Brownfields22 in August.
- As part of "Terms and Conditions", two employees from the grantee's organization must complete the EPA online mandatory Grants Management Training for Non-Profit Applicants. One of the employees must be the project manager the other authorized to draw down funds.

Money will not flow until training has been completed. Note: those who have received prior EPA awards are likely already certified unless new employees occupy administrative positions.

The course can be accessed at:

<http://www.epa.gov/ogd/training//index.htm> .

Suggested topics during internal meetings

- Review the project timeline, goals, and objectives.
- Summarize resource commitments proposed in the application.
- Revisit the grant proposal, deliverables, timelines, and budget.
- Assign responsibilities to key personal, advisory board members and consultants.
- Ensure that workloads assigned to key personal will sufficiently cover project deliverables.
- Review community and labor market assessments to insure they are still relevant.
- Ensure trainers have coordinated training with community and employer needs.
- Discuss revisions that may need to be addressed in the work plan or budget.
- Receive commitments and establish milestone agreements for each deliverable.

Suggested topics to discuss in meetings with EPA regional coordinators and grant specialists

- Grant Terms and Conditions (review grant processing packet)
- Reporting requirements, including quarterly reports and ACRES, and expected time frame to report accomplishments
- Review the project timeline, goals, and objectives
- Revisit the grant proposal, deliverables, budgets, and possible revisions to the work plan
- Brief the EPA Regional Coordinator to become acquainted with the community and the target area
- Help the grantee project manager understand roles and responsibilities under EPA Cooperative Agreements
- Identify issues to avoid future surprises
- Develop a schedule and lay out clear expectations for all involved
- Review the proposed curriculum and certifications provided
- Go over allowable expenses and process for reimbursement
- Present performance expectations
- Review targets and projected milestones compared to the application proposal
- Answer grantee questions from internal meetings
- Advice, tips, and sources of additional support known to the Regional Coordinator

Public meetings and community awareness

Public meetings provide a forum for beginning a JT grant before it officially begins. Community awareness may take many forms and include alternative venues. Internet, radio, print media,

community and religious gatherings are opportunities to supercharge a JT program. Here are the ways community awareness supercharges new programs.

- Community awareness jump starts recruitment efforts
- Increases stakeholder support
- Alerts employers of a new source for trained workers
- Attracts new untapped leveraging partners
- Informs government agencies regarding a new upcoming jobs program
- Provides elected officials and representatives an opportunity to participate in JT

Suggested contents included in community awareness events

- Explain how JT benefits the community
- Review the project timeline, goals, and objectives
- Describe planned efforts for engaging the public
- Introduce key program personnel and briefly describe their roles and responsibilities
- Introduce other Partners (Other agencies, city personnel, elected officials)
- Discuss the opportunities associated with environmental jobs
- Review the curriculum, training schedule and services available
- Provide insight regarding the community impact
- Detail the recruitment, application, and screening process
- Answer questions and concerns
- Include an opportunity for networking between program staff and among guests
- Meetings and public awareness events are critical to new JT programs. Existing programs also need to continue evangelizing their program. Surprisingly, many communities, public agencies, potential supporters, and employers are not aware their local JT program exists.

6. Things to do now (unsuccessful candidates) – After FY22 funding announcements

First time applicants

Preparation for a JT proposal is time consuming and effort intensive. While existing programs have a track record and established partners, new programs have a more difficult job establishing relationships and responding to an unfamiliar Request for JT Applications (RFAs). With a fresh start, new programs need at least six months to a year establishing networks, partnerships and leveraged resources. EPA is aware of the advantage current grantees have over new applicants and go to great lengths insuring a level and subjective competition. Here are some suggestions to new unfunded JT applicants.

- Make an appointment with the EPA Regional Coordinator to announce your interest and intentions on applying for an FY23 Job Training grant. Regional Coordinators will place you on their contact list and may be able to direct you to resources helpful in application development.
- Attend the HMTRI networking workshop May 4th and the biweekly Professional Learning Community (PLC). Participants of the PLC can network with successful JT grantees and learn job training strategies that have worked over the years. As the Request for Applications (RFA) approaches this summer, the PLC will address Ranking Criteria, grant writing tips, landmines, and ideas for writing successful applications.

- Begin planning for the next FY23 Request for Proposals due out this summer
- For applicants who have not yet started a JT program, work to keep the idea of establishing community-based training alive in the community
- Seek local demonstration and planning grants
- Continue recruiting new partners interested in supporting environmental workforce training
- Inform partners, supporters, and stakeholders your intentions to submit an expanded proposal for consideration during the next funding cycle
- Reexamine and strengthen your partnerships, community outreach and target community relationships
- Plan ahead, it takes a good part of the year to assemble, coordinate and institute a working partnership team

Tips to consider for unfunded grantees finding themselves in year two of their grant cycle

Existing grantees interested in “re-upping” program funding have extensive prior experience and established partners. Prior reputation or performance, however, is not a “slam dunk” for receiving additional funds. Existing programs must expand their applications in order to be refunded for another three years. Resubmission or recycling of past proposals does not work. Competition for FY23 grants may be intense in that available funding will dramatically increase.

Tips for unfunded year 2 grantees include the following.

- Make an appointment with the EPA Regional Coordinator to review the grant application that was not funded in FY22. This will demonstrate your interest in reapplying for the FY23 cycle and give direction in how to expand and improve the next application.
- Start your FY23 application as soon as possible. The best time to secure leveraged partners is when the JT program is fully operational.
- EPA funds are restricted and limited. Look to state and local governmental organizations for continuing support.
- Development staff should always keep an “eye out” for Federal, State, and local funding opportunities even if they are not directly related to EPA environmental workforce development. PLC notes regularly includes grant and funding opportunities.
- If your organization is resubmitting, do not assume an old proposal can be resubmitted. Some EPA Regional Coordinators keep track of old proposals for reference.
- Partnerships, letters of support need to be maintained and current. Applicants for FY23 will need to revisit previous leveraged supporters and partners for updated MOUs and support letters.
- Keep current stakeholders and supporters informed but expand your circle of partners.
- Begin NOW. Seek out planning grants and resources. Local funds may become available to continue a network of stakeholder organizations, partners, employers and leveraged resources to establish a community environmental jobs program.
- With additional work, the next submission for funds has a likelihood of being successful. Many JT programs have “missed” a cycle only to come back strong with a new program and more comprehensive proposal.

Unfunded “reups” for third year grantees- JT extension and sustainability strategies

Many excellent programs are not able to be funded because of budget constraints. As a result, grantees should prepare plans to “sit out” a cycle or two if their proposal is not selected for refunding. Rather

than shutting down an established environmental workforce training program, grantee alumni should move forward with JT in their community. Here are suggestions for programs finding themselves with an operational program without JT assistance.

- Make an appointment with the EPA Regional Coordinator to review the grant application that was not funded in FY22. This will demonstrate your interest in reapplying for the FY23 cycle and give direction in how to expand and improve the next application.
- With additional work, the next submission for funds has a likelihood of being successful. Many JT programs have “taken a year or two off” returning to the JT program with a new approach.
- If you have not spent your budgeted funds you may want to check into a no cost extension
- EPA grant recipients may also request that EPA provide them administrative relief from a requirement due to COVID-19. Recipients should email their Grant Specialist for the agreement with a copy to their Project Officer providing a description of the action they want EPA to take. The email should include a brief justification that includes how the COVID-19 public health crisis has impacted their ability to comply with a requirement in the agreement. An authorized EPA official such as an Award Official, Grant Management Officer or Associate Grant Management Officer will provide EPA’s decision on the request via email. Depending on the type of action, the grant agreement may also be amended.
- Keep the stakeholder team together- Inform partners that awards were extremely competitive based on limited funding and competitive responses to specific evaluation criteria
- Seek local labor and community development grants to replace lost EPA funding
- Consider reducing program offerings during while operating with reduced funding
- Offer contract training to business and industry
- Approach employers for funding assistance to continue providing a certified workforce
- Provide refresher training for a fee to past participants
- Consider merging with a current partner or established community organization
- Seek new partners interested in supporting environmental workforce training
- Approach governmental organizations for funding to institutionalize JT
- Reorganize non-credit JT into credit programs at community colleges or universities
- Seek out larger organizations with institutional or legislative funding to merge into
- Consider approaching other training programs allowing them to add environmental training to services they are not currently offering
- Preserve materials, contacts, proposals, and supporters - Inform partners that FY22 awards were extremely competitive, and attempts are being made to continue the program
- In the past, JT programs have become dormant only to come back strong with new partners, new program plans and a more comprehensive proposal. We consider these programs as JT alumni.

7. Virtual conferences, webinars, and recordings

Equitable Brownfields Redevelopment

April 5, 2022

11:30 AM – 2:30 PM Eastern

Join the National Brownfields Coalition for an engaging virtual event addressing how practitioners can center equity in their work and develop strategies for inclusive brownfields redevelopment. Recognizing the risk of gentrification and home and business displacement arising from brownfields

redevelopment projects, event speakers will share best practices for development, planning and community engagement processes centered on community wealth building and supporting existing community members. Speakers will provide insights from the field on a wide range of environmental justice and equity issues related to brownfields cleanup and reuse policy and practices and share actionable strategies to advance equity in brownfield processes and outcomes. Participants will learn about actionable strategies for reducing displacement and the many roles and sectors that must be involved to advance equitable development in brownfields work. Participants can engage through lectures as well as break-out discussion groups. This event is part of Smart Growth America's Equity Summit programming, which is anchored with a three-day summit in January followed by year-round programming focused on advancing racial equity through smart growth.

Register:

[Equitable Brownfields Redevelopment \(zoom.us\)](#)

Day of Empathy is back and this year, we're doing things a little differently.

A livestream of the Day of Empathy

April 5th

Not familiar with Day of Empathy?

In its sixth year, the Day of Empathy is the largest gathering for criminal legal reform in the country. Dream Corps JUSTICE collaborates with the Empathy Network, our community of systems impacted activists, to advocate for fearless solutions to America's mass incarceration problem. We have big legislative goals this year. That's why we're expanding the Day of Empathy from a single day into a Week of Impact. Starting March 28th, our Empathy Network leaders will host events across the country. From Arkansas to Wisconsin, Pennsylvania to within the prison walls of a facility in Mississippi (our first ever Day of Empathy on the inside!), our organizers will leverage the power of storytelling to turn empathy into action.

The week will conclude with our sixth annual Day of Empathy on Tuesday, April 5th, 2022 in Washington, DC, and streamed virtually.

There are more ways than ever to get involved and take action! This year will feature:

Over 20 in-person, virtual, and hybrid events across the country during the Week of Impact.

A livestream of the Day of Empathy on April 5th, featuring our co-founder Van Jones, poet and activist Dwayne Betts, justice impacted leaders and other special guests.

Engaging opportunities to turn empathy into action alongside the Empathy Network. Whether you're looking to volunteer at an event, show your support for specific legislation, or join a meeting with your state lawmakers we have something for you!

[Get Involved Here!](#)

We hope you'll join us this year and stand shoulder to shoulder (in-person or virtually) with those impacted by the criminal justice system. With empathy, understanding, and love, we can build the political will needed to rectify the damage caused by mass incarceration. And we need your help.

In solidarity,

The Dream Corps JUSTICE Team

National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Calls



The purpose of these calls is to inform communities about EPA's environmental justice work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with environmental justice advocates. As environmental justice continues to be integrated into EPA programs and policies, the Agency hopes that these calls will help reaffirm EPA's continued commitment to work with community groups and the public to strengthen local environmental and human health outcomes. Next Call:

April 19th, 2022

2 - 4 p.m. Eastern

EPA environmental justice initiatives

Listening Session and Dialogue: Q&A about ongoing EJ initiatives

Click the link below to join the webinar on April 19th:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/epa-natl-environmental-justice-community-engagement-call-april-19-2022-registration-299567132357>

For more information and registration, go to:

[EJ Community Engagement Calls](#)

8. In-person events

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>



**GBA Announces Brownfield Seminar Date:
June 28th
Georgia State University**

We are pleased to announce that the 2022 GBA Brownfield Seminar will take place Tuesday, June 28 at Georgia State University! We are thrilled to be back IN PERSON, offering you the same incredible content and networking you've come to expect from this event. Registration is open, and sponsorship opportunities are available.

This year's Brownfield Seminar once again will provide quality education opportunities with a wide range of participants, including leading development, legal, engineering, risk management, economic development, and other professionals throughout Georgia and beyond with a shared interest in cleaning and redeveloping contaminated properties and revitalizing surrounding areas around the state.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**2022 National Brownfields Training Conference –
Oklahoma City, OK
August 16-19, 2022**

The National Brownfields Training Conference is the largest event in the nation focused on environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. Held every two years, the National Brownfields Conference attracts over 2,000 stakeholders in brownfields redevelopment and cleanup to share knowledge about sustainable reuse and celebrate the EPA brownfields program's success.

Whether you're a newcomer or a seasoned professional, Brownfields 2022 offers something for you.

Registration opens April 4th. For more information, please visit

<https://brownfields2022.org/>



**The 27th Annual
Florida Remediation Conference (FRC 2022)
Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate
Orlando, Florida
November 16-18, 2022**

Call for Speakers!

Submission Deadline: July 15, 2022

We have issued a call for oral and poster presentation abstracts for the 27th Florida Remediation Conference which will take place on November 16-18, 2022, at the Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate (Orlando), Florida.

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

<https://floridaremediationconference.org/call-for-speakers>

The Florida Remediation Conference (FRC) is one of the premier soil, air and water remediation conferences of the year. Though FRC started out as a Florida-centric event 26 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. For more information, Go to:

<https://floridaremediationconference.org>

9. Funding and leveraging opportunities

Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TBA)

A Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) is an environmental investigation that documents environmental conditions at a property under consideration for redevelopment or reuse. These are

conducted at no cost to communities requesting assistance. Applications are accepted and assessments are performed throughout the year. Assistance may include one or more of the following activities:

- Phase I environmental site assessment, including a background and historical investigation and a preliminary property inspection.
- Phase II environmental site assessment, including sampling activities to identify the types and concentrations of contaminants and the areas of contamination.
- Cleanup options and cost estimates based on anticipated future uses and redevelopment plans.

Every region has TBAs available on a no cost basis. For more information go the following EPA site.

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/targeted-brownfields-assessments-tba>

EPA Announces Availability of up to \$1.6 Million Environmental Justice Grants for Tribal Public

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the availability of up to \$1.6 million in [American Rescue Plan](#) (ARP) funding to support Tribal government efforts to establish or modify programs on environmental justice water and air quality issues. Earlier this year, EPA announced spending plans for the \$100 million in ARP funding appropriated by Congress in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and health outcome disparities, with \$50 million being designated to improve ambient air quality monitoring, and \$50 million designated to address disproportionate environmental or public health harms and risks in underserved communities. Congress made up to \$1.6 million in ARP funding available to Tribes, recognizing the importance of supporting Tribal public engagement programs and related priorities that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

EPA anticipates awarding 16 to 20 grants nationwide in amounts of up to \$100,000 per award.

- “This funding opportunity will help ensure that our Tribal Nation partners and their communities are prioritized within EPA’s whole-of-government approach to address environmental challenges,” said JoAnn Chase, Director of the American Indian Environment Office.
- “This funding also serves as reaffirmation of EPA’s policy, and the Biden Administration’s priority, to advance and integrate environmental justice into all of our work, including our work with federally recognized Tribal governments and indigenous peoples.”

“Our partners in Tribal governments recognize that they, just like us, advance justice by starting with meaningful engagement,” said Matthew Tejada, Director of the Office of Environmental Justice. “We are excited to support their efforts to lift up the voices of the people most impacted by and vulnerable to pollution.”

Applicants interested in this funding opportunity must submit grant proposal packages by **May 19, 2022**. Applicants should plan for projects to begin on October 1, 2022. To learn more about the pre-application assistance calls and how to apply for funding, visit:

[Environmental Justice Small Grants Program](#).

- For more information about EPA’s programs in Indian Country, visit: [Environmental Protection in Indian Country](#)
 - For more information on EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice, visit: [Environmental Justice](#).
-

State Farm Neighborhood Assist

Neighborhood Assist will award one hundred \$25,000 grants to fund neighborhood improvement projects. Anyone living in the U.S. (including individuals 18 years old or older, nonprofit organizations, schools, towns, and cities, etc.) is eligible to apply.

Submissions opened on February 1 at 10am PT. A maximum of 4,000 submissions will be accepted, so submit early.

[Learn more and prepare to apply>>>](#)

Bank of America Grants

In 2022, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation will issue requests for proposals (RFPs):

Environmental Focus:

Agriculture/Farming, Career Choices, Cultural Awareness, Environmental Justice, Gardening/Composting, Place-based Education, Plants, Sustainability, Team building/Problem-solving

Bank of America



Economic Mobility focused on needs of community (affordable housing, small business, neighborhood revitalization)

Applications accepted: 5/30/2022 – 6/24/2022

For additional information, go to:

Complete Details

[Bank of America Opportunities](#)

10. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators

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

EPA Region 1

CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

William "Bill" Lariviere

Phone: (617) 918-1231

[E-mail: lariviere.william@epa.gov](mailto:lariviere.william@epa.gov)

EPA Region 2

NJ, NY, PR, VI

Schenine Mitchell

Phone: (212) 637-3283

E-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov

EPA Region 3
DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV

Gianna Rosati

Phone: (215) 814-3406

E-mail: Rosati.Gianna@epa.gov

EPA Region 4

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

Olga Perry

Phone: (404) 562-8534

E-mail: perry.olga@epa.gov

EPA Region 5

IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI

Linda Morgan

Phone: (312) 886-4747

E-mail: morgan.linda@epa.gov

EPA Region 6

AR, LA, NM, OK, TX

Elizabeth Reyes

Phone: (214) 665-3163

E-mail: reyes.elizabeth@epa.gov

EPA Region 7

IA, KS, MO, NE

Alma Moreno Lahm

Phone: (913) 551-7380

E-mail: moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov

EPA Region 8

CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY

Christina Wilson

Phone: (303) 312-6706

E-mail: wilson.christina@epa.gov

EPA Region 9

AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU

Nova Blazej

Phone: (415) 972-3846

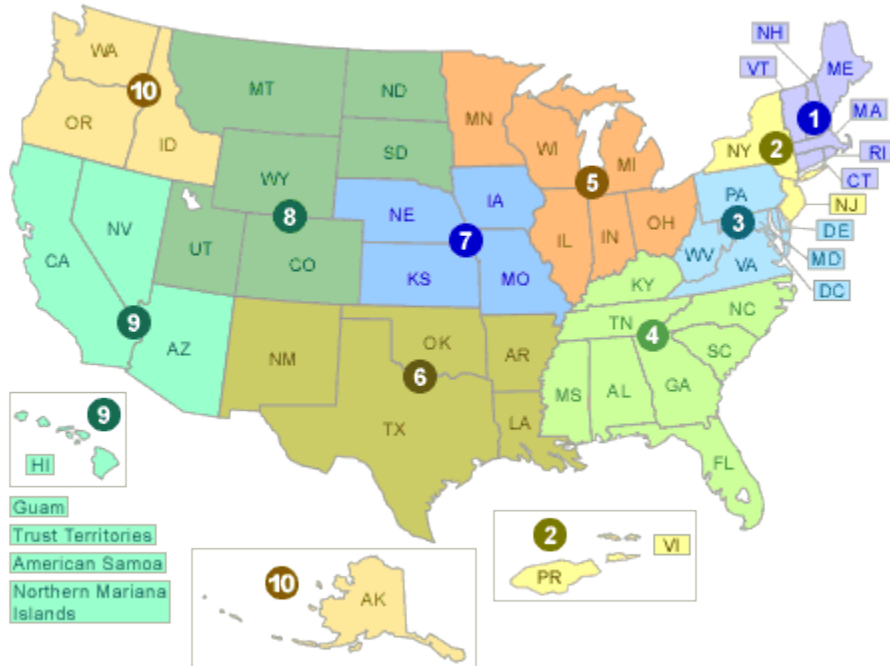
E-mail: blazej.nova@epa.gov

Noemi Emeric-Ford

Phone: (213) 244-1821

E-mail: emeric-ford.noemi@epa.gov

EPA Region 10
AK, ID, OR, WA
Angel Ip
Phone: (206) 553-1673
E-mail: ip.angel@epa.gov



11. Join us for the next Professional Learning Community ZOOM call April 6th
Join a conversation with EPA Brownfields Job Training grant recipients, alumni, and interested stakeholders. PLCs are scheduled every other week on Wednesdays. Same time
Same ZOOM link
Wednesday Apr 6 2:00 PM Eastern Time
Wednesday Apr 20 2:00 PM Eastern Time
Wednesday May 4 2:00 PM Eastern Time
Wednesday May 18 2:00 PM Eastern Time
Wednesday Jun 1 2:00 PM Eastern Time
Wednesday Jun 15 2:00 PM Eastern Time

To Join PLC Zoom Meetings, go to:
<https://zoom.us/j/93598658578>

Meeting ID: 935 9865 8578

On the road - Computer not available.....
You can phone in using the nearest location
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 935 9865 8578

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

Showcase your program – Biweekly, the PLC will hear from one of our grantees, discuss opportunities or exchange ideas related to environmental job training. HMTRI is inviting you to participate in the next cycle of Professional Learning Community Zooms. If you would like to present at an upcoming PLC contact Mike at:

msenew@gmail.com/

PLC notes presented represent individual opinions and ideas from Professional Learning Community participants and JT recipients. 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.



*The Brownfields Training PLC is sponsored under Cooperative Agreement with
The US Environmental Protection Agency
Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI)
Environmental and Natural Resources Technology (eARTH)*