

May 16, 2012

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) – Cycle 6, Session 4 (session 64)

Topics: Proposal review updates
 Curriculum resources
 Grant opportunities
 Upcoming events

Proposal Review Updates

Hopefully you still have not heard from EPA, as those not meeting qualification requirements are being notified that their grants will not be funded. If you are in that group, keep in mind that the next competition is not far off.

1. Contact the regional Brownfields coordinator and ask for a briefing regarding your proposal. Their suggestions will be valuable as you work to improve your next submission.
2. Do not be discouraged as many grantees require multiple submissions before grants are approved for funding.
3. Consider partnering with other organizations in your community. Look specifically for organizations with training, job development, and federal grant experience.

For those who have not been updated or notified, ranking criteria evaluation should take another 2+ months (July). Make sure you keep in contact with your partners as they may be contacted during the review process. If your proposal is not funded after review of ranking criteria, it is a good indication that you need to re-examine your response to ranking criteria questions. Again, a briefing with the regional EPA representative is a good place to start.

Curriculum Resources

Curriculum Guidance

Is there a standard curriculum for the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program? NO.

Is there a standard course of study for the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program? NO.

Is there a set of basic core competencies for participants of the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program? NO.

Are textbooks available for the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program? NO.

Is there a standard set of certifications to be given in the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program? NO.

Are training and resource materials available to the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program? YES, many...

There is an intentional reason for the lack of curriculum guidance. The Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program provides community residents skill sets for local jobs. Local jobs have associated with them skill sets particular to the demographics, industry, history, and economics of the area. Jobs and skill sets may be similar to those in other communities, but often they are quite different. The idea is to use abundant available training resources to customize for local job needs. For example, lead and asbestos may be important in older communities, but not in newly developed regions of the country. Wastewater treatment and stormwater management may be a major source of jobs in communities with older workers retiring (water/wastewater experienced a major expansion in training and staffing in the early 70s. Many trained workers are now leaving the workforce.)

Workers in E-waste, underground storage tanks, and chemical safety all have specific skill sets associated with their particular job. At first glance, the demand for such skills may appear large, but job openings can be few or non-existent depending on the local economy and the community's industrial history.

Unfortunately, each Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program is not able to provide comprehensive training in all program areas. Each community needs to target skills most in demand matching local skill demand with available training contact hours.

Customized training, providing skills which give graduates the best chance of employment, should be the primary driver of curriculum development. Skill development and awareness in other areas can then be incorporated into existing courses or as specific offerings.

Mandatory Training

EPA has provided some training guidance in that all EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program curricula must include OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training. Curriculum must also be incorporated into the program on the following topics:

- Solid waste management/cleanup and awareness
- Underground storage tank leak prevention awareness
- Innovative and alternative treatment technologies as described in the guidelines
- Wastewater treatment and stormwater management
- Chemical safety and health
- Environmental spills and emergency response

The above curriculum is consistent with the goals of OSWER partners. Those partners include the following EPA offices:

- Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR)
- Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)
- Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST)
- Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office (FFRRO)
- Center for Program Analysis (CPA)
- Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP)
- Office of Wastewater Management (OWM)

- Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

The EWDJT also supports OSWER's Community Engagement Initiative

Why are we mentioning **OSWER's** partners as we discuss curriculum? These EPA program offices are the best places to find current resource and training materials. To keep current, it is important to scan announcements and resource materials provided by each individual office. Many have extensive resource materials and links to additional resources.

HAZWOPER Training

The National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training is the national resource for hazardous waste worker curricula and technical reports; and weekly news on hazardous materials, waste operations, and emergency response. Funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' Worker Education and Training Program (NIEHS WETP), the Clearinghouse provides assistance for NIEHS WETP staff, program grantees, and the general public. Their extensive curricula catalog can be accessed at <http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/>.

OSHA Training

The OSHA Training Institute provides training and education in occupational safety and health for federal and state compliance officers, state consultants, other federal agency personnel, and the private sector. A limited number of private sector workers and employers may register for OTI courses on a tuition basis as space is available.

Through the Outreach Training Program and the OTI Education Center Program, OSHA offers a broad selection of occupational safety and health classes designed for workers and employers including the 10- and 30-Hour Worker classes. For more information on OSHA training resources, go to <http://www.osha.gov/dte/oti/index.html>.

Environmental Education

Environmental education and training resources are also available at the Advanced Technology Environmental and Energy Center (ATEEC). ATEEC specializes in educational resources for environmental educators including resources for instructional design and DACUMs.

Recycling and Solid Waste Management Training

Construction and Demolition (C&D) recycling: WasteCap Resource Solutions (formerly WasteCap Wisconsin) provides accreditation and training in recycling of C&D materials. <http://www.wastecap.org/services/training/>

Deconstruction

The Building Materials Reuse Association (BMRA) has provided some training in the past on deconstruction, and they have developed a community college level curriculum. <http://www.bmra.org/resources/training>

BMRA has some additional training resources listed at <http://www.bmra.org/other-training-resources> and <http://www.cdrecycling.org>.

CMRA Trade Association has some detailed Web sites for particular materials:

Concrete: <http://www.concreterecycling.org>

Drywall: <http://www/drywallrecycling.org>

Shingle: <http://shinglerecycling.org>

Pacific Northwest Wood: <http://greatnwrecyclers.org>

Recycling and Zero Waste Training

Recycling Organizations of North America (RONA) is developing national standards and training. See Certification Programs for Resource Management at <http://recyclingorganizations.org/>.

Reuse

Institute of Local Self Reliance: www.ilsr.org

The Reuse People: <http://thereusepeople.org/usefullinks>

Solid Waste Management

Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) has landfill, composting, and recycling training.

Certification programs

<http://swana.org/education/educate/training/tabid/98/default.aspx>

<http://swana.org/education/educate/certification/tabid/87/default.aspx>

<http://www.rodaleinstitute.org/food-scraps-composting-training>

Current Grant Opportunities

Search for environmental training at 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

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 for more information on the 2013 conference.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Topic: Where are the jobs?
 Time to place graduates – Where? When? How?
 Helpful Hints
 Open Discussion

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.