

June 27, 2012

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) – cycle 6, Session 7 (session 67)

Topics: Updates from Washington – Congratulations to funded programs
Summary of funded programs
Upcoming events

Updates from Washington

Congratulations to newly-funded programs

Thank you, Amber Perry from EPA Region 6, for providing us insights regarding the review and award of fifteen successful environmental workforce development and training proposals. For additional information and fact sheets, please visit http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/pilot_grants.htm.

Comparisons among this year's accepted proposals

What's similar?

- All proposals present strong and clearly defined community partners.
- All proposals clearly define the community they are serving.
- Most proposals have similar target populations with some defining specific populations such as Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.
- All proposals clearly define the curriculum to be provided, and relate it to their community.
- All proposals addressed the required topics in the RFP, and provided tracking which varied from one to two years.
- Proposals were consistent in budgeting for proposed items.
- Eleven of the fifteen new grantees have attended the HMTRI Annual All-Grantee Meeting, or have participated in the HMTRI Professional Learning Community (PLC) coaching and open discussion sessions.

What's different?

- As shown in the table below, proposals varied widely in the number of participants to be trained from as few as 30 to as many as 100.
- Some, such as Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc., train few participants, but nurture those participants and tracked them as long as two years after placement.
- Training and contact hours varied from 68 to as many as 226, with as few as four certifications provided to as many as ten.
- Geographical diversity was large with awards in seven of the ten EPA regions with urban and rural communities including two in the Oakland and Bay areas of California. Both programs demonstrated service to distinct and separate communities.
- Of the fifteen grantee awards, only one was a community college as primary partner. Six were local governments, and the remaining were community organizations.

Note the interest of city and local governments in developing programs with linkages to internal governmental organizations, then reaching out to community organizations and community colleges for recruitment and training.

Grant awards with training and placement commitments

North Star Center for Human Development, Inc., CT	train 60 students	place 54 graduates
Groundwork Providence, RI	train 54 students	place 45 graduates
City of Glens Fall, NY	train 100 students	place 90 graduates
City Durham, NC	train 60 students	place 42 graduates
City of Toledo, OH	train 75 students	place 60 graduates
City of Milwaukee, WI	train 80 students	place 64 graduates
Arkansas Construction Education Foundation, AR	train 90 students	place 72 graduates
City of Camden, AR	train 45 students	place 36 graduates
Limitless Vistas, Inc., LA	train 40 students	place 32 graduates
Iowa Western Community College, IA	train 100 students	place 80 graduates
Cypress Mandela Training Center, Inc., CA	train 80 students	place 60 graduates
Los Angeles Conservation Corps, CA	train 60 students	place 48 graduates
The Hunters Point Family, CA	train 54 students	place 43 graduates
Nye County, NV	train 54 students	place 43 graduates
Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc., OR	train 30 students	place 23 graduates

Observations from an EPA perspective

Overall, there were many excellent proposals submitted (65). Often, however, excellent programs were poorly represented in the proposal. Available funding permitted acceptance of only 15 of the 60 serious contenders. (Of the approximately 65 submitted proposals, six to ten failed qualification.)

Amber Perry (EPA Region 6) shared concern over failed proposals. Failed proposals may have represented good programs but were poorly written or contained contradictions and omissions without attention to detail. Many proposals failed to address the training required and specified in the RFP. Other programs mentioned required training, but did not address it in detailed sections such as curriculum and budgets.

Upcoming Events

National Brownfields Conference, Atlanta, GA, May 15-17, 2013.

Call for Ideas – Now open until August 3, 2012

Organizers of the 15th National Brownfields Conference want your ideas! The program for this annual conference is intended to motivate brownfields stakeholders to share knowledge and expertise and learn from each other's experiences. Venues for over 100 educational sessions include panel and plenary presentations, discussion-based roundtables and town hall meetings, business development opportunities such as the Economic Redevelopment Forum and exhibit hall, mobile workshops, and redevelopment walking tours. Abstracts are due by August 3, 2012. For more information and to submit an abstract, see <http://www.brownfieldsconference.org>.

MARK YOUR CLANEDAR

Next PLC Session: July 11, 2012
2:00pm EDT

Topics: What to do now if you received a grant
What to do now if you did not receive a grant

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.