

July 11, 2012

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) – cycle 6, Session 8 (session 68)

Topics: The new *Brownfields Toolbox*
Funded or not funded – follow-up ideas
Upcoming Events

Brownfields Toolbox Web site

Now on line: the updated *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site!

Thank you, Tony Wilhelm and Glo Hanne at HMTRI for the great effort they have undertaken in gathering information and updating the *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site.

As the banner says “Providing tools for environmental job development since 1994”, the *Brownfields Toolbox* is the primary repository for environmental workforce development, job training materials, tools, and grantee contributions.

The site begins with a sampling of current programs with links to their individual Web sites. As one digs deeper into the site, all kinds of information can be uncovered:

- Brownfields Background Information
- Reference Materials
- Employer Resources
- Grantee Locations and Contacts
- PLC Corner

The Employer Resources and Grantee Locations sections use Google© maps to locate and provide contact information and Web sites of current and past environmental workforce development programs.

The PLC Corner archives recordings and post-session notes from all of the PLC sessions.

Brownfields Toolbox is a dynamic site. Those interested in providing content or suggestions are encouraged to contact Glo at ghanne@eicc.edu.

To access the *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site, please visit <http://brownfields-toolbox.org/>.

Funded or not funded – follow-up ideas

In the last PLC session (#67), we discussed the similarities of the program receiving awards, along with their diversity.

Striking was the diversity of program managers which included city and county governments, community organizations, foundations, other non-profits, and a community college. Training, including numbers trained, curriculum, depth, and duration varied widely.

Geographic distribution was great, but also included two programs in the Bay area which demonstrated distinctly different target populations.

The “take-away” from this summary is – Receiving funding depends highly on the following issues.

1. Quality of the written grant proposal.
2. Quality of the program.
3. Intimacy of the program with community.
4. Demonstrated knowledge of community and its needs.
5. Demonstrated interaction with working and contributing partners.
6. Demonstrated pathways to employment.

So what do you do now? How do you plan ahead?

If all goes well, there is a likelihood that a new Request for Proposals from EPA will be issued in the fall (perhaps as early as October). It's not too early to begin preparing for the next round of awards.

KEY ACTION ITEM #1

Contact your Regional EPA Job Development Coordinator. If you submitted a proposal previously or are just thinking of a new submission, contact EPA regarding your plans. After the RFP is issued, EPA is no longer able to assist with ideas regarding the proposed program. NOW is the time to work with EPA. Contact information for each EPA region is included at the end of these notes.

If your proposal was rejected, ask your EPA Coordinator to go over the reviewers' notes with you. By doing this, you will find out your proposal's shortcomings, errors, and omissions. For all the time and effort required to write a job development plan, proposal writers deserve an opportunity to review their submission with an EPA representative. EPA Job Development Coordinators are happy to provide that assistance.

Look forward to the next submission. It's important to keep in mind that many grant proposals have been accepted on the second or even third submission.

If you are planning a new program, contact your EPA Regional Coordinator regarding your intentions. Coordinators like to be informed of possible new programs in their region.

KEY ACTION ITEM #2

Inquire about other funded or planned programs in your region. Check out the *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site for nearby programs. Contact funded programs, and perhaps arrange a visit. Under the best circumstances, collaborate and accept mentoring from an experienced program manager.

At the Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting, **all** EPA grantees are encouraged to mentor new and prospective programs. Grantees have also been known to assist prospective programs with their proposals.

KEY ACTION ITEM #3

Stay tuned for the next PLC cycle. Starting in August 2012, a new series of 30-minute telephone discussions will begin every other Wednesday, exploring the development and sustainability of environmental workforce development and job training programs.

EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators

Region 1 – Kathleen Castagna (1-617- 918-1429)	castagna.kathleen@epa.gov
Region 2 – Schenine Mitchell (1-212- 637-3282)	mitchell.schenine@epa.gov
Region 3 – Jeff Barnett (1-215-814-3246)	barnett.jeff@epa.gov
Region 4 – Kathleen Curry (1-404-562-8660)	curry.kathleen@epa.gov
Region 5 – Linda Morgan (1-312-886-4747)	morgan.linda@epa.gov
Region 6 – Amber Perry (1-214-665-3172)	perry.amber@epa.gov
Region 7 – Ina Square (1-913-551-7357)	square.ina@epa.gov
Region 8 – Christina Wilson (1-303-312-6706)	wilson.christina@epa.gov
Region 9 – Wallace Woo (1-415-972-3270)	woo.wallace@epa.gov
Region 10 – Susan Morales (1-206-553-7299)	morales.susan@epa.gov

Upcoming Events

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

Call for Ideas – 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. 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, please visit <http://www.brownfieldsconference.org/en/home>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: July 25, 2012
2:00pm EDT

This will be the last PLC session of this cycle. A new PLC series will begin in August. The exact date to be announced.

Topics: A look to the future in workforce development, funding, and sustainability
Building and improving your environmental training program plan

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.