

August 10, 2016



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 15, Session 3

This was the third session of PLC Cycle 15 that features informal, 20-minute discussions with EPA EWDJT grantees, alumni, and interested stakeholders. The goals for this 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

Topics: 1. News from Washington and HMTRI
2. Questions
3. Milwaukee Area WIB—WIB’s role in leveraging environmental training
4. Upcoming webinars
5. Making connections, networking, and meetings

1. News from Washington and HMTRI

The FY2017 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) request for proposals is expected to be issued in November. Preparation needs to begin immediately as many items and relationships requested in the RFP require several months to develop. Confirm early that SAM registrations are up-to-date. On September 14, the PLC will resume, addressing EWDJT components with bi-weekly phone conversations and grantee mentoring.

The 2016 *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting* begins next week. If you are attending, here are some last minute suggestions.

- The entire meeting is informal. No need to dress—jeans and other casual clothing is strongly encouraged.
- We try to promote as much interchange between grantees and prospective grantees as possible. Bring your questions!
- Share your story—both problems and accomplishments.
- If you are presenting in a breakout session, remember to send a copy of your presentation for upload to the [Brownfields Toolbox](#) website. All of the meeting resources, including presentation PowerPoints, will be available on the website after the meeting.
- Check-in will be Wednesday morning. Participants will receive their meeting materials at this time.
- We will be sharing post-session notes from all small-group sessions along with all other meeting resources and materials on the [Brownfields Toolbox](#) website after the meeting takes place.

2. Questions

A question from a PLC member: “We are thinking of developing an environmental job training program but are not able to attend the meeting next week. Will meeting materials be available?”

Yes. If you are not able to attend, post-session notes, PowerPoint presentations, and other meeting resources will be available on the [Brownfields Toolbox](#) website after the meeting. An announcement will be posted to our listserv when the resources are uploaded and available. We will also discuss the meeting during our PLC session on September 14.

3. Milwaukee Area WIB—WIB's role in leveraging environmental training

Thank you, Brian Foley and Jose Galvan, for your presentation today.

The Department of Labor has addressed workforce development, job training, and employment opportunities for decades. In more recent times, the 1998 Workforce Investment Act established Workforce Investment Boards. We know them today as WIBs, One-Stops, and similar employment centers (with different names) in communities across the country. In 2015 and into 2016, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) replaced the 1998 Workforce Investment Act, retaining Job Corps and establishing updated Workforce Development Programs on a state-by-state basis.

Prior to the enactment of WIOA, individuals who needed job training often had difficulty navigating across agency lines to assemble an effective training and employment plan. WIOA is intended to improve coordination between and among agencies so that workers and job seekers have a more seamless access to a system of high-quality career services, education, and training through the one-stop service delivery system known as American Job Centers and associated partners. These new organizations are to become more innovative and entrepreneurial with better coordination between federal, state, and private sector employment efforts.

Milwaukee Area WIB, now called the Milwaukee Workforce Development Board, is one of the early adopters of transition into WIOA. The Milwaukee Workforce Development Board is a 501(c)(3) organization controlled by the city but funded by numerous organizations. While most of the funding comes from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and Health and Human Services, considerable funds come from Youthbuild, re-entry, and numerous other local and federal programs including EPA's EWDJT program. Resources are administered under a single large organization, leveraging resources among programs.

Program Overview

Target Community

The Milwaukee Workforce Development Board is targeting underemployed and unemployed residents of Milwaukee's city-designated Complete Milwaukee zone. This community is one of Milwaukee's hardest hit with high unemployment, poverty, and disinvestment. The program is open to any of the over 12,000 job seekers in the greater Milwaukee area.

Recruitment

The Milwaukee Workforce Development Board subdivides training into five sectors including construction, hospitality, healthcare, finance, and manufacturing. While participants in any of these sectors can receive environmental training, trainees in construction via Youth Build, Adult Build, or Community Build are most likely to expand their skill sets with environmental technology training under EWDJT.

Participants are screened and assessed as part of the program-wide recruitment process. Participants coming out of construction trades training have an additional level of screening and evaluation expressing their desire to work in environmental remediation.

The Milwaukee Workforce Development Board plans to train 40 students and place at least 35 graduates in environmental jobs

Core Curriculum

The core environmental training program includes 212 hours of instruction.

- 40-hour HAZWOPER
- Asbestos operations and maintenance
- Lead-safe renovator
- Mold remediation worker
- Lead worker
- Bloodborne pathogens
- First aid/CPR
- Commercial driver's license

Participants who complete the core training will earn seven state or federal certifications. All participants receive leveraged life skills training with stackable credentials.

Training and Placement

The Milwaukee Workforce Development Board does not train internally. Contracts regularly go out for bid. An example of a recent RFP for construction readiness and placement services can be found [on their website](#).

Key Partners

The Milwaukee Workforce Development Board has over 128 partner organizations in government, nonprofit organizations, and industry including contributing foundations. Key partners in the EWDJT effort include:

- Redevelopment Authority of the city of Milwaukee
- Milwaukee Housing Authority
- Milwaukee Christian Center
- Northcott Neighborhood House
- Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership/BIG STEP
- Environmental and community-based organizations

Advisory Boards

The Milwaukee Workforce Development Board's overriding policy is to respond to the needs of the employer community using the "Industry Demand Model." As such, the curriculum is highly dependent on the expressed needs of the advisory board which consists of local employers and trade and union organizations.

Leveraging and sustainability

As part of the Milwaukee Workforce Development Board, the EWDJT program has been integrated into a large area-wide workforce development and training program. Services and training not funded by their EWDJT grant are leveraged by the larger organization with funding coming from multiple sources. As with other WIOA boards, Milwaukee operates on a five-year planning horizon.

For additional information regarding the integration of EWDJT into Workforce Development boards, feel free to contact Brian or Jose.

Brian Foley and Jose Galvan
Milwaukee Workforce Development Board

2342 N 27th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53210
414.279.1782
brian.foley@milwaukeeewib.org
jose.galvan@milwaukeeewib.org

4. Upcoming webinars

How to Find and Apply for Grant Opportunities

Wednesday, August 17, 2016

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment periodically hosts webinars for the EPA grants community. This webinar will cover grants topics including how to find and apply for grant opportunities, EPA's new Grants.gov requirement, and preparing a proper budget detail. In addition, a Q&A session will be hosted during the second half of the webinar.

You do not need to register. If you wish to attend, just go to the following link a few minutes before the webinar starts: [Grant Award Process Webinar](#). There is no call in number—audio will be broadcast through your computer speakers or headphones.

For more information, see the [EPA website](#).

Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization: Meet the Funders

Webinar Series (#2)

October 25, 2016, 1:00–2:30 pm EDT

This webinar will highlight the resources for brownfields revitalization available from one or two federal agencies outside of EPA. It is the second in OBLR's webinar series on what communities need to know to successfully leverage resources for brownfields revitalization.

Register at <https://clu-in.org/training/webinar/BFLeveraging1/>.

Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization: Meet the Funders

Webinar Series (#3)

December 14, 2016, 1:00-2:30 pm EST

This second “Meet the Funders” webinar will highlight the resources for brownfields revitalization available from one or two more federal agencies outside of EPA. It is the part of OBLR's webinar series focusing on what communities need to do to successfully leverage resources for brownfields revitalization.

Register at <https://clu-in.org/training/webinar/BFLeveraging1/>.

5. Making connections, networking, and meetings

NJIT TAB provides free technical assistance to state, regional, county, tribal, and local government entities and nonprofit organizations interested in learning about, identifying, assessing, cleaning up, and redeveloping brownfield sites in EPA Regions 1 (New England), 3 (Mid-Atlantic), and 4 (Southeast). Types of assistance provided include:

- Guidance on funding opportunities
- Explaining laws and regulations
- Navigating regulatory programs
- Consultant procurement (review of draft RFPs, creation of evaluation criteria, consultant selection)
- Review and critique of grant applications
- Interpretation of technical and scientific reports and data (such as site characterization results)
- Development of strategic plans
- Development of community-specific site evaluation and prioritization processes
- Development of corridor assets and needs plans
- Development of site redevelopment vision plans
- Explaining clean-up technologies
- Design and conduct of community engagement activities
- Educational workshops such as Brownfields 101
- Seminars, webinars, and boot camps on specific topics related to brownfields
- Community planning and visioning workshops
- All EPA brownfields grantee meetings
- And much more

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.

2016 West Virginia Brownfields Conference

September 7–8, 2016

Register for the 2016 WV Brownfields Conference taking place on September 7–8 at the Marriott Town Center in Charleston, West Virginia. The event will include sessions covering all aspects of brownfields redevelopment, interactive workshops, specialty training on remediation, two networking receptions, and the inaugural Central Appalachian Regional Brownfields Summit on September 8.

Follow <http://wvbrownfields.org/2016-conference/> to learn more and to register.

Make a connection at the ICMA Job Center

The ICMA Job Center offers a direct market to ICMA's members, the largest audience of dedicated local government professionals across the United States and internationally, and thousands of nonmembers interested in careers in local government service. Attracting more than 12,000 unique visitors each month, it's the only job board devoted to management and management-track positions.

Second Annual Southeast Brownfields Conference

October 16–19, 2016

Jacksonville, FL

Hosted by the Florida Brownfields Association and its regional partners, the Second Annual Southeast Brownfields Conference will be taking place in Jacksonville, Florida on October 16–19. Over 200 brownfield practitioners were in attendance last year and gained valuable insight into redevelopment practices in the southeast region. Registration is now open. Topics selected for the conference proceedings will emphasize Brownfields-related topics and case studies including but not limited to:

- Brownfield Redevelopment Success Stories
- Public Outreach and Changing the Perception of Brownfields
- State, Tribal, and Local Programs and Partnerships (Community Engagement)
- Obtaining and Managing Brownfields Grants
- Brownfield Incentives
- Sustainable Brownfields Redevelopment
- Redevelopment Financing
- Environmental Justice and Public Health
- Local, State, and Federal Regulatory and Policy Changes and the Effects on Brownfields
- Due Diligence, Liability Protection, Long-term Stewardship, and Risk Management
- Innovative Assessment and Remediation Technologies
- Brownfield End-Use Planning

For more details, visit <http://www.floridabrownfields.org/>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

With the 2016 *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting* taking place next week and the Labor Day holiday shortly after, the PLC will be taking a short summer break.

Next PLC Session: September 14, 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.



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.

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.