

June 22, 2011

Notes from Brownfields Learning Community (PLC)

Topics: Funding Sources
 Federal Assistance Programs
 Sustaining a Program

NOTES FROM SESSION 44

Status of this year's Environmental Job Development and Training grant review

Announcements of this year's grant awardees are expected any day. We will update the listserve when additional information becomes available. As previously discussed, assistance for environmental job training programs comes from a variety of sources including:

1. Federal agencies
2. State & local agencies
3. Public and private foundations, trusts, and benefactors
4. Private sector benefactors
5. Community groups, community colleges, nonprofits, and individual contributions
6. Litigation and court settlements

This week's discussion centered on federal assistance. In the next session, we will examine traditional and non-traditional leveraging of resources. With success rates for federal grant requests running 10-20%, federal assistance remains one of the more competitive funding resources. Federal assistance is also associated with the most "strings attached" and may include the following restrictions and requirements:

1. Specific and restrictive allowable costs
2. Subcontracting restrictions
3. Spending limits and performance periods
4. Outcome requirements or guidelines (recruitment, retention, and placement)
5. Participant and target population requirements
6. Curriculum standards and restrictions
7. Audit and book keeping regulations
8. Reporting and tracking requirements

Even with the "headwinds" just noted, federal assistance remains a key factor in jump starting Environmental Job Development and Training Programs.

Federal grants should be regarded as supplemental startup funds to be leveraged and replaced during the growth phase of the project. During current PLC discussions, the group has examined alternative resources available for developing and sustaining an environmental job development and training program. This week the focus was on federal assistance.

While dated, **Green for All** has prepared an excellent publication as part of the "Green for All Series" associated with the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). The publication titled *Federal Resources to Enhance and Sustain Green Job Training: ARRA and Beyond* can be downloaded at the site listed below.

<http://www.greenforall.org/what-we-do/building-a-movement/community-of-practice/resources-for-training-programs>

The publication noted reviews federal agencies providing assistance for green jobs training including environmental job development and training programs. Many programs noted have continued operations and assistance programs beyond the ARRA stimulus appropriation. After reviewing the **Green for All** documents, prospective grant writers need to access the clearinghouse for federal assistance opportunities.

www.Grants.gov

Grants.gov is a clearinghouse for federal competitive solicitations, commonly referred to as one of the following:

- SGAs – Solicitation for grant applications
- RFPs – Request for proposals
- RFAs – Request for assistance

Most federal assistance is announced here, proposals are received here, and awards are posted at this location. Sometimes limited federal assistance is awarded below the radar and will not appear at www.grants.gov, primarily regional in nature and/or discretionary funding. This type of funding is usually obtained with direct negotiation and contact with regional staff for special projects.

Current opportunities open for federal assistance and listed in grants.gov include the following requests for proposals:

Susan Harwood Training Grant Program FY 2011

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Announcement Number- -SHTG-FY-11-01

<http://www.osha.gov/dte/sharwood/index.html>

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=y4VHN4ybG3Gp8qRQtMVPLSzQZ6Z2KPkYMNyZ1LJpnltMsVlpxMYJ!957673825?opId=99553&mode=VIEW>

The Susan Harwood Training Grant Program is making \$4.7 million available to nonprofit, community and faith-based organizations, employer associations, and labor unions. The grants will fund training for workers and employers to recognize workplace hazards and appropriate control measures, and to understand their rights and responsibilities under OSHA's regulations and standards. Applications are due July 20 by 4:30 p.m. EDT. Questions should be directed to Kimberly Mason at mason.kimberly@dol.gov or Jim Barnes at barnes.jim@dol.gov or by phone at 847-759-7700.

The focus of the program is to provide training and education for workers and employers on the recognition, avoidance, and prevention of safety and health hazards in their workplaces; and to inform workers of their rights and employers of their responsibilities under the OSH Act. Target audiences include underserved, low-literacy, and workers in high-hazard industries. Since 1978, over 1.8 million workers have been trained through this program.

The Susan Harwood Training Grant Program awards grants to nonprofit organizations on a competitive basis. Awards are issued annually based on Congressional appropriation.

Tips for applying – will also be helpful with other federal proposals:

http://www.osha.gov/dte/sharwood/harwood_tips/index.html

SunShot Initiative: Rooftop Solar Challenge to Induce Market Transformation

The Rooftop Solar Challenge aims to achieve measurable improvements in market conditions for rooftop photovoltaic (PV) across the United States, with an emphasis on streamlined and standardized permitting and interconnection processes. DOE has allotted a total of \$12.5 million to make grants of between \$250,000 and \$1 million to governmental entities representing populations of at least 500,000.

Applicants must provide a letter of commitment from the chief elected official of each participating jurisdiction. Applicants must also provide a letter of support from the respective State Energy Office(s) or equivalent, and from the primary load-serving electric utility for each participating jurisdiction. Letters of Intent are due July 18, by 5 pm EDT. Applications will be due August 31 by 5 pm EDT.

Only State, territorial, or local governments; or Consortia of regional or statewide teams of local governments, large single jurisdictions, or Indian Tribes; or non-profit or for-profit entities authorized to act on behalf of state and/or local governments should apply.

Department of Labor

OASAM

Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Information
Announcement Number- SGA-11-01
\$5Million to be awarded

Eligible Applicants: Applications for funds will be accepted from State and Local Workforce Investment Boards, local public agencies, for-profit/commercial entities, and non-profit organizations, including faith-based and community-based organizations. Applicants must have a familiarity with the area and population to be served and the ability to administer an effective and timely program.

Notice of Availability of Funds and Solicitation for Grant Applications for Cooperative Agreements under the Disability Employment Initiative

Employment and Training Administration

Announcement Number- SGA-DFA-PY-10-14
\$20M to be awarded

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), in coordination with Department of Labor's (DOL's) Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), announces the availability of approximately \$20 million for a second round of cooperative agreements to state agencies that administer the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). These funds provide an opportunity for states to develop and implement a plan for improving effective and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in the workforce. DOL is using this funding to implement the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI), through which the Department intends to make six to ten grant awards designed to: 1) improve educational, training, and employment opportunities and outcomes of youth and adults with disabilities who are unemployed, underemployed, and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits; and 2) help these individuals with disabilities find a path into the middle class through exemplary and model service delivery by the public workforce system. The DOL will award DEI grants for a three-year period of performance.

H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants

Employment and Training Administration
November due date

Announcement Number- SGA-DFA-PY-10-13

\$240 Million total funding
\$1-\$5 M grants to be awarded

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL or the Department), announces the availability of approximately \$240 million in funds for an H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants program. This grant program is designed to provide education, training, and job placement assistance in the occupations and industries for which employers are using H-1B visas to hire foreign workers, and the related activities necessary to support such training. H-1B technical skills training grants are financed by a user fee paid by employers to bring foreign workers into the United States under the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program. This technical skills training program was authorized under Section 414 (c) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (ACWIA), as amended (29 USC 2916a). Grant awards will be made only to the extent that funds are available. The Department will make awards to two types of training grants: those that provide On-the-Job Training (OJT) to all participants and those that use other training strategies. Of the awards granted through this Solicitation, at least \$150 million will be awarded to grantees that provide OJT to all participants. Between the two types of grants awarded (OJT and other training strategies), DOL intends to fund at least \$45 million to applicants proposing to provide training for occupations in the health care industry and at least \$60 million to applicants that serve long-term unemployed individuals. While this Solicitation is open, DOL anticipates that additional funding will accrue for this grant program. Such additional funding may be made available for awards during the second round of funding, depending on the quality of applications received. The Department expects to award approximately 75-100 grants ranging from \$1 million to \$5 million with up to a 48-month period of performance. The Department will award grants to a partnership of private and public sector entities as defined in ACWIA. This partnership must include at least two entities from among the following groups: (1) businesses or business-related nonprofit organizations, such as trade associations; (2) education and training providers, including community colleges and other community-based organizations; and (3) entities involved in administering the workforce investment system established under Title I of the WIA, and economic development agencies.

Federal agencies with grant programs available to support environmental job training programs but without specific requests for proposals (RFPs) at this time include the following. Research into the activities of these programs could result in direct or indirect funding opportunities.

The Community Reinvestment Act

The Community Reinvestment Act is one tool available to such projects. Under the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), federal agencies evaluate whether regulated financial institutions are helping to meet the credit and community development needs of their local communities, including low- and moderate-income communities.

Financial institutions receive favorable consideration from federal regulatory agencies for community development loans, qualified investments, and community development services. Seeding and supporting Green Jobs for Buffalo with grants and loans would qualify community lenders for such consideration under the CRA, as the primary purpose of Green Jobs for Buffalo is community development. The program will stabilize and revitalize low- to moderate-income areas — in part by creating, retaining, and improving jobs for low- to moderate-income persons.

HUD

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. Check with local governments into “Block Grant” opportunities.

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Funds go to states and locals – check block grant availability for local programs.

A more detailed discussion of funding sources related to green jobs and environmental job training can be found at: www.brownfields-toolbox.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: Wednesday, July 13, 2011
 2:00pm EDT

Topic: Funding
 Sustaining a Job Development Program
 Leveraging Resources
 Plans for those attending the annual workshop in Alexandria in August

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