

July 30, 2014

Notes from Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 11, Session 3

Topics: Current Happenings / Updates from Washington as of July 30, 2014

St. Nick's Alliance, Brooklyn, NY—Keeping your program sustainable—Carolann Johns & Ron Lee
Networking News

Tips for prospective EPA EWDJT grantees and those planning to resubmit proposals

Current Happenings / Updates from Washington as of July 30, 2014

For those newcomers to the Environmental Workforce Development Professional Learning Community (PLC)—The Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI), in cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA, provides assistance to communities in three basic areas:

1. Working with communities to establish new Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) programs.
2. Working with operating programs to deliver effective, sustainable community job development and training.
3. Promoting awareness and outreach to prospective employers, encouraging partnerships that result in the placement of program graduates.

This PLC is part of that broader program to accomplish the goals of our cooperative agreement with EPA.

In cooperation with EPA, HMTRI is planning the *2014 Annual Environmental Job Training All-Grantee Meeting* to be held this fall (most likely mid-October). Active PLC members along with current and past EPA EWDJT grantees will be invited to this two-day workshop. We will provide updates as they occur.

On July 22, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed by the President. The comprehensive legislation originally introduced by the House as HR 803 in 2013 has been amended and now, with bipartisan support, is law. WIOA replaces the old Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and is expected to strengthen the nation's fragmented workforce development system. This legislation will likely have a large impact on state Workforce Investment Boards, One Stops, and many of the Department of Labor workforce development and assistance programs. While it is early to see how this legislation and future appropriations will impact EWDJT grantees, we will communicate future developments.

St. Nick's Alliance, Brooklyn, NY—Keeping your program sustainable—Carolann Johns & Ron Lee

During this session, we discussed program sustainability and continued our discussion on the difficulties of placing program graduates in organized labor positions.

Many thanks to Carolann Johns and Ron Lee from St. Nick's Alliance for their presentation on keeping their program alive when EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training support ended.

Community Background

This Brooklyn community has become home to over 113 major pollution sources with 13 toxic waste emitters, over 390 hazardous waste sites, and two highly polluted waterways. Like Hunter's Baypoint Family, St. Nick's chose to organize. Formerly known as the St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation

Corp., St Nick's started in 1975 to preserve and improve their threatened urban area of more than 9,000 low- to moderate-income residents.

St. Nick's provides services in five main areas:

1. Affordable housing,
2. Health care,
3. Workforce development,
4. Economic development, and
5. Youth and education.

Ron and Carolann's program is all about workforce development.

St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation was first funded by EPA in 2002. By 2006, 135 graduates were finding local jobs paying \$13–\$32 per hour in environmental occupations. Since 2002, St. Nick's has been awarded five EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grants, and has received national recognition for their efforts. During the post 9/11 World Trade Center cleanup, St. Nick's, in collaboration with Clean Harbors, played a significant role in recruiting and training workers.

Despite their excellent track record, St. Nick's EWDJT program was not able to secure EPA funds in 2012. While part of a large community organization, it was necessary for the program to find resources to support itself as an independent division.

This raises a major issue associated with many EPA EWDJT programs. When EPA support ends, does the EWDJT program also end? What did St. Nick's do? What sustainability issues should grantees consider when applying for an EPA EWDJT grant?

1. EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training funds have been designed as start-up funding. This means that there is no guarantee that an EWDJT program (even a successful one) will be refunded at the end of their existing grant.
2. It makes sense that successful programs should be continued. Unfortunately, limited funds do not allow for refunding some of the best programs. Historically, about half of available grant money has refunded exemplary existing programs (about 6–9 grants each year). Remaining funds go to communities interested in starting new programs. (This is just an observation and not EPA policy.) That leaves about 6–9 existing grants without EPA assistance to continue their EWDJT program.
3. Sustaining support can come from a variety of sources:
 - a. Internal support (in the case of larger institutions such as community colleges, universities, and nonprofits such as Youth Build, Salvation Army, Goodwill, Strive, or Conservation Corps).
 - b. State funding (EWDJT programs written into the state budgets or supported by state agencies).
 - c. Foundation and private sector support (similar to "year-up" program in finance or Strive).
 - d. Contract support providing environmental training for a fee.
 - e. Grant support provided by other workforce development, research, or social service agencies.
 - f. All of the above works best.

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<https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=1257538&hotelID=2019>

Schedule of Events:

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

3:00–6:00 p.m., Early Onsite Registration/Attendee Check-In/Exhibitor Set-up

7:00–9:00 p.m., Attendee Networking/Social Event

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

8:00 a.m.–5:45 p.m. Southeastern Brownfields Conference Onsite Registration and Check-In

8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast – Exhibit Hall

8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. FBA Board Meeting and Announcement of Election of Officers

8:30 a.m. –9:00 a.m. Opening Session – Welcome Remarks

9:00 a.m. –10:00 a.m. First Series of Sessions

10:00 a.m. –10:30 a.m. Morning Break—Exhibit Hall

10:30 a.m. –11:30 a.m. Second Series of Sessions

11:30 a.m. –1:00 p.m. Lunch—Awards Presentation/Keynote Speaker

1:00 p.m. –2:00 p.m. Third Series of Sessions

2:00 p.m. –3:00 p.m. Fourth Series of Sessions

3:00 p.m. –3:30 p.m. Afternoon Break—Exhibit Hall

3:30 p.m. –4:30 p.m. Fifth Series of Sessions

4:30 p.m. –5:15 p.m. Meet the Regulators

5:15 p.m. –6:00 p.m. Exhibitors Reception—Exhibit Hall

6:00 p.m. –8:00 p.m. Dine Around Networking/Social Event—Pointe Orlando

8:00 p.m. –11:00 p.m. Game Night Social Event—Back Stage Lounge

Thursday, October 30, 2014

8:00 a.m. –9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast—Exhibit Hall

9:00 a.m. –10:00 a.m. Sixth Series of Sessions

10:00 a.m. –10:30 a.m. Morning Break—Exhibit Hall

10:30 a.m. –11:30 a.m. Seventh Series of Sessions

11:30 a.m. –1:00 p.m. Lunch—Keynote Speaker

1:00 p.m. –2:00 p.m. Eighth Series of Sessions

2:00 p.m. –3:00 p.m. Ninth Series of Sessions

3:00 p.m. –3:30 p.m. Afternoon Break—Exhibit Hall

3:30 p.m. –4:30 p.m. Tenth Series of Sessions

4:30 p.m. –5:15 p.m. Meet the Regulators

5:15 p.m. –7:30 p.m. Closing Reception—Exhibit Hall/Ballroom

Friday, October 31, 2014

8:00 a.m. –9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast—Exhibit Hall

9:00 a.m. –10:00 a.m. Eleventh Series of Sessions

10:00 a.m. –10:30 a.m. Morning Break—Exhibit Hall

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Twelfth Series of Sessions

11:30 a.m. Conference Adjourns

Good Jobs, Green Jobs 2015

The Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference will begin on April 13, 2015, at the Washington Hilton Hotel. Registration will open soon, but for now, make sure you're free to join hundreds of labor, environmental, business, non-profit, and civic leaders for Good Jobs, Green Jobs 2015.

9th Annual Georgia Environmental Conference

The Georgia Brownfield Association
August 20-22, 2014

Location: Jekyll Island Convention Center
Jekyll Island, GA

Cost: \$350 Early Bird / \$425 Regular

The Georgia Brownfield Association is a premium sponsor of the 9th Annual Georgia Environmental Conference and is hosting the conference's Breakfast Keynote Panel, *Driving Economic Growth & Stewarding Environmental Resources*, on Thursday, August 21, 2014.

The conference is the state's largest and most comprehensive educational opportunity and will be attended by an estimated 600+ state, local, and federal government officials, business and industry leaders, attorneys, consultants, engineers, developers, land owners, architects, agribusiness leaders, energy experts, water planning districts, universities, public health officials, solid waste and recycling experts, and many others with a strong interest in Georgia's and the Southeast region's environmental programs.

Over the three-day period, this conference will host an elite group of environmental professionals seeking to exchange knowledge and share ideas around environmental concerns in Georgia and the Southeast region. The curriculum, designed and developed by the 56-member steering committee, offers over 50 unique courses, allowing attendees to design their own personalized curriculum by selecting nine educational courses while receiving approved continuing education credits. With the combined efforts of the state's leading environmental organizations, the Georgia Environmental Conference is a valued educational experience focused on Sustaining the Future for the People of Georgia™.

To learn more, please visit the Georgia Environmental Conference Website.

Tips for prospective EPA EWDJT grantees and those planning to resubmit proposals

The 18 2014 EWDJT grantees are a nice mix of governmental organizations and nonprofits. Slightly over 20 percent are governmental organizations, and almost 80 percent are nonprofit organizations. Of those selected, about half were previous grantees and half were new grantees.

1. Begin preparing for the next Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) competition expected later this year.
2. IMPORTANT—Contact your EPA Regional Coordinator for a review of your 2014 proposal, and if you are thinking of submitting a proposal for FY 2015.
3. Unfunded proposals from previous years, with improvements, were successful this year. Don't give up—rather improve.
4. Fourteen of the eighteen grantees selected in FY 2014 were PLC participants.

It is also important to note that some of the awardees are former grantees without EPA support. These “alumni grantees” submitted successful proposals and are now able to expand their programs with EPA assistance.

The best proposals are not developed in a few months, but require long-term planning and coordination with partners and community stakeholders. Start NOW for the next cycle.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: August 13, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. EDT

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. All PLC session notes and recordings are also located on the *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://brownfields-toolbox.org/plc-corner/>.

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