

December 1, 2010

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) Session #33

Session Leader: Mike Senew

Topic: Certifications – Planning Your Certification Offerings / Green Technology Curriculum

NOTES FROM SESSION 33

We also discussed topics we did not discuss during the November 10th session including certifications offered, core curriculum, training timetables, and target participant populations.

We examined this member's question: **Which certifications should I include in my program? Planning your grant submission process.**

This session's thanks goes to James Lee with the Workforce Investment Board of Herkimer, Madison, and Oneida Counties in Utica, NY for briefing us on their 40-hour green technology curriculum. Those interested in contacting James can reach him at james.lee.wib@gmail.com.

When will the EPA Brownfields Job Training Request for Proposals be issued?

EPA has still not published the final Environmental Job Training RFP. It should be any day. We will let everyone know as soon as it is released. Before then, 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 grant awards likely in early summer.

Planning your grant. What should you be doing now?

1. Make sure you have contacted your EPA Regional Job Training Coordinator. After the RFP is issued, they can no longer provide you with special assistance regarding your grant application. Even if you are submitting an application to continue your program, it is advisable to let your intentions known to your regional coordinator. EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators are friendly and great to work with. Their contact information is listed at the end of these notes.
2. Continue your needs assessment which includes:
 - a. Contact governmental organizations with your plans.
 - b. Contact potential employers as advisors, supporters, and partners.
 - c. Locate and contact local environmental project coordinators.
 - d. Scan your locality for training and job development programs.
 - e. Create a path from recruitment across training to employment.
3. Continue to expand your support network.
 - a. Scan employers, community colleges, universities, and trade organizations for potential trainers, facilities, and placement resources.
 - b. Establish a relationship with local organized labor.
 - c. Become part of the local job development and training community.

4. Work backwards from your employment needs assessment to curriculum offerings, matching the first two with target participant populations likely to succeed in those jobs.
5. Begin a short list of certifications and training you will be providing based on your needs assessment and target participant group.
6. **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.
7. 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 to request assistance. While employers may not be able to commit to jobs, they can offer employment consideration as part of a letter of support.
8. Begin a short list of members to participate on your advisory board. Remember that these should be individuals who will hire your graduates or contribute to your program in a meaningful way.

Notes on green technology training

James Lee’s program in NY is already providing training that other Environmental Job Training programs should consider. James has developed a 40-hour Green Technology program with the local college trainer. Topics in a green technology curriculum can include awareness training in areas not covered by specific EPA and OSHA certification courses. Some of the topics might include:

- Introduction to innovative technologies
- Solid waste and landfill technologies
- Conservation , reuse, and recycling
- Urban agriculture and bioremediation
- Water and wastewater technologies
- Air pollution monitoring and remediation
- Radiation and radon awareness
- Noise reduction and control
- HVAC, weatherization, and LEEDS awareness

NOTE: The list can be extensive and some of the topics may be broken out into separate offerings. A green technology course is especially relevant this year since the new RFP is expected to have additional training requirements. While your needs assessment and targeted jobs may not emphasize these topics, they should still be included as part of a comprehensive environmental training program.

NOTE: EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment periodically hosts Webinars for the EPA grants community. If you are interested in applying for EPA grants or are currently managing an EPA grant, the upcoming Webinars on December 8th and December 14th are full. You can, however, download PowerPoints for the webinar. These include :

- Webinar agenda
- Competition presentation
- Researching and managing an EPA award presentation

- FFATA for Webinar

To get these documents, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/training/grantaward.htm>.

NOTE: Check out the new Bata EPA Web site at http://www%2Egap_ogd@epa.gov/.

Contact your Regional EPA Job Development Coordinator regarding your intent on submitting a grant proposal.

Regional Environmental Job Development and Training Contacts

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: Wednesday, December 15, 2010
 2:00pm EST

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.