

December 5, 2012

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) – cycle 7, Session 8, (session 77)

Topics: Updates from Washington
 Workforce program development – planning activities that must start early
 Grant Opportunities
 Upcoming events and reminders

Updates from Washington

EPA has indicated that the next Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released late December or early January. It's time to begin preparations for responding to the RFP.

A new PLC Cycle will begin on January 9, 2013. Every two weeks, we will discuss critical issues that address the development and implementation of sustainable environmental workforce development programs.

We will keep PLC members informed with updates from Washington.

Workforce program development – planning activities that must start early

Three program development activities that can only be accomplished over time, and should be considered by organizations interested in starting an environmental workforce development program. These activities include:

1. Community assessment and characterization
2. Program awareness and outreach to potential stakeholders
3. Partner selection and recruitment

We will discuss each of these activities in detail in future PLC sessions. They form a foundation for sustainable workforce development programs. Without sufficient attention to these activities, subsequent activities will remain challenged.

Activities that must start early

It is important that those interested in federal assistance contact their EPA Workforce Development Regional Coordinator. Each of the ten EPA Regions has staff specifically assigned to work with community environmental workforce development programs. EPA Regional Coordinators can and are interested in working with you and your specific community issues. NOTE: EPA Regional Coordinators can only work with you until the RFP is issued and after awards are made. During the period from RFP issuance until awards, EPA staff are not allowed to work with individual communities. Guidance may only be provided as RFP clarification.

For this reason, it is important that you make contact with your Regional Job Training Coordinator before the RFP is issued. Even if organizations are uncertain that they will pursue a job training program, Regional Coordinators can provide helpful information and provide direction to those who may enhance program development. Regional Coordinators like to know who is active in their region. They can be a “best friend” and a link to EPA during program planning as well as program implementation.

A list of EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators and contact information appear below. For questions regarding environmental workforce development programs, contact your EPA Regional Job Training Coordinator.

EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators:

- Region 1 – Kathleen Castagna, 617. 918.1429, castagna.kathleen@epa.gov
- Region 2 – Schenine Mitchell, 212. 637.3282, mitchell.schenine@epa.gov
- Region 3 – Jeff Barnett, 215.814.3246, barnett.jeff@epa.gov
- Region 4 – Kathleen Curry, 404.562.8660, curry.kathleen@epa.gov
- Region 5 – Linda Morgan, 312.886.4747, morgan.linda@epa.gov
- Region 6 – Amber Perry, 214.665.3172, perry.amber@epa.gov
- Region 7 – Ina Square, 913.551.7357, square.ina@epa.gov
- Region 8 – Christina Wilson, 303.312.6706, wilson.christina@epa.gov
- Region 9 – Wallace Woo, 415.972.3270, woo.wallace@epa.gov
- Region 10 – Susan Morales, 206.553.7299, morales.susan@epa.gov

Many thanks to Lena Miller from Hunters Point Family (HPF) for her description of conditions and events that resulted in developing an environmental workforce development and training grant proposal in their community. Hunters Point provides a case study for selecting sites best suited for environmental Justice and Environmental Workforce Development and Training Programs. Bayview Hunters Point is an amplified version of community degradation, disenfranchisement, and redevelopment that occurs across the U.S. As Lena and her staff created their workforce development plan, they did an excellent job in reaching out to the community, assessing existing programs, and recruiting and selecting working partners. Each of the three major activities that form the foundation of sustainable workforce development programs was addressed.

Key partners include the San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development, San Francisco City College-Southeast Campus, Young Community Developers, Northern California District Council of Laborers, and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Careful consideration was taken into account when identifying and selecting working community partners. Their proposal was funded during the last cycle, and they are beginning implementation of their new program.

If you have additional questions or would like to talk with Lena , she may be reached at 415.410.8416 or email lena@hunterspointfamily.org. You may also wish to check out their Web site at <http://www.hunterspointfamily.org/home.html>.

Grant Opportunities

Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grants were due November 30. Check to see if your community submitted a proposal. RFP guidelines are posted at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>.

Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants were due November 19. RFP guidelines are posted at <http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/applicat.htm>. Call the Mayor's office or office of economic development to see if a proposal has been submitted. Partner and coordinate early. This effort is an excellent start in developing a stakeholder network. Let them know you are thinking about an environmental workforce job development and training program, and ask them to be a partner.

2013 Environmental Justice Small Grants. EPA announced that it is seeking applicants for a total of \$1.5 million in environmental justice small grants to be awarded in 2013. EPA's environmental justice efforts aim to ensure equal environmental and health protections for all Americans, regardless of race or socioeconomic status. The grants enable non-profit organizations to conduct research, provide education, and develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in communities overburdened by harmful pollution. Grants are available for up to \$30,000 each. The 2013 grant solicitation is now open and will close on Jan. 7, 2013. Applicants must be incorporated non-profits or tribal organizations working to educate, empower, and enable their communities to understand and address local environmental and public health issues. EPA will host four pre-application teleconference calls on Dec. 1, 2012; and Dec. 13, 2012 to help applicants understand the requirements.

For more information on the 2013 Environment Justice Small Grants Request for Proposals and schedule of pre-application teleconference calls, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources/publications/grants/ej-smgrants-rfp-2013.pdf>.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Urban Waters Grants. The multi-agency Urban Waters Restoration Program provides financial assistance to local partnerships for restoration with a focus on urban waters and watersheds. Approximately \$1,500,000 is available. Competitive projects will focus on education and training, outdoor recreation, monitoring, storm water management or urban forest restoration. Applications are due by February 7, 2013. Note: this program has one application through the NFWF Easygrants system for all program elements and all sources of funding. Applications can be accessed at www.nfwf.org/easygrants.

Strong Cities, Strong Communities Funding. The Strong Cities, Strong Communities initiative, first announced in July 2011, seeks to strengthen neighborhoods, towns, cities, and regions by enhancing the capacity of local governments to develop and execute their economic strategies, providing technical assistance and federal agency expertise, and creating new partnerships. Applicants must apply by January 28, 2013. Visit the following link for US Economic Development Administration funding opportunities: <http://www.eda.gov/ffo.htm>.

Upcoming events and reminders

2013 Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference

April 16-18, 2013

Washington Hilton, Washington, DC

The 2013 conference will focus on 1) how to grow the clean economy to scale; 2) the role of strategic partnerships between the public and private sectors in solving the country's pressing economic and environmental challenges; 3) the role of regulations in creating new markets; and 4) how people in every part of the U.S. are working collaboratively for social, economic and environmental justice, while building an economy with good jobs. Please visit www.greenjobsconference.org/2013.

National Brownfields 2013 Conference, Atlanta, GA, May 15-17, 2013. This is the most important environmental workforce related conference of the year attended by over 4,000 participants in Brownfields-related fields. Registration and housing is now open. It's important to get your hotel reservation early as the closest hotels will fill up fast. For more information, please visit <http://www.brownfieldsconference.org>.

OSHA Health and Safety Train-the-Trainer, Davenport, IA, June 3-14, 2013. Each year the Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST) provides a no-cost intensive "boot camp"

for instructors. Scholarships covering travel, tuition, lodging, and meals are available. Space is limited. For additional information and the application forms, go to <http://nationalpete.org/downloads-resources/>.

Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB). TAB provides a summary of remediation technologies. This is a useful document in understanding cleanup. TAB has completed 22 two-page citizen's guides related to innovative and established cleanup approaches. These guides provide solid background material summarizing current clean up technology. The 22 guides are posted at the following Web sites:
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/remedytech>
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/publications.htm>
<http://www.clu-in.org/products/citguide/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: December 19, 2012
 2:00pm EDT

Topics: Establishment, implementation, and sustainability of programs

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.