

May 25, 2016



Notes from Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 14, Session 8

This was the eighth session of PLC Cycle 14 that will feature informal, 20-minute discussions with EPA EWDJT grantees, alumni, and interested stakeholders. The goals for this new cycle include:

- Highlighting EWDJT programs, and identifying successes and challenges
- Exploring proven strategies and activities used by established EWDJT programs
- Discovering resources and leveraging opportunities
- Helpful hints and open discussion

Topics: 1. News from Washington and HMTRI

2. Questions from PLC participants

3. City of Tacoma, WA

4. Making connections, networking, and items of interest

5. FY 2016 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grant awards

### **1. News from Washington and HMTRI**

Best wishes to all who applied for an FY 2016 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) award!

Important—If you did not receive funding for FY 2016, the next request for EWDJT applications is only six months away (November). It's not too early to begin preparations for the next round. Schedule a debriefing with your EPA Regional Coordinator. Build on weaknesses and strengthen partnerships. As a PLC member, register for the Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting in August and prepare for a successful application this winter.

Reminder: All PLC participants are invited to the Annual All-Grantee Meeting to be held August 17–18. Hotel and meeting fees are provided. Participants must cover travel and meal expenses. This is a networking and break out event attended by:

- Present EPA-funded EWDJT grantees
- Past EWDJT grantees
- PLC members
- EPA regional workforce development coordinators
- EPA headquarters staff

Contact Glo Hanne for registration and information at [ghanne@eicc.edu](mailto:ghanne@eicc.edu).

### **2. Questions from PLC participants**

*We are in the beginning stages of assembling our partnership team for the next EWDJT competition. Potential partners include a tribe, community college, training consultant, and possibly other local nonprofits. Which organization would be best to submit as the grantee organization?*

Per the RFP, eligible entities include tribes, nonprofits, governmental organizations, community colleges, and universities. Each eligible organization has advantages and potential issues to consider. Below are a few considerations associated with each organization.

Tribes—A Native American organization would be an excellent choice, as few are active EWDJT grantees. Some issues to consider when selecting a Tribe as principal grantee may be:

- Tribes may not have experience writing and submitting federal grant proposals.
- Often, Tribes do not have the administrative and accounting depth need to meet EPA audit standards.
- Tribes, like other rural communities, have difficulties with recruitment and placement activities and may have limited training experience. It helps if they link with strong partners who provide those services.

Colleges and universities—Educational institutions are excellent grantees as they usually have experience submitting grants, and often have development staff and accounting/audit experience.

Governmental organizations—The mayor’s office or a workforce board are also excellent grantees. Like colleges, they usually have experience submitting and executing federal grants, and have administrative staff and accounting/audit experience.

Community and established nonprofits—In searching for a nonprofit as principal grantee, it is important that they have experience in grant submission, accounting, and a good track record. Some of EPA’s strongest grantees are established nonprofits already providing training in other areas.

The key to choosing the best principal grantee partner is to find the organization with the depth, reputation, financial strength, and experience working with federal workforce grants. Ideally, the chosen organization will have the capability of continuing the EWDJT program (once established) without federal assistance.

### **3. City of Tacoma, WA—What’s next after the EPA awards?**

Thank you, Peter Guzman, for your presentation. And congratulations on your new EWDJT award!

The city of Tacoma first received EPA funding in 2000, and then reorganized again in 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, and 2013. Despite missing a year, they revised and resubmitted their program plan in the 2016 competition with a successful application.

Having lost leveraged support from key partners due to reorganizations, Tacoma came back strong with the identification and recruitment of new partners, and replacing and improving leveraged services lost. With the addition of new potential employers, city government supported the effort to bring together new meaningful working partners.

Their ability to adapt to change makes the Tacoma program one of EPA’s best. Most important, when searching for new working partners, Tacoma recruited organizations they knew would support each component of their workforce program. Components included recruitment, training, student support, and placement services. Each partner brings to the organization their specialized talent. In addition, each partner brings with them their leveraged network, contacts, and resources.

#### Program overview

The target population for the Tacoma program is unemployed and underemployed residents of Pierce County, Washington.

## Key partners

- Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Region (replaced lost services from the WIB)
- Clover Park Technical College (a long-time leveraging training partner)
- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (a new partner providing additional student services)
- Northwest Cascade Inc.
- Northwest Laborers/Employers Training Trust Fund (addition of organized labor networks)
- Tacoma Public Works and Environmental Services Department (city employer relationships expanded)
- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (additional resources with an unlikely partner)
- WorkForce Central, Metropolitan Development Council
- Tacoma REACH Center (continued workforce employment assistance)
- NOTE that every partner brings leveraged services, networks, and resources to the program.

## Curriculum

The core training program includes 200 hours of instruction.

- 40-hr HAZWOPER
- OSHA 10-hour Construction Safety
- First Aid/CPR
- Confined Space Entry
- Asbestos Training
- Lead Abatement Worker
- Respiratory Protection
- Chemical Safety Awareness
- Underground Storage Tank Leak Prevention
- Remediation Technology

Four supplemental training courses are also offered to graduates.

- OSHA Disaster Site Worker
- Certified Erosion and Sediment Control
- Lead and Asbestos Worker
- Lead RRP

## Certifications

- Nine state and federal certifications offered through the core training program
- Four additional certifications available through supplemental training

## Placement and tracking

- Tacoma plans to train 54 students and track graduates for one year. These commitments have been exceeded consistently (on occasion expanding from 2 to 3 cohorts).

- Tacoma strengthens placement efforts with a 15 percent local hire rule and participation in existing and emerging apprenticeship programs. The city provides additional employment opportunities coordinating with Tacoma Public Works and Environmental Services Department.

#### Student recruitment and screening

- The program is targeting veterans
- Unemployed and underemployed individuals
- Residents of Tacoma who have been disproportionately impacted by environmental threats, including leaking underground storage tanks
- TABE 10<sup>th</sup> grade reading and math

#### Student support

- Participants are reviewed for additional potential (workforce employment) benefits

Those interested in the city of Tacoma's EWDJT partnership may contact Peter Guzman.

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#### **4. Making connections, networking, and items of interest**

##### 2016 Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting

August 17–18, 2016

Travel days: August 16 and August 19

Holiday Inn & Suites

Alexandria, VA 22314

The *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting* is a networking and break-out event attended by:

- Current EPA-funded Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grantees
- Past EWDJT grantees
- PLC members
- EPA regional workforce development coordinators
- EPA headquarters staff

Reservation deadline is Tuesday, July 26, 2016. For additional information or questions contact Glo Hanne at [gghanne@eicc.edu](mailto:gghanne@eicc.edu).

### Second Southeast Brownfields Conference

Save the date: October 16–19, 2016

Omni Downtown Hotel, Jacksonville, FL

Event hosted and organized by the Florida Brownfields Association with regional partners.

### The Annual Great Environmental Safety Training (GreatEST) Institute

June 6–17, 2016, in Davenport, Iowa

The annual Great Environmental Safety Training (GreatEST) Institute is a 10-day train-the-trainer program that delivers the required certifications for public and private responders and workers including:

- 40-Hour Waste Site Worker Health and Safety
- 24-Hour Industrial Emergency Response
- DOT HazMat
- Hazard Awareness and Communication

Participants must apply and be approved to attend this training sponsored under an NIEHS grant to the Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (PETE). The deadline to submit your application is February 29, 2016. For more information, contact Patti Thompson at [pattijthompson@gmail.com](mailto:pattijthompson@gmail.com).

### Annual Georgia Environmental Conference

August 24–26, 2016

Jekyll Island, Georgia

In its 11th year, the Annual Georgia Environmental Conference is the state's largest, most comprehensive and diverse educational opportunity. The conference will be attended by over 700 local, state, and federal government officials, business and industry leaders, attorneys, consultants, engineers, developers, land owners, architects, agribusiness leaders, energy experts, water planning districts, universities, public health officials, solid waste, enviro-tech, recycling experts, and many, many others with a strong interest in environmental activities in Georgia and the Southeast region.

### **5. FY 2016 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grant awards**

The 2016 grantees were announced last week. The following programs were funded.

- Civic Works, Inc., Baltimore, MD
- City of Rochester, Rochester, NY
- Limitless Vistas, Inc., New Orleans, LA
- Energy Coordinating Agency, Philadelphia, PA
- Cypress Mandela Training Center, Inc., Oakland, CA
- Nye County, Tonopah, NV
- Redevelopment Authority of Cumberland County, Carlisle, PA
- Auberle, McKeesport, PA
- Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, Waterbury, CT
- City of Tacoma, Tacoma, WA
- City of Pittsburg, Pittsburg, CA
- Hunters Point Family, San Francisco, CA
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Los Angeles, CA
- City of Glens Falls, Glens Falls, NY

- City of Springfield, Springfield, MO
- Lawson State Community College, Birmingham, AL
- Alaska Forum, Inc., Anchorage, AK
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Kingston, WA

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: June 8, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. ET  
Please call in five minutes early.

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at [msenew@aol.com](mailto:msenew@aol.com).



Visit our *HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs. All PLC session notes and recordings are also located on the *Brownfields Toolbox* website at <http://brownfields-toolbox.org/plc-corner/>. For those interested in providing content or suggestions, please contact Glo Hanne at [ghanne@eicc.edu](mailto:ghanne@eicc.edu).

**NOTE:** The PLC brings together ideas and opinions of individuals interested in environmental workforce development and training. Ideas and opinions are not those of EPA, its policy or opinions and should not be taken as official guidance.