

April 18, 2012

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) – Cycle 6, Session 3 (session 62)

Topics: Post proposal activities  
Federal funding  
State resources  
Non-government resources  
Grant opportunities  
Upcoming events

### **Post proposal activities**

If a proposal has been submitted to EPA for review, don't forget these follow-up activities:

1. Thank those who provided information and assistance during proposal development for their contributions.
2. Remind partners and references that they may be contacted by proposal reviewers regarding their involvement in the program.
3. Continue a dialog with leveraged partners to provide them with estimated review and notification dates.
4. Begin contingency planning in the event EPA funding is not forthcoming.

It's easy to fall into the mindset that it is absolutely necessary to have EPA funding to start an environmental workforce training program. Environmental workforce development and training programs can be started with alternative funding other than EPA, and from leveraged sources. As a program develops, it can then be expanded with EPA assistance.

### **Federal Funding**

Department of Labor Programs

When it comes to job training, the Department of Labor is the "elephant in the room." Hundreds of millions of grant dollars are awarded each year to job training programs. Much of this money flows as a result of the Workforce Investment Act. The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) supersedes the old Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). WIA also contains the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act and the Rehabilitation Act. WIA is intended to help Americans access tools needed to manage careers and to help U.S. companies find skilled workers.

WIA is administered by states through Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs). Often the responsibility for implementation of WIA is designated to State Departments of Labor. As such, federal resources and leveraged funds for an environmental workforce development and job training programs may be available from either the WIB or State Department of Labor. In brief, those interested in access to federal assistance should develop close relationships with the WIB or State Department of Labor administering WIA resources.

In addition to WIA and WIB assistance, Congress has authorized and funded numerous offices within the Department of Labor. Perhaps the largest of these, providing grant assistance to job training programs, is the Employment and Training Administration (ETA). The mission of the ETA, as part of the U.S. Department of Labor, is to contribute to the U.S. labor market by providing job training, employment,

and labor market information in addition to income maintenance services. This assistance is primarily provided through state and local workforce development systems. ETA also supports direct grant assistance to nonprofit organizations. Programs that are administered by the ETA include:

- Career Advancement Accounts
- Community-Based Job Training Grants
- Disaster Unemployment Assistance
- Federal Bonding Program
- Foreign Labor Certification
- High Growth Job Training Grants
- Indian and Native American Job Training Program
- Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Job Training Program
- National Emergency Grants
- One-Stop Career Centers,
- O\*Net OnLine: Interests [1] (Holland Codes)
- Registered Apprenticeship
- Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)
- Trade Adjustment Assistance
- Unemployment Insurance
- Wagner-Peyser Act Programs
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit
- Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED)
- Workforce Investment Act Adult Job Training Programs
- Workforce Investment Act Dislocated Worker Programs
- Workforce Investment Act Youth Job Training Programs

Other DOL offices include the Veterans Employment and Training Service, Office of Disability Employment Policy, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and Women's Bureau in addition to the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

Some of the programs just mentioned partner with the ETA to fund nonprofit training organizations. ETA is a prime supporter of YouthBuild programs that train disadvantaged youth. As indicated below, there is currently a \$75 million grant solicitation for Youthbuild programs with a May 8th closing date. For this and other federal assistance programs, it is important to keep current with postings on the Grants.gov Web site.

In addition Department of Labor job development programs, numerous other agencies and offices within agencies provide funding for specific job training programs. Grant assistance is aligned with goals and missions associated with each office. While such grants would not replace an EPA workforce development and training grant, they could complement and supplement a comprehensive environmental job training program. As with DOL postings, RFPs from other federal agencies can be found at Grants.gov with a search for "environmental training opportunities."

### **State Resources & Local**

As mentioned above, many state and local job training resources flow from Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding. In addition, block grants from other federal agencies may support job development and may also be administered by state and local agencies. Federal funds administered by state and local

agencies can be located by contacting each of the state agencies receiving assistance. Examples might include STEM funding, WEED and SEED, or community development block grants (CDBG). These block grants, while not directly for funding environmental job training, often have a component that can be applied to environmental workforce development.

In addition to federal funds, state and local governments have additional sources of revenue from taxes, levies, and fines. Access to discretionary funds requires contact with each agency and offices within those agencies with granting authority. While such a search can be arduous, the result could be a sustainable funding source for establishment and operation of a comprehensive environmental job development program. The “best of all development efforts” is to be included in a state annual or biannual budget. Every year, hundreds of nonprofit organizations are included in state budgets for funding or continued funding. Inclusion in the state budget process can be long and require political intervention, but provides a base upon which a sustained program can be established.

While state and local governments are organized differently across the country, offices to search for support include:

- State and local departments of environmental quality
- State and local departments of business and commerce
- State and local departments of energy
- State and local attorney generals offices (fines and penalties)
- State and local departments of justice (WEED and FEED)
- Offices of labor, employment, and training
- Health and human services departments
- Sanitary districts
- Fire and emergency response organizations
- State departments of education (STEM, CTE)

Additional state and local governmental resources include universities, trade schools, community colleges, and may even include high school continuing education programs. Rather than direct funding, educational organizations are in a position to provide significant “in kind” resources for leveraging programs. Educational related resources may include:

- Instructors
- Facilities
- Curriculum
- Life skills training
- Equipment
- Marketing assistance
- Employment and placement assistance
- Student recruitment assistance
- Labor market assessment assistance
- Curriculum design and development

### **Non-Government Resources**

Non-governmental resources (NGO) may include private trade schools, consultants, and labor organizations involved in environmental, health and safety training. Private organizations also assist and leverage resources in the same manner as public training organizations.

Partnering with other NGOs can be key to starting and sustaining a successful program. Many NGOs have experience with federal grants and contracts. Mature organizations have the facilities, financial systems, and controls necessary to operate an efficient program. During tight economic times, merging, partnering and sharing resources among NGOs can be an effective approach to sustainability.

Resources donated by for-profit organizations should not be ignored. Clearly advisory board members, instructors, facilities, equipment, and employment opportunities come from the private sector. It is important to emphasize that Environmental Workforce and Job Development Programs provide corporations with a trained, screened, and certified workforce. It is clearly of value for business to support and contribute to the operation of these programs. Non-governmental organizations and private sector corporations that complement environmental workforce development and training may include:

- YouthBuild programs
- Faith-based community training programs
- YMCA programs
- Goodwill training programs
- Local union organizations
- Prisons and re-entry programs
- Churches, meeting halls, and conference centers
- Environmental consultants and service companies
- Remediation companies
- Manufacturing and transportation companies

### **Current Grant Opportunities**

Search for environmental training at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for the following federal assistance opportunities:

- Employment and Training Administration with office of Disability Employment
  - June 20 due date
  - \$20 million in grant assistance
  - Training unemployed and underemployed individuals with disabilities
- Employment and Training Administration
  - May21 due date
  - \$330k for 3 years assistance
  - Training women in apprenticeship and nontraditional occupations
- Employment and Training Administration
  - May8 due date
  - \$75 million for Youthbuild
  - Providing occupational skills to disadvantaged youth

## Announcements

Upcoming environmental workforce related conferences

### **National Brownfields Conference is headed to Atlanta, Georgia on May 15–17, 2013**

The 15th National Brownfields Conference is headed to Atlanta, Georgia on May 15–17, 2013. The Conference, co-sponsored 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](http://www.brownfieldsconference.org) for more information on the 2013 conference.

### **Oklahoma Brownfields Conference 2012**

Oklahoma Brownfields Conference, May 22-23, 2012, Skirvin Hilton, Oklahoma City

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/industrial property owners & bankers
- Attorneys & environmental consultants
- Environmental professionals
- Nonprofit organizations
- Architects, engineers, surveyors, & planners
- Governmental officials involved in redevelopment projects

The registration fee includes programming, breakfast, and lunch for both days, and a networking reception at the Petroleum Club.

Private Sector Registration:

Includes private entities

\$250 Registration through May 21st

\$300 Onsite Registration

Public Sector Registration:

Includes government entities, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and education institutions

\$125 Registration through May 21st

\$150 Onsite Registration

The program is posted online at:

[www.oklahomabrownfields.com](http://www.oklahomabrownfields.com)

Registration site: <https://register.wciconferences.org/ehome/index.php?eventid=34671&>

## **Ohio Brownfields Conference 2012**

May 23 - 24, 2012, Columbus Convention Center, 400 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215.

[http://www.epa.state.oh.us/derr/Brownfield\\_Conference2012.aspx](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/derr/Brownfield_Conference2012.aspx)

### Why Attend?

- Central location
- 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 are included

## **Good Jobs, Green Jobs Regional Conferences**

<http://www.greenjobsconference.org/>

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

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session:        May 2, 2012  
                                     2:00pm EDT

Topic:                        Establishment, implementation and sustainability of environmental job  
                                     development and training programs

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

Visit our *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs.