

March 7, 2012

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC)

Topics: Upcoming Events
 EPA RFP - due Dates & Milestones
 EPA - "Understanding the FY2012 Proposal Guidelines"
 HMTRI coaching sessions
 Things to be doing NOW - ASAP
 Grant Opportunities

Upcoming Events

Upcoming environmental workforce related conferences

- 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, cosponsored 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!
- 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

<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

EPA RFP - Due Dates & Milestones

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
- EPA – Internet Seminar – March 8th and 16th (see registration instructions below)
- HMTRI- Coaching Session – March 13th 2pm eastern – same access and code as the PLC sessions
- 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 July/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

EPA: “Understanding the FY2012 Proposal Guidelines” March 8th and 16th – duplicate sessions

To register go to <http://www.clu-in.org>

Go to Training and Events

Sign up for the session *Understanding the FY12 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant Proposal Guidelines*

HMTRI- Coaching Session – March 13th 2pm EDT

You can use the same access and code as the PLC sessions. HMTRI will conduct an informal discussion and coaching session addressing development of a sustainable workforce development and training program in response the EPA request for proposals. The HMTRI discussion will explore strategies for sustainable workforce development and job training programs that might be incorporated into a working program plan or proposal.

Things that must be done NOW – ASAP

1. Establish relationships with potential employers.
This will take time – perhaps the most important component of a sustainable job development program. Start now. As you identify potential employers, try face-to-face meetings and bring them into the training process. Document your meetings and begin constructing and expanding a contact file. This process also becomes part of the needs assessment. If possible, ask potential employers to consider program graduates. If documentation can be obtained, include it in the proposal.
2. Develop relationships with key community groups.
Organized labor, church groups, community development organizations, and other non-governmental organizations need to be part of a good grant proposal. If names or organization contacts are included, make sure references and partners are well informed and assume they will be called by grant reviewers. Community groups are great for participant recruitment; organized labor for training and partnering; and local colleges and nonprofits for training, life skills, and student support.
3. Inform and communicate with governmental organizations.
If you can announce your intentions at a city council meeting, make sure it is documented. Public meeting announcements look great in grant proposals. Ask a city council member to announce your intentions to submit a grant proposal establishing a workforce development program.
Contact all Brownfield projects in your area. If public meetings or hearings are scheduled, get on the agenda to announce your intentions and promote the proposed program. Document your progress for the proposal submission. A secondary result of this outreach effort may well be additional funding from other sources.

Grant Opportunities

- U.S. EPA
Training and Technical Assistance to Improve Water Quality – Safe Drinking Water.
EPA-OW-OGWDW-12-01 - Due Date April 9th
\$500 K and up - total amount of the program \$14.5 million
This is an excellent opportunity to leverage an environmental training program. Open to non-profits
For details, go to www.grants.gov.
- 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, that include job placement opportunities, vocational training and mentorship. The deadline to apply is March 12, 2012.

- U.S. Department of Labor
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 22, 2012
 2:00pm EST

Topic: Constructing components of a sustainable
 Environmental Workforce Development and Training Program
 Needs Assessment
 Working with Employers
 Community Relationships

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.