

August 29, 2018



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 19, Session 4.

This series of bi-weekly phone calls examines effective Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) strategies from experienced grantees. PLC calls share ideas among successful grantees and prepare interested organizations for the next EPA Request for Proposals. Calls will be a mix of open discussion, workforce development news, resources, and presentations from current grantees.

- Topics:
1. News from Washington and HMTRI
 2. Questions from PLC members
 3. This week's guest – Ken Alexander – RecycleForce, Indianapolis, IN
 4. Free online financial literacy training
 5. Upcoming meetings and workshops
 6. Check out these websites and sign-up for newsletters
 7. Funding opportunities
 8. EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators
 8. Tune into the next PLC call - Wednesday, September 12, 2018

1. NEWS FROM WASHINGTON AND HMTRI

EPA Happenings:

The next EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Request for Proposals (EWDJT - RFP) will likely be issued in the early part of 2019. Here is what EWDJT applicants might expect (subject to change) for the next funding cycle.

- EPA request for EWDJT proposals - February 2019
- Proposals due – May 2019
- Proposal evaluation – May-July 2019
- Preliminary selection - August 2019
- Formal awards – October 2019
- First training cohort begins - Late 2019, early 2020
- Graduation and placement - Early spring 2020

Other changes and consideration

- With the new funding schedule, all current grantees will be eligible to reapply for additional funding. Previously, successful grantees could not reapply for additional funding for one year.

- While competition for funding is likely to increase, hopefully the number of grants selected for funding will increase from current levels.
- The EPA BUILD Act will allow grantees to charge indirect costs to the grant (5% automatic or negotiated)
- Comprehensive program planning and stakeholder and partnership development requires extended periods of time. To be competitive, work should be underway.
- While the new RFP will be different than the FY18, prospective applicants can go to the EPA site for a general idea of expectations, ranking criteria, and deliverables.
- https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-04/documents/fy18_ewdjt_rfp.pdf

HMTRI News:

A note from Heather Ballou, HMTRI

For those who attended the *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting*, it was great to finally meet you all! I hope the meeting met or exceeded all of your expectations, and that your travels home were safe and uneventful.

I want to extend a very special thank you to all of the graduates who attended this year and shared their experiences on the panel and throughout the meeting. We received so many great comments on that session.. Corey, Frank, Kashmira, Ricardo, and VaShawn.....thank you for taking time out of your busy days to be a part of this year's meeting. I hope you enjoyed attending the meeting as much as everyone liked having you there! For many attendees, it was their favorite part of the meeting

Another special thank you goes out to all of the grantees who served as mentors by breaking the ice in the breakout sessions. Your willingness to share your knowledge and experience is invaluable to everyone attending!

Below is a list of updates and announcements. Most importantly, though, is this reminder—As you process all of the information you received at the meeting, please remember that **we** at HMTRI are a resource for you. Contact us if you have any questions. If we can't answer your question, we will point you in the direction of someone who can help you.

UPDATES / REMINDERS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Grantee ListServ has been updated to include everyone who attended this year's meeting. Please remember that besides me posting announcements for you, this listserv can also be used as a tool for you to request information from your fellow grantees and share your successes. Just send me your request and I'll put it on the listserv on your behalf. If you can help someone with their request, do not hesitate to reply. We are all here to help each other develop and sustain excellent job training programs across the nation. So please.....use this valuable resource! That's what it's for. If you want one of your partners added to the listserv, please send me their email address and I'll add them.

- The *Brownfields Toolbox* website will house all of the PowerPoints and materials from this year's meeting. I will let you know when everything has been uploaded. Some of the information posted will include:
 1. A compilation of all of the notes from the breakout sessions.
 2. PowerPoints and resources from all grantee and EPA sessions (when available).
 3. An updated participant list to continue the networking that you started at the meeting.

Heather Ballou, HMTRI
hkballou@eicc.edu

2. QUESTIONS FROM PLC MEMBERS

If you have questions you would like addressed, send it to Heather Ballou at hkballou@eicc.edu

What can we do to support students during training? Can stipends or scholarships be provided with EWDJT funds?

Unfortunately not. However some grantees have been able to provide support to students during training with outside resources. Support may come from donations, work study programs, or philanthropic grants. Today we discussed another approach, establishing a nonprofit community organization and working with a for-profit enterprise capable of employing EWDJT participants in work study.

3. THIS WEEK'S GUEST-KEN ALEXANDER-RECYCLEFORCE, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RecycleForce is a prime example of how social concerns can be blended together resulting in broader positive community impact.

Target Community

According to the FBI, Indianapolis ranks as the 16th most dangerous city in the U.S., with 17.1 homicides per 100,000 people, compared with the U.S. rate of 4.9 homicides per 100,000 people. Between 2012 and 2014, the murder rate rose by 44%. There were 138 homicides in 2014, with 60% of victims and 90% of perpetrators being young men. In 2015 there were 144 criminal homicides and this year there have already been over 100 homicides. Law enforcement has blamed increased violence on a combination of root causes, including poverty, substance abuse, mental illness, and availability of firearms. RecycleForce is addressing these issues by primarily targeting ex-offenders and unemployed residents many in the age group of 18-24.

About RecycleForce

On the RecycleForce website, “RecycleForce combines innovative recycling, a cleaner environment and a stronger workforce”. We can expand this tag line by adding the following. “RecycleForce provides jobs, opportunities, and a future to those who have made mistakes but want to live a better life”.

How do they fill that mandate? RecycleForce provides deconstruction and solid waste recycling services for Indianapolis. A second organization, RecycleForce.org, is an environmental training nonprofit organization that provides training and employment opportunities for ex-offenders and unemployed community residents. The combination of for profit and not-for-profit organizational structures enables financial and in kind contributions to a job training program with limited resources. The one-two combination increases EWDJT leveraging, promotes sustainability, and provides a needed community service. Last year, RecycleForce handled over 12.5 million pounds of solid waste. Much of that waste was hazardous, including anything with a plug in addition to deconstruction, storage and transportation.

Now about RecycleForce.org

RecycleForce.org presented at this year’s All-Grantee Meeting in a breakout session on solid waste. Not unusual, however very unusual for a first year grantee. The reason..... RecycleForce has been preparing for EWDJT for over two years. They attended two All-Grantee Meetings, rejected after their first application, sought out mentoring assistance, and developed a successful proposal on their second submission. By the second proposal, RecycleForce had established solid partnerships, leveraged resources, and relationships with potential employers. Here is a quick summary of their proposed program. Keep in mind, this is their first year of operation.

Core Curriculum

The core training program includes 200 hours of instruction

- 40-hour HAZWOPER
- Forklift safety
- Emergency action plan and fire prevention
- RCRA (HAZCOM and global SDS)
- OSHA safety (personal protective equipment)
- Warehouse safety
- Material handling
- Machine guarding
- Lockout tagout and OTI
- Basic first aid
- Blood borne pathogens
- Slips, trips, and falls

Participants who complete the training will earn three state or federal certifications.

Strategic Partners

US Ecology
Keys to Work
KERAMIDA
Remedium Services Group
Trusted Mentors, 5/3 Bank
Place of Power
Edna Martin Christian Community Center
Walker Career Center/Metropolitan School District of Warren Township
City of Indianapolis Brownfield Redevelopment Program
EmployIndy
PZtech
Citizens Energy Group
John Boner Neighborhood Centers
Southeast Community Services Center for Working Families

Recruitment and screening

RecycleForce relies heavily on social service partners to recruit and test prospective participants for entry into the program. Drug and TABE testing qualifies applicants insuring ability to complete the program. In some cases referrals may enter into employment at RecycleForce but not initially enter the training program. (Again, at this point, RecycleForce is just beginning their first cohort). Those selected for the EWDJT program (similar to a “tryout recruitment process”) will begin classroom training.

Student services, retention, and mentoring

This program is heavily dependent on peer to peer mentoring. Every morning, participants form a circle (youngest to oldest). Elders mentor and guide younger less experienced team members, providing encouragement and support during and outside organized activities. While program participants have case workers and parole officers including court directed mandates, mentors have the greatest influence on retention. RecycleForce also works with Trusted Mentors, 5/3 Bank, a local nonprofit providing citywide mentoring volunteers.

Placement- Placement comes from a variety of resources

- Social service agencies
- Employment with RecycleForce customers and partners
- Direct employment as part of the RecycleForce workforce
- Temp and manpower firms

All applicants who begin the program are guaranteed at least 120 days of employment, working for RecycleForce enterprises. Many will stay longer or move to outside employment opportunities.

Solid Waste- Solid waste occupational opportunities

Recycling, sorting, and classification technician
Hazardous waste handler
Spill and emergency responder
Deconstruction (electronic, mechanical and structural)
Landfill operator
Flagger
Solid Waste Management and Remediation
Urban Agriculture/Composting
Flagger certification
Solid waste remediation Technician
Material handling including forklift operator
Solid waste disposal technician
Lead or asbestos worker

Leveraging

RecycleForce's strong point is its ability to leverage resources, funding, facilities, and in-kind assistance. The organization has received city, state, and national support including a grant from the Department of Labor to study recidivism.

Sustainability

With revenue generated from their recycling business, RecycleForce helps formerly incarcerated individuals rebuild their lives through on-the-job and classroom training, social supports, and job placement. Much like a Community Development Corporation, RecycleForce has the potential for using a for profit enterprise along with governmental and philanthropic assistance to sustain its nonprofits environmental workforce program. As RecycleForce's first year of operation just begins, it will be interesting to see how this unique model works.

Contact Ken

Ken would be happy to discuss his solid waste and recycling program on an individual basis.

Ken Alexander
1255 Roosevelt Ave
Indianapolis, 46202
Phone: 317.532.1367 x105
kalexander@recycleforce.org

<http://recycleforce.org/>

4. FREE ONLINE FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING

In the last PLC notes we presented instruction offered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Most appropriate for EWDJT grantees are free self-directed instructional modules offered to everyone by the FDIC. Here is more about that program.

Money Smart Computer-Based Instruction provides financial education for Adults and Young Adults. The training covers topics such as the basics of borrowing money wisely, using a spending plan to achieve financial goals, and how to use banking products effectively.

Get started and join the more than 3 million people reached through Money Smart!

The Money Smart Computer-Based Instruction (CBI) is an easy-to-use tool to learn more about basic personal financial management. The CBI can complement formal classes by providing learning assignments that users can complete at their own pace.

The CBI features a game-based learning design and separate learning tracks for adults and young adults. The adult learning track features the 11 modules in the instructor-led Money Smart curriculum for adults. The young adult learning track (for those age 13 and older) features the eight modules in the Money Smart for Young Adults curriculum.

Each module can generally be completed within 30 minutes. Successful completion of a module will earn the user a certificate of completion for the module.

[FDIC staff](#) is available to provide technical assistance and to help facilitate partnerships among interested parties.

Access the CBI version of Money Smart go to [Money Smart CBI Online](#).

For additional information, follow the link:

<https://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/mscbi/mscbi.html>

5. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

EPA Grant Writing Training

September 5, 2018

Charleston, WV

On the first day of the West Virginia Brownfields Conference, this session is part of the WV Brownfields Assistance Centers' 2018 Training Series and will provide helpful tricks and tips for writing and packaging your US EPA Brownfield Grant. At this training, presenters from the WV Brownfields Assistance Centers, WV Department of Environmental Protection, NJIT, and the US Environmental Protection Agency will provide background on the brownfield grant application, assessment, and cleanup process, as well as tips on building a compelling story that will lead to a successful redevelopment project. They will also include a demonstration on navigating the sam.gov website, a necessary step in the grant submission process. More information on this training and other conference events here:

<http://wvbrownfields.org/2018-wv-brownfields-conference/session-information/>.

Opportunity Zones

September 5 - 6, 2018

Georgetown University

Opportunity Zones will attract billions of dollars in capital investment from the private sector, boosting brownfield redevelopment in the nation's poorest communities. Opportunity Zones allow private investors who invest in certain communities to receive a substantial tax reduction. Learn more about how your how opportunity zones work and how to maximize the impact in your community at the CDFA's conference at Georgetown University September 5-6. For more information, go to:

<https://www.cdfa.net/cdfa/cdfaweb.nsf/0/4502DADB58AC20DA882582CD005DC9E3>

2018 WV Brownfields Conference

September 5 - 7, 2018

Charleston Civic Center

Charleston, West Virginia

The 2018 WV Brownfields Conference will include sessions covering all aspects of brownfields redevelopment, interactive workshops, two networking receptions, and the 2018 WV Brownfield Awards.

This premier redevelopment event attracts over 250 stakeholders including economic development professionals, environmental professionals, real estate developers, lawyers, state and local officials, EPA and other federal officials, entrepreneurs, planners, bankers, investors, and community redevelopment professionals.

For more information and registration, go to:

<http://wvbrownfields.org/2018-wv-brownfields-conference/session-information/>

National Brownfields Leadership Summit

September 25 - 26, 2018

Washington DC

Don't miss the brownfields redevelopment event of the year: join CCLR and NALGEP (a division of CCLR) at the National Brownfields Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. The Summit will bring together private, public and non-profit leaders from across the redevelopment industry and connect them with key decision makers in the nation's capital. Hear the latest in redevelopment policies, programs, and funding opportunities and interact directly with leading federal agency personnel. Whatever your role as a redevelopment practitioner is, the Summit is the must-attend brownfields event of 2018.

For information and registration go to: <https://www.cclr.org/dc-leadership-summit-092018>.

2018 Southeast Brownfield Conference

September 26 - 28, 2018

Birmingham, AL

You're invited to the 3rd Annual [Southeast Brownfield Conference](#), taking place in Birmingham, AL from Wednesday, September 26, 2018 to Friday, September 28, 2018.

The Conference is a forum for developers, real estate professionals, environmental professionals, state environmental agencies, tribes, local governments, non-profit organizations, and community members interested in brownfield redevelopment. More than 200 attendees are anticipated from all Southeastern states, providing great opportunities for you to network with old friends and new prospects. The conference is organized by the Alabama Brownfields Association (ALBFA), the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Alabama is proud to be hosting this regional conference this year and to continue to build upon last year's successful state conference.

To view the agenda and lodging information, and to register, go to:

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1130022048030&ca=839d6215-c495-4329-ba36-2e7e120a57f2>.

Florida Brownfields Association (FBA)

September 30 - October 3, 2018

Daytona Beach, Florida

The Annual Florida Brownfields Conference hosted and organized by the Florida Brownfields Association (FBA) and its members will be held September 30 – October 3, 2018, at the Hilton Oceanfront Resort in Daytona Beach, Florida. This year FBA is taking attendees behind the scenes at Daytona International Speedway and One Daytona! On Monday, October 1, the FBA will visit the speedway with a private tour and presentation by Daytona International Speedway leadership on the nearly \$1 billion in planned redevelopment projects. [Register Here](#)

The latest in redevelopment policies, programs, and funding opportunities and interact directly with leading federal agency personnel. Whatever your role as a redevelopment practitioner is, the Summit is the must-attend brownfields event of 2018.

For information and registration go to: <https://www.cclr.org/dc-leadership-summit-092018>

PA Brownfields Conference

October 1 - 3, 2018

Lehigh Valley, PA

The 2018 Conference is set for October 1-3, 2018 at the [Sands Bethlehem](#) in the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania.

Plan to join us to learn about opportunities for transforming communities throughout the commonwealth. Conference attendees will experience the Lehigh Valley's success in creating a vibrant destination where people want to live, work, play and visit.

The Conference is planned in collaboration between the [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection](#) (DEP) and the [Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania](#) (ESWP).

More Information, go to <https://eswp.com/brownfields/overview/>.

6. CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES AND SIGN-UP FOR NEWSLETTERS

RecycleForce

For more information regarding today's PLC guest, go to the RecycleForce website. Please read the student blogs for a participant perspective.

<http://recycleforce.org/>

Coalfield Development

Coalfield Development is in their third year of the EWDJT grant. Like RecycleForce, they have done an excellent job of partnering and supporting nonprofit community service with enterprise development for sustainability. Check out the following site for a closer look at Coalfield Development.

<http://coalfield-development.org/>

<https://twitter.com/CoalfieldTweets>

<https://twitter.com/CoalfieldTweets>

Subscribe to the Brownfields Listserv

Are you interested in receiving updates from the Brownfields Program? By adding your name to the Brownfields listserv, you will receive periodic announcements and press releases related to the Brownfields Program.

To subscribe to the Brownfields listserv send a blank email message to:

brownfields-subscribe@lists.epa.gov

The E-News brief of the National Clearinghouse

The E-News brief of the National Clearinghouse is a free weekly newsletter focusing on new developments in the world of worker health and safety. Each issue provides summaries of the latest worker health and safety news from newspapers, magazines, journals, government reports, and the Web, along with links to the original documents. Also featured each week are updates from government agencies that handle hazmat and worker safety issues such as DOE, EPA, OSHA and others.

The Clearinghouse News brief provides articles and resources relating to the worker health and safety community. While NIEHS is not a regulatory body, we seek to provide information of relevance to the training community.

[Subscribing](#) to the National Clearinghouse News brief is the best way to stay on top of the worker health and safety news.

Updated Version of the Minimum Health and Safety Training Criteria

The development of the Minimum Health and Safety Training Criteria: Guidance for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and HAZWOPER-Supporting Training was based on a series of national technical workshops sponsored by NIEHS WTP to serve as the quality control basis for the training grants awarded by the WTP. Following WTP's fourth workshop held on October 2017, the updated final guidance document was prepared and issued based on comments received.

[Minimum Health and Safety Training Criteria](#) 

Back issues of the News brief are available on the [archives page](#).

[National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training](#)

7. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

US EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

Environmental justice (EJ) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program provides financial assistance to eligible nonprofit organizations and tribal governments to build collaborative partnerships, identify local environmental and public health issues, envision solutions, and empower the community through education, training, and outreach. Environmental Justice Small Grants fund projects up to \$30,000.

For more information, go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>

The 2018 Department of Transportation BUILD Discretionary Grants

The other BUILD ACT – not to be confused with The 2018 BUILD Act & EPA Brownfields Program

The 2018 Department of Transportation BUILD Discretionary Grants NOFO are currently available. The DOT's BUILD Discretionary Grant (not to be confused with the BUILD Act) replaces the previous DOT TIGER program.

BUILD Discretionary grant information located at <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants>.
 Link to original NOFO (.pdf): https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/policy-initiatives/build/114796/fed-reg-build-nofo-2018_0.pdf.

Link to DOT Build webinar outreach slides, which highlights Environmental Protection criteria on Slide 13: <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/subdoc/236/final-how-compete-build-52418.pdf>.

This \$1.5B program is for communities seeking infrastructure funds to assist in community revitalization.

8. EPA REGIONAL JOB TRAINING COORDINATORS

EPA Region 1 Danny Rodriguez	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	Phone: (617) 918-1060 E-mail: rodriguez.danny@epa.gov
EPA Region 2 Schenine Mitchell	NJ, NY, PR, VI	Phone: (212) 637-3283 E-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov
EPA Region 3 Jeff Barnett	DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV	Phone: (215) 814-3246 E-mail: barnett.jeff@epa.gov
EPA Region 4 Bushra Jawaid	AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN	Phone: (404) 562-8569 E-mail: jawaid.bushra@epa.gov
EPA Region 5 Linda Morgan	IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI	Phone: (312) 886-4747 E-mail: morgan.linda@epa.gov
EPA Region 5 Craig Mankowski		Phone: (312) 886-9493 E-mail: mankowski.craig@epa.gov
EPA Region 6 Rita Ware	AR, LA, NM, OK, TX	Phone: (214) 665-6409 E-mail: ware.rita@epa.gov
EPA Region 7 Alma Moreno Lahm	IA, KS, MO, NE	Phone: (913) 551-7380 E-mail: moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov
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EPA Region 9 Nova Blazej	AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU	Phone: (415) 972-3846 E-mail: blazej.nova@epa.gov
EPA Region 9 Noemi Emeric-Ford		Phone: (213) 244-1821 E-mail: emeric-ford.noemi@epa.gov
EPA Region 10 Deborah Burgess	AK, ID, OR, WA	Phone: (206) 553-2580 E-mail: burgess.deborah@epa.gov

9. TUNE INTO THE NEXT PLC CALL – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

Cycle 19 – 2018 Environmental workforce PLC schedule

9/12/2018 Session 197

10/24/2018 Session 200

9/26/2018 Session 198

11/07/2018 Session 201

10/10/2018 Session 199

11/21/2018 Session 202

Join our 30 minute discussion with EPA EWDJT grantees, alumni and new interested stakeholders. PLCs give grantees a chance to highlight their programs and an opportunity for others to learn from their experience.

Email questions or to be placed on the PLC register send contact information to hkballou@eicc.edu.

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Heather Ballou at hkballou@eicc.edu.

Visit our [HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox](#) website for more information on Brownfields Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training programs. All [PLC session notes and recordings](#) are also located on the website. For those interested in providing content or suggestions, please contact Heather Ballou at hkballou@eicc.edu.

NOTE: The PLC brings together ideas and opinions of individuals interested in environmental workforce development and job training. Ideas and opinions are not those of EPA or its policy and should not be taken as official guidance.



