

**Development of a Sustainable Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program
Preparing a Response to the FY 2012 EPA Request for Proposals**

Tuesday, March 13, 2012: 2:00pm Eastern

Special PLC conference hosted by HMTRI and sponsored under Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ANNOUNCEMENT

EPA – Understanding the FY2012 Proposal Guidelines Clu-In Session

March 16, 2012: 2:00pm – 4:00pm Eastern (duplicate session from March 8)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – DUE DATES AND MILESTONES

To download the full RFP, go to <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-12-03.pdf>.

Sample program planning schedule:

- RFP issued
- Proposals due April 12, 2012
- Preparation of proposals and review on various levels
- Initial screening of proposals for qualifying criteria – rejected proposals notified in 2-3 weeks
- Intensive review of proposals for ranking criteria
- Award notification before end of fiscal year (September 2012)
- Annual All-Grantee Meeting in Alexandria, VA: October 1-2, 2012
- First training cycles begin late 2012 – early 2013
- Optimal placement opportunities in first quarter 2013

Activities that should already be completed:

- Contact EPA with eligibility questions.
- Gather and refine components of your needs assessment.
- Contact partners for assistance in preparing and/or reviewing your application.
- Develop relationships with employers and community organizations.
- Begin cultivating letters of support and potential MOUs.
- Participate in and document public meetings.
- Begin drafting your application.
- Contact your regional EPA Job Development Coordinator regarding your intent to submit a grant proposal (see RFP for regional contacts).

Activities to complete NOW:

IMPORTANT: Working with the community and employers directly or indirectly account for over 50% of the evaluation criteria.

1. Establish relationships with potential employers – This will take time, but it is perhaps the most important component of a sustainable job development and training program. Start now! As you identify potential employers, try face-to-face meetings, bringing them into the training process. Document your meetings and begin a contacts file. This process also becomes part of

the needs assessment. If possible, ask potential employers to consider program graduates. If documentation can be obtained, include it in the proposal.

2. Develop relationships with key community groups – Organized labor, church groups, community development organizations and other non-governmental organizations need to be part of a good grant proposal. If names or organization contacts are included, make sure references and partners are well informed. Assume they will be called by grant reviewers.
3. Inform and communicate with governmental organizations – If you can announce your intentions at a city council meeting, make sure it is documented. Public meeting announcements look great in grant proposals. Ask a city council member to announce your intentions to submit a grant proposal to establish a workforce development program.
4. Contact all Brownfields projects in your area – If public meetings or hearings are scheduled, get on the agenda to announce your intentions and promote your proposed program. Document your progress for the proposal submission. A secondary result of this outreach effort may well be additional funding from other sources.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. EPA

Training and Technical Assistance to Improve Water Quality – Safe Drinking Water

EPA-OW-OGWDW-12-01. Due date: April 9, 2012

\$500,000 +. Total amount of the program: \$14.5 million.

This is an excellent opportunity to leverage an environmental training program. Open to nonprofit organizations. For details, go to www.grants.gov.

U.S. Department of Labor

Re-Entry Programs

Nonprofit organizations that provide services to the re-entry population are encouraged to apply for grants administered by the U.S. Department of Labor. This round of funding expects to award up to 17 grants of up to \$1.2 million each. Grantees must provide comprehensive and coordinated services that include job placement opportunities, vocational training, and mentoring particularly for people returning to high-poverty, high-crime communities. The deadline to apply is March 12, 2012.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming environmental workforce related conferences:

Environmental Justice Conference, Arlington, VA – April 3-5, 2012

The 6th Annual Environmental Justice Conference is being held at the Doubletree-Hilton Hotel in Crystal City (300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22302) on April 3-5, 2012. Read more in the Environmental Justice Conference newsletter at

<http://www.ejconference.net/2012conferenceinfo/ejnewslettervol2.html>.

Register today at registration@ejconference.net.

National Brownfields Conference, Atlanta, GA – May 15–17, 2013

The 15th National Brownfields Conference is headed to Atlanta, Georgia on May 15–17, 2013. The conference, cosponsored by U.S. EPA, is the largest and most comprehensive event in the nation that focuses on issues important to community revitalization and the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of contaminated properties. Stay tuned to www.brownfieldsconference.org for more information on the 2013 conference.

Oklahoma Brownfields Conference 2012, Oklahoma City, OK – May 22-23, 2012

Rethink ... Reinvest ... Reinvent. Convening at one of Oklahoma City's Brownfields success stories, the historic Skirvin Hilton Hotel, hear from industry leaders about the economic, social, and environmental impact of Brownfields redevelopment. Who should attend? Realtors & real estate appraisers, developers & investors, commercial and industrial property owners & bankers, attorneys & environmental consultants, environmental professionals, nonprofit organizations, architects, engineers, surveyors, planners, and governmental officials involved in redevelopment projects. Registration fee includes programming, breakfast, and lunch for both days, and a networking reception at the Petroleum Club.

Private Sector Registration (includes private entities)

\$200 Early Bird Registration through March 16th

\$250 Registration through May 21st

\$300 Onsite Registration

Public Sector Registration (includes government entities, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and educational institutions)

\$100 Early Bird Registration through March 16th

\$125 Registration through May 21st

\$150 Onsite Registration

The program is posted online at www.oklahomabrownfields.com. The registration site is <https://register.wciconferences.org/ehome/index.php?eventid=34671&>.

Ohio Brownfields Conference 2012, Columbus, OH – May 23-24, 2012

For more information, visit http://www.epa.state.oh.us/derr/Brownfield_Conference2012.aspx. This conference offers a central location at the Columbus Convention Center, low cost, relevant and timely sessions topics, networking opportunities, outstanding exhibits, fascinating keynote speakers, excellent presenters, conference CD with all presentational content, breakfast, lunch, and refreshments.

Good Jobs, Green Jobs Regional Conferences

More information is located at <http://www.greenjobsconference.org/>.

Eastern Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference, April 3-4, 2012 – Philadelphia, PA

Midwestern Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference, May 10-11, 2012, Detroit, MI

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: March 21, 2012
2:00pm EDT

Topic: Constructing components of a sustainable environmental workforce development and training program
Needs assessment, working with employers, and community relationships

Now that the EPA has issued the RFP, the bi-weekly PLC sessions will be discussing strategies to enhance and improve the sustainability of environmental job development and training programs. Those developing new programs may wish to incorporate PLC ideas into their plans. 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.