

October 15, 2009

Notes from Brownfields PLC Session #13

Session leader: Mike Senew

Topic – Training Programs, Core Curriculum, and Certifications: Keys to a Sustainable Brownfields Job Training Program

NOTES FROM SESSION 13

While all Brownfields job development and training curricula include 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training, additional offerings will differ from community to community based on the following issues:

1. Results of the labor market assessment indicating occupations and job skills currently in demand.
2. Input from advisory committee and program mentors.
3. Input from potential employers and community stakeholders.
4. Nature of the work to be performed by program graduates.
5. Degree to which target participant populations will need remedial education.
6. Degree to which target participant populations will need life skills training.
7. Program length and depth.
8. Program design (single or multi track i.e. environmental or environmental with multi track construction training)

40-hour HAZWOPER training assumes that, at some point, program participants may spend time at a site with suspected or known hazardous materials.

Graduates may additionally need confined space training if working on weatherization projects. Green jobs involving weatherization may also require lead paint and asbestos removal. Additional OSHA courses may also be required when construction or deconstruction is involved.

Specific offerings will be highly dependent upon the jobs students will fill upon graduation. Those jobs, likewise, will be determined by local market conditions. This is why input from the labor market assessment, advisors, employers, and mentors is of up most importance when developing the core curriculum.

While remedial and life skills training is not an allowable cost using EPA funding, these courses may be essential in developing a sustainable program. The degree to which remedial and life skills is required will depend upon the participant target group and program entry requirements. Often, remedial training in math and science is incorporated as essential elements in core courses. In some programs, they are provided as stand-alone offerings with support from other funding sources.

An excellent source for additional information related to core curriculum and certifications can be found on the *Brownfields Toolbox* at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org>.

Another excellent source for additional information can be found in the NIEHS curricula catalog at <http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/> or <http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=603>. The National Clearinghouse's Online Curricula Catalog contains direct access to training curricula produced by the eighteen awardees currently funded by the NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program (WETP).