

November 10, 2010

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) Session #32

Session leader: Mike Senew

Topic: Program Startup – Planning for the new RFP requirements

NOTES FROM SESSION 32

We also examined this member's question: **How do we address the new RFP requirements in our grant proposal?**

This session's thanks goes to Jim Gordon, City of Firebaugh, for a briefing on Firebaugh's efforts in green job development. Anyone interested in contacting Jim can reach him at CmonLuke@aol.com.

CORRECTION – Last session notes incorrectly gave Jeanne-Marie Crockett's email. Jeanne-Marie is from Santa Fe Community College and briefed us on their train-the-trainer programs. Her correct contact information is jeannemarie.crockett@sfcc.edu or by phone at 505.428.1302.

When will the EPA Request for Proposals (RFP) be issued?

EPA hopes that the final RFP will be issued in about 3 weeks, putting it around December 1st. We will let you know as soon as it is issued. In the meantime, you may get a draft* copy at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>.

*** NOTE:** These are draft guidelines. There will likely be changes in the final version. Due dates should be extended with grants likely awarded in early summer.

Where can we get Train-the-Trainer assistance?

Likely you will find excellent training resources at your local community college or university. If, however, you need to certify trainers, the following sources may be helpful:

Grantee Mollie Dowling, OAI, Inc. – provides RR&P as well as hazardous waste site worker train-the-trainer programs. mdowling@oaiinc.org

Jeanne-Marie Crockett from Santa Fe Community College discussed their train-the-trainer programs. Santa Fe developed both training and train-the-trainer capabilities. You may contact her at jeannemarie.crockett@sfcc.edu.

Another excellent source of train-the-trainer programs as well as EPA, OSHA, and energy training is the Rocky Mountain Education Center (RMEC). Currently RMEC is managing more than 4,000 OSHA outreach instructors and has processed more than 130,000 10- and 30-hour OSHA cards last year. They offer OSHA, EPA, and BPI programs. You may find them at www.rmecosha.com. Their phone number is 303.914.6420.

Planning your grant. What should we be doing now?

Continue your needs assessment which includes:

- Contact governmental organizations with your plans.
- Contact potential employers as advisors, supporters, and partners.
- Locate and contact local environmental project coordinators.
- Scan your locality for training and job development programs.
- Create a path from recruitment across training to employment.
- Establish a support network.
- Scan employers, community colleges, universities, and trade organizations for potential trainers, facilities, and placement resources.
- Establish a relationship with local organized labor.
- Become part of the local job development and training community.

Work backwards from your employment needs assessment to curriculum offerings, matching the first two with target participant populations likely to succeed in those jobs. If possible, participate and document participation in a Brownfields public hearing. A public announcement of intention to develop an environmental job training program will go a long way in developing a fundable proposal. Linking this with an existing Brownfields public hearing is an excellent approach. Ask if you can have a few minutes as part of the public hearing process required by Brownfield projects. Announce your intention to submit a job development and training proposal. Ask for support and advice.

As part of every activity just discussed, contacts should be asked for letters of support and input on possible additional community resources. REMEMBER, letters of support cannot be “cookie cutter” or form letters. Early in the grant writing process is the best time for assistance. While employers may not be able to commit to jobs, they can offer employment consideration as part of a letter of support.

Notes on Weatherization Training

In some parts of the country, weatherization training has become a significant source of new green jobs. While weatherization and energy conservation directly impact the environment by reducing use of fossil fuels, it is a secondary impact. To date, EPA has not discouraged weatherization training as part of a comprehensive environmental job development and training program. Programs may, however, consider not letting weatherization dominate training programs at the cost of providing other types of environmental training.

HUD and the Department of Energy have taken the primary roles in funding and setting standards for weatherization and worker training.

A comprehensive source for weatherization funding and training can be found at <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/wap.html>.

Additional Notes:

When the RFP is issued, applicants can no longer seek individual help from EPA staff. Definitely contact your Regional EPA Job Training Representative before the RFP is issued. Discuss your community and proposed project. Seek their input. Let them know your intention to submit a proposal. A list of Regional Representatives appears at the end of these notes. The initial proposal review begins at the regional level – show your interest now and seek advice. Ask questions that will assist everyone during the proposal writing and review process. Contact your Regional EPA Job Development Coordinator regarding your intent to submit a grant proposal.

Regional Environmental Job Development and Training Contacts

EPA Region 1 Kathleen Castagna	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	One Congress Street, Suite 1100 (Mail code HIO) Boston, MA 02114-2023 Phone (617) 918-1429 e-mail: castagna.kathleen@epa.gov
EPA Region 2 Schenine Mitchell	NJ, NY, PR, VI	290 Broadway, 18th Floor New York, NY 10007 Phone (212) 637- 3283 e-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov
EPA Region 3 Jeff Barnett	DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV	1650 Arch Street (3HS34) Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029 Phone (215) 814-3246 e-mail: barnett.jeff@epa.gov
EPA Region 4 Kathleen Curry	AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN	Atlanta Federal Center 61 Forsyth Street (SNFC, EPA Mail Room) Atlanta, GA 30303 Phone (404) 562-8660 e-mail: curry.kathleen@epa.gov
EPA Region 5 Linda Morgan	IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI	77 West Jackson Boulevard (SE-4J) Chicago, IL 60604-3507 Phone (312) 886-4747 e-mail: morgan.linda@epa.gov
EPA Region 6 Amber Perry Sam Reynolds	AR, LA, NM, OK, TX	1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200 (6SF-VB) Dallas, TX 752022733 Phone (214) 665-3172, (214) 665-6682 e-mail: perry.amber@epa.gov; reynolds.samuel@epa.gov
EPA Region 7 Ina Square	IA, KS, MO, NE	901 N. 5th Street (SUPR/STAR) Kansas City, KS 66101 Phone (913) 551-7357 e-mail: square.ina@epa.gov
EPA Region 8 Christina Wilson	CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY	US EPA, Region 8 (EPR-B) 1595 Wynkoop Street Denver, CO 80202-1129 Phone (303) 312-6706 e-mail: wilson.christina@epa.gov
EPA Region 9 Wallace Woo	AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU	75 Hawthorne Street (SFD 1-1) San Francisco, CA 94105 Phone (415) 972-3270 e-mail: woo.wallace@epa.gov
EPA Region 10 Susan Morales	AK, ID, OR, WA	US EPA Region 10; 1200 6th Avenue, Ste 900 (ECL-112); Seattle, WA 98101 Phone (206) 553-7299 e-mail: morales.susan@epa.gov

Additional Resources

You may want to check out the revamp of the SMARTe website. It provides links to most Brownfields related information sources. For example, if you scroll over to the menu on the left – go to “funding sources” or “others” – you can link to local programs and Google maps locating brownfields in your community. www.smarte.org

SMARTe 2011 is now available. The most recent version of SMARTe provides updated links, resources, and information related to all aspects of the land revitalization process including planning future use while considering environmental issues, economic viability, and socio-cultural needs. For example, the newly updated Liability Section of SMARTe provides an overview of liability risk (when a site is/was contaminated) and how to reduce those risks. Additionally, a new sub-section under Future Land Use/Sustainable Practices provides information and considerations for re-using a site as an urban garden. SMARTe is widely accessed by users in over 90 different countries.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: December 1, 2010 (due to Thanksgiving holiday)
 2:00pm EST

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at msenew@aol.com.