

August 27, 2014

Notes from Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 11, Session 5

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Lena Miller—Hunter's Point Family, San Francisco, CA

Carolann Johns and Ron Lee—St. Nick's Alliance, Brooklyn, NY

Ann Terry—Memphis Bioworks Foundation, Memphis, TN

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Current Happenings / Updates from Washington as of August 27, 2014

The next round of EWDJT Requests for Proposals has not been announced. Usually that announcement is made toward the end of the year (December–January) with proposals due early spring to be awarded next summer and begin in the fall. It is not too early to get started.

A reminder to grantees with staff changes: Several of our EWDJT grantees have had staff reorganizations this summer. If your principal contact with EPA has changed, be sure to notify your EPA Regional Job Training Coordinator with new contact information. It is important for them to keep in touch and current.

A reminder to communities interested in developing an environmental workforce program: It is important to send an email or call your EPA Regional Job Training Coordinator with your contact information and interest in the next round of EWDJT grants. There is no obligation or commitment. Regional Job Training Coordinators can be a big help in pre-proposal planning and finding helpful contacts.

Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting set for October 22–23, 2014

Check your calendar for October 21, 22, 23, and 24. HMTRI, in cooperation with EPA, has set the 2014 *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting* for October 22–23. Participants must travel and check in on October 21, and are expected to stay the two full meeting days (October 22–23) leaving on October 24. There is no cost to attend and 3 nights lodging will be provided.

Active PLC members along with current and past EPA EWDJT grantees are invited to this full two-day workshop. If you have not received registration information, please send an email request to Glo Hanne at ghanne@eicc.edu.

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) worker training program

Several participants have inquired about the recently released NIEHS RFA for \$28 million in health and safety worker training. This week the PLC presented a brief summary of the program and how it relates to the EPA EWDJT program.

“The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), Section 126(g), authorizes an assistance program for training and education of workers engaged in activities related to hazardous waste generation, removal, containment or emergency response and hazardous materials transportation and emergency response.”

“The Congress assigned responsibility for administering this program to the NIEHS, an Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) within the Public Health Service (PHS) of the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).”

Recently NIEHS invited applications for cooperative agreements to support the development of model programs for the training and education of workers engaged in activities related to hazardous materials and waste generation, removal, containment, transportation and emergency response. Sound like the EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program? Not really...

While these two “sister” programs sound similar, they are quite different in their primary goals, structure, operation, and administration. They are concurrent and supportive of each other, but not competitive or redundant.

Program similarities

1. Environmental workers are trained to work safely.
2. Participants are provided state and national certifications in critical occupations.
3. Local residents are trained for environmental remediation jobs.
4. Both programs require environmental, health, and safety training with OSHA and EPA certifications.

Program differences

1. The EPA EWDJT program focuses on community EPA-related assessment and remediation activities.
2. The NIEHS program focuses on issues that may pose severe health and safety concerns to workers and the surrounding communities.
3. The EPA EWDJT program is restricted to underserved communities and unemployed community residents.
4. The NIEHS program (with the exception of the Environmental Career Worker Training Program [ECWTP] formerly the Minority Worker Training Program [MWTP]) is open to a wider target population including incumbent worker training.
5. The EPA EWDJT program restricts use of grant funds to EPA program and related health and safety training requiring grantees to leverage resources for life skills training.
6. The NIEHS program has less restrictive funding with more “flex-ability” in curriculum.
7. The EPA EWDJT program has a 3-year term with a maximum grant of \$200K and re-competition every year. The overall program budget totals around \$3 million per year.
8. The NIEHS program has a duration of 5 years with potentially much larger grants and re-competition every 5 years. The overall program budget totals \$28 million.

As one reviews these programs, the operational differences are pronounced. The EPA EWDJT cooperative agreements are small grants with a specific programmatic mission. That mission is to develop capacity in local communities to train local unemployed workers and obtain jobs associated with environmental remediation projects. It is mostly associated with a single nonprofit, tribe, or governmental organization having multiple leveraging partners. Participation is limited with a great deal

of attention given to student retention and placement. EPA EWDJT cooperative agreements work well for communities interested in establishing local environmental workforce development programs for underserved and unemployed residents. With 12-15 grants awarded each year, individual and small coalitions have an excellent opportunity to receive a capacity building grant.

The NIEHS \$28 million training program delivers massive (when compared to the EPA program) amounts of health and safety training to a wide range of workers both employed and unemployed. As one would expect from the National Institute of Environmental Health Science, the prime focus rests on protection and health of environmental workers and the communities they serve. NIEHS cooperative agreements are large and require coalitions of many experienced organizations rather than being capacity building for smaller local organizations who may wish to start a workforce program. NIEHS grants work well with “up and running” organizations with a capacity to train large numbers of participants.

The NIEHS program has three major subcomponents:

1. The Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program (HWWTP)
2. Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP) formerly the Minority Worker Training Program (MWTP)
3. The Hazmat Disaster Preparedness Training Program (HDPTP)

The EPA program has the primary objective of workforce development serving unemployed local residents, training and placing them in sustainable environmental occupations.

It should be noted that the EPA and the NIEHS programs complement each other well. They are not competitive or redundant. They coordinate their activities on the national level to ensure there is no duplication of effort. EPA EWDJT grantees have participated in NIEHS programs and some have migrated between the two over the years.

HMTRI strongly recommends both EWDJT grantees and organizations considering developing an environmental workforce development program to seek out NIEHS programs in their community. These programs may be associated with a nonprofit organization, organized labor organization, community college, or university.

See details about the NIEHS request for proposals at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-14-008.html#sthash.mmvzBbgR.6vuonEQe.dpuf>. Excerpts from that site are included in the appendix of these post session notes.

(NOTE: Sharon Beard, from the NIEHS, has been invited to attend the *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting* in October.)

Highlights of the first four grantee presentations

Art Shanks—Cypress Mandela Training Center, Inc., Oakland, CA

Lena Miller—Hunter’s Point Family, San Francisco, CA

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Thanks to all of our grantee mentors for sharing their knowledge and experience with the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC).

The first four grantee presentation of this cycle came from programs in more urbanized communities (Oakland, San Francisco, Brooklyn, and less so Memphis). The first three communities have strong representation by organized labor. Memphis, on the other hand, while having federal facilities, has largely non-union employers.

Cypress Mandela Training Center has a long established relationship with local labor, providing pre-apprentice programs and serving as a feeder to union jobs. Placements work well and are coordinated with local employers.

Hunter's Point and St. Nick's, on the other hand, are having difficulty establishing that type of relationship. When union members are "on the bench" or unemployed, it is difficult to encourage entry of new workers. This is more of an economic and transitional issue than a structural issue. When job openings increase outstripping the supply of certified workers, the dynamics will change.

In cases where organized labor represents local employers, it is important that EWDJT programs develop a long-term and cordial relationship with local business managers, even when current openings are not available. Union representation needs to be present on advisory boards with input and influence on curriculum.

In the interim, many smaller and mid-size remediation and construction firms require non-union trained and certified workers. The same advice goes for those potential employers.

To learn more about the first four grantee presentations, go to the *Brownfields Toolbox* website at www.brownfields-toolbox.org for post-session notes and recordings of the sessions.

All of these grantee mentors would be happy to discuss their programs, and will be attending the *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting* in October.

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Grant Opportunities

U45 Hazardous Waste Worker Health and Safety Training Cooperative Agreements
RFA-ES-14-008

NIH intends to fund an estimate of 15-20 cooperative agreement awards, corresponding to a total of \$28 million in FY 2015, in response to this FOA. Future year amounts will depend on annual appropriations.

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date)—October 6, 2014

Letter of Intent Due Date(s)—October 6, 2014

Application Due Date(s)—November 6, 2014, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization

Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.

Scientific Merit Review—February/March 2015

Advisory Council Review—May 2015

Earliest Start Date—August 2015

See a summary in the Appendix at the end of these post-session notes. For more information, visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-14-008.html> and <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-14-008.html#sthash.mmvzBbgR.6vuonEQe.dpuf>.

Networking News

First Annual Southeast Brownfields Conference

October 28-31, 2014 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, FL

Registration fees:

- Private Sector—\$500
- Public Sector—\$300
- Nonprofit Sector—\$200
- One-day Only—\$375

Location: Rosen Plaza Hotel
9700 International Drive
Orlando, FL
Rooms are \$125 (+ tax) per night
Call 1.800.627.8258 for reservations or follow this link to reserve online:
<https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=1257538&hotelID=2019>

If you need more information or assistance, please call Becky Buice at 850.402.2954 or email becky@nstephens.com. Hope to see many of you in Orlando in October!

Good Jobs, Green Jobs 2015

The Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference will begin on April 13, 2015, at the Washington Hilton Hotel. Registration will open soon, but for now, make sure you're free to join hundreds of labor, environmental, business, non-profit, and civic leaders for Good Jobs, Green Jobs 2015.

CCCHST GreatEST Institute

Many of you are familiar with the CCCHST GreatEST Institute, the annual two-week Train-the-Trainer sponsored by HMTRI's partner, the Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (PETE). Many of you have been selected to attend in past years.

The 2015 dates have just been confirmed. The Institute is for your trainers only. This is not a first come/first served program. Applications will be reviewed by a team who will select participants based on the trainer's experience, and the entity's affiliations, and projected number of students to be trained.

NOTE: The 2015 applications will be on the PETE website at <http://nationalpete.org/> on October 1. As a partner, HMTRI is able to distribute this announcement before a public announcement is made. Please contact Patti Thompson at pattijthompson@gmail.com for an early application. You may want to look at an old application on PETE's website which may be helpful to you in pulling together the information you will need for 2015.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: September 10, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. EDT

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at msenew@aol.com.

Visit our *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* Web site at <http://brownfields-toolbox.org/plc-corner/>.

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.

(Appendix follows)

APPENDIX
NIEHS RFA

“This FOA issued by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) invites applications for cooperative agreements to support the development of model programs for the training and education of workers engaged in activities related to hazardous materials and waste generation, removal, containment, transportation and emergency response. The major objective of this FOA is to prevent work-related harm by assisting in the training of workers in how best to protect themselves and their communities from exposure to hazardous materials encountered during hazardous waste operations, hazardous materials transportation, environmental restoration of contaminated facilities or chemical emergency response. A variety of sites, such as those involved with chemical waste cleanup and remedial action and transportation-related chemical emergency response, may pose severe health and safety concerns to workers and the surrounding communities. These sites contain a multiplicity of hazardous substances, sometimes unknown substances, and often the site is uncontrolled. A major goal of the Worker Training Program (WTP) is to provide assistance to organizations in developing their institutional competency to provide appropriate model training and education programs.

The major objective of this FOA is to prevent work-related harm by assisting in the training of workers in how best to protect themselves and their communities from exposure to hazardous materials encountered during hazardous waste operations, hazardous materials transportation, environmental restoration of contaminated facilities or chemical emergency response. A variety of sites, such as those involved with chemical waste cleanup and remedial action and transportation-related chemical emergency response, may pose severe health and safety concerns to workers and the surrounding communities. These sites are often characterized by the multiplicity of substances present, the presence of unknown substances, and the general uncontrolled condition of the site. A major goal of this program is to provide assistance to organizations in developing their institutional competency to provide appropriate model training and education programs to hazardous materials and waste workers.”

Background—Three subprograms

“Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program (HWWTP)

Hazardous material and waste workers include workers engaged in: active and inactive waste treatment, storage and disposal, hazardous waste generation, clean up and remedial action, emergency response, and workers engaged in hazardous materials transportation including safe loading, unloading, handling, and storage. Target populations for this training include those covered by requirements of Federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29, Part 1910) and Environmental Protection Agency (CFR, Title 40, Part 311) standards for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, regulations governing the NIEHS Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program (CFR, Title 42, Part 65), as well as hazardous materials transportation workers regulated by the US Department of Transportation (49 CFR 171-177).

Since 1987 of the Superfund WTP (FY 1987-2013), the HWWTP has supported 20 primary awardees. These represent over 100 different institutions that have trained more than 2.7 million workers across the country. Each year approximately 130,000 to 175,000 workers receive critical safety and health training under these programs, which have accounted for more than 30 million contact hours of actual training. For 2013, approximately 8,607 courses were offered for 142,141 workers with 1,407,102 contact hours. More information about the awardees and descriptions of all NIEHS WTP programs can be found at: <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/>.”

Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP) formerly the Minority Worker Training Program (MWTP)

“It has been suggested that disadvantaged communities face greater likelihood of exposure to ambient hazards, and that differential “vulnerability” may modify the effects of toxicants on biological systems. The ECWTP seeks to address the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged communities by increasing the depth of the training to promote a sustainable environmental career path for workers in the hazardous materials handling, waste, construction, and other emerging industries. The MWTP was established in 1995 to provide a series of national pilot programs to test a range of strategies for the recruitment and training of young persons from vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. These are individuals who live near hazardous waste sites or in a community at risk of exposure from contaminated properties who wish to work in the environmental field. The program represents a broad geographic distribution and reaches numerous populations in high-risk contaminated areas across the US. Over the years the program has evolved to focus on delivering comprehensive training to increase the number of disadvantaged and underrepresented minority workers in many areas such as environmental restoration, construction, hazardous materials/waste handling as well as emergency response.”

Hazmat Disaster Preparedness Training Program (HDPTP)

“NIEHS has developed a HDPTP initiative in response to the experiences and lessons learned in recent national disasters including terrorist attacks. This program enhances the safety and health training of current hazardous materials workers and chemical responders to create materials and deliver training to workers responding to a disaster. This program, through its Emergency Support Activation Plan, aims to augment prevention preparedness efforts in a wide variety of high-risk settings, and to ensure responders are aware of site specific hazards and mitigation techniques prior to and during response activities. This initiative is intended to foster the development of disaster specific training programs as an extension to the HWWTP for the purpose of preparing a cadre of experienced workers for prevention and response to future terrorist incidents in a wide variety of facilities and high-risk operations. The purpose of the NIEHS HDPTP is to complement the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) various preparedness training programs by enhancing the safety and health training capacity of hazmat workers and emergency responders to prevent, deter, or respond to terrorist incidents involving weapons of mass destruction as well as natural disasters. Since the program started in 2005, awardees have responded and trained workers after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Sandy, the 2007 California wildfires, and Deepwater Horizon Gulf Oil Spill with approximately 5,473 courses offered, for 79,288 workers, representing 801,977 contact hours of training. For 2013, approximately 825 courses were offered for 12,465 workers representing 112,668 contact hours of training.”

NIEHS Contact (Invited to HMTRI’s Annual All-Grantee Meeting)

Sharon D. Beard, MS

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

919.541.1863 or beard1@niehs.nih.gov

[Grants.gov Customer Support](#) (Questions regarding Grants.gov registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages)

Contact Center Telephone: 800.518.4726

Web ticketing system: <https://grants-portal.psc.gov/ContactUs.aspx>

Email: support@grants.gov

GrantsInfo (Questions regarding application instructions and process, finding NIH grant resources)

Telephone: 301-435-0714

Email: GrantsInfo@nih.gov