

February 22, 2012

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC)

Topics: Upcoming Events
 Status of the EPA RFP due dates and coaching sessions
 Green Jobs
 Grant Opportunities

Upcoming Events

- Environmental Justice Conference, Arlington, VA - April 3-5
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, 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!
- NAWB Forum 2012 Dialogue for Workforce Excellence
March 10 – 13, 2012
Hilton Washington
The program is posted online at www.nawb.org/forum/
- 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

- Registration Fee:
Includes programming, breakfast and lunch for both days & 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 education 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.

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
 - 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

- Western Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference
March 15 & 16, 2012
Los Angeles, California
<http://www.greenjobsconference.org/>
- Eastern Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference
April 3 & 4, 2012
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Midwestern Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference
May 10 & 11, 2012
Detroit, Michigan

Status of the EPA grant review process

“The Long Wait” is over: RFP has been issued. To download the full RFP, go to <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-12-03.pdf>.

An example program planning schedule:

- Requests for proposals - Issued
- Proposals due April 12, 2012
- Preparation of proposals and review on various levels
- Initial screening of proposals (qualifying criteria) (rejected proposals notified in 2-3 weeks)
- Intensive review of proposals (ranking criteria)
- Grant awards August 2012 – before end of fiscal year (September 2012)
- Annual All Grantee Meeting – Alexandria, VA late September/ early October 2012
- First training cycles begin late 2012-Early 2013
- Optimal placement opportunities – First quarter 2013

Coaching Sessions

Now that the RFP has been issued, individual grantees are not able to talk about their specific grant. Regional and headquarters staff are able to clarify specific issues related to the RFP. EPA will be conducting 2 web-based sessions regarding the FY12 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant. EPA's CLU-IN sessions are scheduled for March 8 and March 16 from 2:00-4:00 eastern time. The call-in number is (866) 299-3188 and the conference code is 2025662772#.

- HMTRI – RFP coaching session and discussion
HMTRI will be sponsoring an open discussion March 13th from 2pm EASTERN to 3 PM EASTERN
The discussion is open to all: those with active grants, those with new grants, and those interested in preparing grant proposals.
While EPA will discuss and clarify RFP qualifications and requirements, the HMTRI discussion will explore strategies for sustainable workforce development and job training programs that might be incorporated into a working program plan.

Questions and Comments:

- Can you provide me with additional information about bonding ex-offenders?
Several grantees have used bonding strategies as an aid in placing graduates with employers concerned about liability issues associated with ex-offenders. George Paffendorf, with New Jersey Youth Corps, has a sustainable Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program placing graduates for over 10 years. George's program has used “bonding” programs to place ex-offenders with concerned employers. You can reach George at majorgwp@aol.com.

Grant Opportunities

U.S. Department of Labor

Re-Entry Programs

Non-profit 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,

particularly for people returning to high-poverty, high-crime communities, which include job placement opportunities, vocational training and mentorship. The deadline to apply is March 12, 2012.

Job Training Programs

The "Workforce Innovation Fund" supports innovative job training programs that achieve greater efficiency and provide better outcomes for job seekers and employers, particularly for vulnerable populations and dislocated workers. Approximately \$98.5 million will be available. State Workforce Agencies and Local Workforce Investment Boards are encouraged to apply by March 22, 2012.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: March 7, 2012
 2:00pm EST

Topic: "The Long Wait" is over - RFP has been issued
 What to do now? Strategies for creating a Job training Development 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.