

October 24, 2018



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 19, Session 8.

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. Governmental and other public workforce entities
 4. YouTube for program awareness
 5. FYI-YouTube educational videos
 6. Conferences
 7. Upcoming webinars
 8. Professional development opportunities
 9. Active EWDJT programs
 10. Funding opportunities
 11. Placement opportunities
 12. EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators
 13. Tune into the next PLC call – Wednesday, November 7, 2018

1. NEWS FROM WASHINGTON AND HMTRI

EPA Happenings:

No current news in Washington regarding environmental workforce issues.

HMTRI News:

Reminder to those attending this year's Annual All-Grantee Meeting. PowerPoint presentations and photos taken at the conference are posted on brownfields-toolbox.org. On the right side, go to the [2018 Grantee Resource Downloads Page](#). Here you will have access to the following downloads.

- [2018 Grantee Meeting Files & Resources](#) (including participant contact information)
- [Pictures from the Meeting](#)
- [PowerPoints](#)

Also on this page are downloads and presentations from previous Annual All-Grantee Meetings.

2. QUESTIONS FROM PLC MEMBERS

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

How and when can I sign up for the National Partnership for Environmental Education (PETE) professional development training? I am particularly interested in Disaster Site Response for Trainers Institute January 7 – 11, 2019. (See section 8 of these notes).

[PETE](#) has recently revamped its websites and also announced that application for the January Disaster Site Response for Trainers Institute is open. Registration is available online at <https://nationalpete.org/events/>.

NOTE: Space is limited and the application deadline is November 6th. Registration for other professional development events have not been announced.

Do we have a better chance submitting as a governmental agency, community development corporation, school, or nonprofit?

The type of applicant that submits a proposal for EWDJT assistance is not a factor in program evaluation. The quality of the proposal, answers to requested information and available funds determine who will receive assistance. Each entity or organizational structure has benefits and drawbacks. Today we discussed advantages and issues related to governmental agencies, community development corporations and postsecondary organizations as EWDJT grantees.

3. GOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER PUBLIC WORKFORCE ENTITIES

In accordance with EPA's guidelines, the following entities are eligible to apply for Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants:

- General Purpose Units of Local Government
- Land Clearance Authorities or other quasi-governmental entities that operate under the supervision and control of, or as an agent of, a general purpose unit of local government
- Government entities created by State Legislature
- Regional Councils or groups of General Purpose Units of Local Government
- Redevelopment Agencies that are chartered or otherwise sanctioned by a State
- States
- Indian Tribes (other than in Alaska)
- Nonprofit organizations

Simply put, all level of governmental organizations including Tribes and government sanctioned organizations are eligible to compete along with nonprofits for EWDJT funding. Today we discussed the advantages that public organizations have in leveraging resources and promoting program sustainability. This continues our review of environmental workforce training programs that emphasize leveraging and program sustainability. Combined, states, cities, workforce investment boards, community development corporations, universities, and community colleges represent about half of the active EWDJT programs. The next PLC will look at nonprofits which compose the majority of EWDJT grantees.

Governmental organizations as EWDJT grantees

As stated in EPA guidelines, governmental organizations including states, counties, cities, and tribes are eligible to apply for EPA funding. Eligibility extends to units or sub-organizations of those entities such as environmental quality, health and human services, and economic development offices. In general, entities that operate under the control of a governmental unit can apply for EWDJT assistance. Programs may be administered out of the Mayor's Office, County Administrator, or Tribal Council. In most cases, governmental offices become the principal grantee acting as broker and coordinator for the federal grant. Partner organizations are selected to implement the program under supervision and guidance. This type of organizational structure has distinct advantages for sustainability and resource leveraging. It also presents issues that can influence program operation and flexibility.

Here are examples of advantages associated with city governments acting as principal entities for EWDJT grants:

- Cities have deep pockets and the ability to bring additional resources and funding to new projects.
- Governmental organizations have open access to other governmental leveraging resources.
- Experienced administrative, accounting, and audit services are provided.
- City organizations work closely with vendors who may also become potential employers.
- Most governmental organizations have experience with federal grant administration.
- Governmental organizations can sustain programs independently from federal assistance.

If we were to brain storm issues that may be associated with governmental agencies acting as the primary grantee, they might include the following:

- Governmental organizations can become bloated and difficult to manage.
- Government wide administrative restrictions could delay or impede EWDJT operation.
- Contracting policies may become cumbersome requiring multiple levels of review including city council or county administrative approval.
- As with all governmental organizations, programs may be subject to political issues and priorities.
- City or county community development plans may impede selection of target communities.
- Governmental policies may place restrictions on applicant screening and selection.

Currently, six cities, two counties, and a tribe are represented among recent EWDJT grantees. They include the following organizations:

- City of Rochester, NY
- City of Pittsburg, CA
- City of Richmond, CA
- City of Springfield, MO
- City of Glen Falls, NY
- City of Tacoma, WA
- King County, WA
- Nye County, NV
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

Workforce Investment Boards

Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) are regional entities created to implement the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Every community in the US has a Local WIB. Elected officials appoint its members. When President Barack Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) into law on July 22, 2014, WIOA replaced the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 retaining WIBs and expanding Workforce Investment Board responsibilities. Recently, local labor boards have been required to become creative in maximizing available funds in order to provide the best quality of service to unemployed residents of their community. For many progressive communities, that means seeking resources and partnering with organizations outside the Department of Labor.

Partnering with the EPA Environmental Workforce and Job Development Program provides Workforce Investment Board (WIB) organizations supplemental resources to reach additional unemployed residents. Several of our best EPA environmental training programs partner with the local WIB or use the WIB as primary grantee. It also brings leveraging and sustainability opportunities to the environmental workforce training program. [During the last PLC call](#), Susan Almono from the Merrimack Valley Workforce

Investment Board (MVWIB) discussed their program and the advantages of WIBS as environmental workforce development and job training grantees. (Post session notes are located at the following site). Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board provides a model demonstrating how community organizations can partner with governmental organizations to secure federal assistance. The partnership dramatically increases leveraging opportunities and provides sustainability. Merrimack Valley WIB acts as the fiscal agent and prime grantee. Training and additional services are provided by numerous leveraged partners.

The WIB provides fiscal, legal, and an institutional experience required to successfully implement the grant. Local community organizations partner to do what they do best, respond to community needs, be it training recruitment, placement, life skills, or community awareness. While providing oversight and supervision, WIBs partner with local community organizations and colleges to provide training and services. Depending on resources and services offered, WIBs can provide opportunities to leverage many of the services not supported by EPA. Services vary by state and WIB within each state. It is important to check with the local WIB to find activities they and their partners are undertaking.

Examples of services that WIBs can bring to EWDJT include the following:

- Applicant recruitment and referral
- Screening and assessment services
- Student supplies and support for those who qualify
- Child care
- Transportation resources
- Case management
- Remedial and supplemental life skills training
- Access to accounting and administrative services
- Connections to local employers
- Shared facilities
- Knowledge of local leveraging partners

If we were to identify issues that could be associated with workforce investment boards as a primary grantee, they might include the following:

- As a quasi-governmental entity, layers of administration may inhibit creativity and flexibility.
- Priorities of the WIB may conflict with priorities of the EWDJT program.
- Outside contracts and partnerships may need additional review and approvals.
- WIB policies may conflict with student recruitment, screening and placement.
- WIB service areas may conflict with EWDJT target communities.

Currently four Workforce Investment Boards are represented among recent EWDJT grantees. They include the following programs:

- Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board
- Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board
- Essex County Division of Training and Employment
- Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board

Community Development Corporations (CDCs)

Community Development Corporations are nonprofits created to support and revitalize communities, especially those that are impoverished or struggling. CDCs often deal with the development of affordable

housing. They can also be involved in a wide range of community services that meet local needs such as education, job training, healthcare, commercial development, and other social programs. While CDCs may work closely with a representative from the local government, they are not a government entity. As non-profits, CDCs are tax-exempt and often receive funding from private and public sources. It is estimated that there were around 4,600 CDCs nationally. CDCs run the gamut from large, well-established organizations like New Community Corporation in Newark, NJ (which owns and manages 2,000 units of housing and employs more than 500 people) to community groups that meet in church basements and community centers. This week Lauren from CLIMB Community Development Corporation discussed their experience with environmental job development and the EWDJT program.

CLIMB Community Development Corporation

CLIMB CDC (<http://www.climbcdc.org>) is a Mississippi non-profit community development agency that provides workforce training, housing and financial counseling, housing development, and disaster recovery services in the Gulf South Region. With its origins providing relief after hurricane Katrina, CLIMB CDC has incorporated environmental training as part of its overall mission.

Alliances with AmeriCorps, Youth Build, the EPA, The Nature Conservancy, and The Corps Network have enabled CLIMB CDC to generate over \$145 million in community and economic benefits. Through strategic partnerships with both local and regional organizations and donors, CLIMB CDC builds sustainable, community-based programs for low- and moderate-income residents. CLIMB CDC's Workforce Training Institute (WTI) enables low income individuals to receive on-the-job training, job placement, life skills, and access to college. Since inception, WTI has empowered more than 450 individuals to earn a livable wage on a career path leading to economic and personal self-sufficiency.

As with other CDCs, CLIMB is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is governed by a board of local community and business leaders. EPA selected CLIMB Community Development to train 40 students and place at least 30 graduates in environmental jobs. CLIMB is targeting unemployed and underemployed residents of the City of Gulfport and Harrison County, Mississippi, with a particular emphasis on disadvantaged youth and veterans.

The EWDJT grant provides up to 200 hours of training in 40-hour HAZWOPER, invasive species management, and National Incident Management System emergency response. Five state or federal certifications are offered as part of the environmental curriculum.

CLIMB leverages EPA funds with a U.S. Department of Labor grant to provide instruction in OSHA safety (40 hours), National Center for Construction Education and Research construction (300 hours), and job skills readiness and employability skills training (400 hours).

Key partners include the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District, The Nature Conservancy, Pascagoula River Audubon Center, the Mississippi Departments of Environmental Quality and Health, the City of Gulfport, Harrison County WIN Job Center, and several environmental and community-based organizations.

Somewhere between governmental organizations and traditional nonprofits, CDCs have several advantages as EWDJT grantees.

- CDCs have a smaller organizational structure and less restrictive environment than government entities.
- Procurement can be less cumbersome when compared to governmental entities.

- Applicants may be accepted that would otherwise be rejected as a result of governmental policy.
- CDCs are embedded in communities and known to community residents.
- As community organizations, CDCs are familiar with target populations.
- As part of a larger organization administrative services are in place.
- Facility leveraging is available.
- CDCs have experience administering a wide range of grants and donations.
- Staff leveraging is less restrictive and available as part of other CDC programs.

In contrast to governmental organizations, Community Development Corporations may be disadvantaged in the following areas:

- Smaller CDCs may not have resources enjoyed by larger governmental organizations.
- Connections with numerous governmental agencies and services may not be as strong.
- CDCs require multiple grants, donations and fund raising activities to remain sustainable.
- Smaller CDCs may not have resources to provide leveraged services.

Currently, four Community Development Corporations are represented among recent EWDJT grantees. They include the following programs:

- Coalfield Development Corporation
- Redevelopment Authority of Cumberland County
- Fresno Area Workforce Investment Corporation
- CLIMB Community Development Corporation

Postsecondary EWDJT programs

Today we included universities and community colleges in our discussion of governmental organizations. While they may be sanctioned by governmental agencies as are many CDCs, they are not part of state, county, or local government. Postsecondary institutions come in a variety of sizes and complexity. Large state universities are complex organizations with many levels of administration. Smaller community colleges address education and training needs of the communities they serve. History has shown that medium sized colleges (between large universities and local community colleges) tend to be the best match as EWDJT grantees. They are flexible, innovative and large enough to provide a variety of educational opportunities. Florida State College at Jacksonville is a good example of such an institution. Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) received their first EPA cooperative agreement under the ARRA Stimulus program in 2009. They have successfully competed in 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017. FSCJ combines an excellent record of student retention and graduate placement with continuing program improvement. The 16 week EWDJT program provides students with 21 instructional modules and certifications utilizing Amazon Fire Tablets for less than the cost of printed instructional materials. Graduates retain their tablets for future training, job placement opportunities, program announcements, tracking, and general communications.

Reviewing the Florida State College at Jacksonville program, demonstrates why postsecondary educational institutions work well with the EWDJT program:

- Veterans are able to receive benefits from local Veterans organizations including the City of Jacksonville Division of Military Affairs and Veteran's Disabled Services.
- The Florida State College Jacksonville Foundation provides incentive awards to outstanding EWDJT program graduates.
- FSCJ Student Services offers full support to EWDJT program participants.

- In addition to college services, the FSCJ works with the WIB leveraging benefits available to qualifying EWDJT participants.
- An articulation agreement with FSCJ provides college credit in their environmental AA program.
- Motivational and life skills discussions are inserted into the curriculum.
- This approach breaks up technical discussions and provides a foundation for retention and placement.
- Tablets facilitate enhanced communications and interaction among program participants.
- The Florida State College at Jacksonville training center is located in the urban core of Jacksonville, FL. (near the central bus station for local public transportation)

Contrasting with governmental organizations, WIBs and CDCs, postsecondary grantees have several advantages as EWDJT grantees:

- Colleges can leverage existing staff.
- The EWDJT program can use college administrative infrastructure.
- Campus recruitment and placement services can be leveraged.
- College marketing services are available enhancing community awareness.
- College facilities and equipment can be leveraged.
- Location can be critical when colleges are near target communities.
- The EWDJT program provides a college commitment to community residents.
- Students are able to leverage existing student services.
- Curriculum development and in-kind resources are available on campus.

In contrast to other EWDJT grantees, postsecondary programs may be disadvantaged in the following areas:

- Organizational divides between credit and noncredit education programs can inhibit training.
- Restrictions may impede applicant recruitment and screening due to college admission policies.
- Budgeting and purchasing policies may become restrictive at larger colleges.
- Larger institutions may be reluctant to work in target communities.
- Program staff may have difficulty finding and recruiting leveraging partners.

Seven colleges are represented among recent EWDJT grantees. They include the following programs:

- Lawson State Community College
- Rose State College
- Salish Kootenai College
- Santa Fe CC
- St. Louis CC
- Tarrant County College District
- Florida State College at Jacksonville

Those interested in learning more about governmental EWDJT programs are welcome to contact any of the EWDJT grantees discussed today. Contact information is available from a list of 2018 All Grantee Meeting participants at brownfields-toolbox.org.

4. YOUTUBE FOR PROGRAM AWARENESS

YouTube can provide a cost effective way to deliver the following information:

- Event announcement

- Program information
- Recruitment, community awareness, and marketing
- Participant communications
- Employer engagement
- Curriculum delivery

Thanks to grantee contributors, here are example YouTube sites that may be of interest.

[Rochester Environmental Job \(REJob\) Training Program](#)

Rochester's Environmental Job (REJob) Training Program helps unemployed and underemployed residents get the training they need to earn the required certification to work in the asbestos abatement, hazardous waste remediation, and environmental cleanup fields. The program also places successful students in full-time employment. The program is free of charge and is funded by an Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant from the E.P.A. For 8 weeks, participants earn training certifications needed for jobs in asbestos, mold and lead abatement, hazardous waste site cleanup and general construction.

[City of Rochester, NY .Mayor's Office](#)

[OAI, Inc](#)

Student Testimonials from the OAI, Inc. USEPA ARRA Kansas City Brownfields 2012 Job Training Partnership describing their experiences in the environment training program.

[St. Louis Community College](#)

Environmental Remediation Technician: EPA Brownfields Job Training Program at STLCC
74% of the individuals that have completed the Environmental Remediation Technician six-week, 240 hour accelerated job training program have found employment utilizing the training received. The program, funded by the Brownsfields Job Training program and in partnership with St Louis University-Center for Environmental Education and Training, is designed to help unemployed and underemployed individuals living near brownfield impacted areas pursue entry level employment in environmental remediation and maintain a living wage. The program includes instruction in lead and asbestos remediation, hazardous materials handling, and worker safety, as well as firsthand views of St. Louis area remediation sites.

[General EWDJT YouTube videos](#)

[Other YouTube Environmental remediation and safety videos](#)

5. FYI – YOUTUBE EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS

YouTube is investing \$20 million into getting more educational videos ranging from cooking tutorials to science explainers on its platform. This investment into educational content, which was announced on Monday as part of the YouTube Learning initiative introduced in July 2017, earmarks \$20 million to fund the videos and expands support for these kinds of video creators. It also introduces more ways for brands to find appropriate YouTube videos.

"What we're really interested in is spotlighting and supporting very trustworthy and credible content," Malik Ducard, YouTube's global head of learning, said. Initial grant recipients include TedEd, the educational arm of Ted Conferences, and Vox, as well as YouTube creators Crash Course and Socratica.

"I used to teach a classroom of kids, 30 kids at a time" said Kimberly Harrison, head writer and producer of Socratica. "Now I teach hundreds of thousands at a time. It's amazing."

YouTube will also introduce a new channel called Learning, which will become a hub to find tutorials, DIY videos, explainers and skill-based content. Other organizations will provide additional videos, including job skills clips from Goodwill. The videos will be selected using automated and human-selected techniques.

Marketers will be able to advertise on these kinds of videos through a partnership between YouTube and influencer marketing company FameBit, which Google acquired in 2016. The two companies are working together to connect educational video creators with brands for sponsored opportunities.

In addition, YouTube will grow its educational conference YouTube EduCon to India and the U.K, add more online courses for YouTube creators looking to make educational videos, and hosting a NextUp creator camp for educational video creators.

"If you've watched the polarization of the people in this country, [educational videos] kind of bring people together," Destin Sandlin, who created YouTube channel Smarter Every Day and educational video conference ThinkerCon, explained. "It's kind of a media literacy thing as well."

[Michelle Castillo](#) | [@mishcastillo](#)

CNBC.com

6. CONFERENCES

[2018 Florida Remediation Conference](#)

Dec. 5-6, 2018

Orlando, FL

The 2018 Florida Remediation Conference, our 24th annual event, will convene in early December with more than 500 soil and groundwater cleanup industry professionals on hand. The conference is scheduled for Dec. 5-6, 2018, (a new Wednesday/Thursday format) at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando.

Along with our solid technical agenda is the largest exhibit of professional cleanup technologies and services in the Southeast U.S. Over 90 exhibitors will be on-hand to discuss new tools and techniques for your remediation project toolbox.

7. UPCOMING WEBINARS

[New Insights into the Opioid Crisis and Work - Information for Workers and Employers](#)

November 6, 2018

1:00-2:30 pm ET

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Total Worker Health (TWH) Webinar Series is hosting a webinar focused on new research at the important intersection of work and the nation's opioid crisis. This webinar features national experts, Chris Cain, C.I.H., of the Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR), Letitia Davis, Sc.D., of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and Sara Luckhaupt, M.D., of the NIOSH Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations, and Field Studies. The presenters will share their latest insights related to the risks of opioid use, misuse, and overdose in worker populations.

[Center for Creative Land Recycling](#)

Interested in CCLR's webinars? CCLR is an EPA's technical assistance provider for brownfield assessment and cleanup grantees. Center for Creative Land Recycling records and saves all of their webinars.

8. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Community and College Consortium for Health and Safety Training

The Community and College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST), administered by the [Partnership for Environmental Technology Education](#) (PETE) can training components for EPA EWDJT trainers. CCCHST consists of 120 partners offering hazardous materials instruction (HAZWOPER and related Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910.120) in most states of the nation. CCCHST uses a curriculum developed by the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI) through a train-the-trainer model program. CCCHST instructors, prepared by PETE and HMTRI, annually train 10,000 workers, technicians, and supervisors to protect themselves and their communities from exposure to hazardous materials encountered during waste site clean-up, disaster site cleanup, Brownfields redevelopment, transportation of hazardous materials, and in response to spills and releases of hazardous materials. Here is the schedule for upcoming CCCHST professional development opportunities:

The GreatEST Institute

June 3 – 14, 2019

Eastern Iowa Community College District – Rescue Center, Davenport, IA
OSHA Health and Safety Hands-On Instructor Training

Disaster Site Response for Trainers Institute

January 7 – 11, 2019

Indian River State College – Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex – Fort Pierce, FL

PETE Instructor Professional Development Conferences

-*March 27-29, 2019 – Arkansas Environmental Training Academy, Little Rock, AR

- April 23-25, 2019 – Northampton Community College, Bethlehem, PA

- July 16-18, 2019 – South Central College, North Mankato, MN

***PETE & NESHTA Specialty Instructor Training Opportunity**

March 24-26, 2019

NESHTA Designing & Delivering Effective Training Pre-Conference Workshop

ACRES training for EWDJT grantees

[Brownfields Online ACRES Training](#)

EPA offers the following two online training courses to aid Brownfields Cooperative Agreement Recipients in reporting their grant-funded activities using ACRES:

Day	Date	Time	Webinar Link
Tuesday	December 11, 2018	1 p.m. EST	WebEx Session EXIT
Tuesday	March 12, 2019	1 p.m. EST	WebEx Session EXIT

9. ACTIVE EWDJT PROGRAMS

New and Refunded Grantees	Region	State	FY Award
Alaska Forum, Inc.	10	AK	2016, 2018
Auberle	3	PA	2016
Civic Works, Inc.	3	MD	2016, 2018
Cypress Mandela Training Center, Inc.	9	CA	2016
Earth Conservancy	3	PA	2017
Energy Coordinating Agency	3	PA	2016
Essex County Division of Training and Employment	2	NJ	2018
Florida State College at Jacksonville	4	FL	2017
Fortune Society, Inc., The	2	NY	2017
Full Employment Council, Inc.	7	MO	2018
Glens Falls, City of	2	NY	2016
Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps, Inc.	5	WI	2017
Groundwork Rhode Island	1	RI	2018
Hunters Point Family	9	CA	2018
King County	10	WA	2018
Lawson State Community College	4	AL	2016
Limitless Vistas, Inc.	6	LA	2016, 2018
Los Angeles Conservation Corps	9	CA	2016, 2018
Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board	1	MA	2017
Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, Waterbury	1	CT	2016
Nye County	9	NV	2016
OAI, Inc.	5	IL	2017
Oregon Tradeswomen Inc.	10	OR	2017
PathStone Corporation	2	PR	2017
People United for Sustainable Housing, Inc.	2	NY	2017
Pittsburg, City of	9	CA	2016, 2018
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	10	WA	2016
RecycleForce	5	IN	2018
Redevelopment Authority of Cumberland County	3	PA	2016
Richmond, City of (California)	9	CA	2017
Rochester, City of (New York)	2	NY	2016
Salish Kootenai College	8	MT	2017
Santa Fe Community College	6	NM	2017
Springfield, City of (Missouri)	7	MO	2016, 2018
St. Louis Community College	7	MO	2017
St. Nicks Alliance	2	NY	2018
Sustainable South Bronx	2	NY	2018
Tacoma, City of	10	WA	2016, 2018
The Hunters Point Family	9	CA	2016
Training to Work an Industry Niche	4	NC	2018
West End Neighborhood House, Inc.	3	DE	2018
Zender Environmental Health and Research Group	10	AK	2017

[Map of EPA Regions](#)

10. 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 [here](#).

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 replaces the previous DOT TIGER program. BUILD Discretionary grant information is located [here](#), as well as the link to original [NOFO](#). [The DOT Build webinar](#) highlights Environmental Protection criteria on Slide 13.

U.S. Department of Labor announces funding opportunity for apprenticeship expansion in key industry sectors.

U.S. Department of Labor today announced \$150 million in grants to support sector-based approaches to expand apprenticeships on a national scale in key industry sectors. When awarded, the grants will move a step closer to President Trump's vision set forth in [Executive Order on Expanding Apprenticeship in America](#), which calls for increasing the number of apprentices in the U.S. across all industries.

This grant program aims to accelerate the expansion of apprenticeships to new industry sectors, and to increase apprenticeship opportunities for all Americans. Veterans, military spouses, service members re-entering the civilian workforce, and underrepresented groups in apprenticeship, including women, people of color, and ex-offenders will benefit from their investments. As directed by the 2017 Executive Order, the Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion released on May 10, 2018, its [final report to the President](#), which provides detailed recommendations for meeting these goals.

"The expansion of apprenticeships makes the greatest workforce in the world – the American workforce – even stronger," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta. "This funding is an investment in America's workforce, will contribute to competitiveness by helping job creators meet increasing demands for skilled workers, and meets the nation's need for family-sustaining careers." There are more than 6.6 million job openings in the U.S., many of which require advanced skills. The Department will award up to \$150 million in H-1B funds to approximately 15 to 30 apprenticeship programs, with awards ranging from \$1 million to \$12 million. The grant size will depend on the size of the targeted industry sector and the proposed scale of the apprenticeship projects.

Funding will be awarded to projects designed to:

Expand apprenticeships to occupations that have not typically used apprenticeships to bring new entrants into the workforce. By focusing on information technology, advanced manufacturing, banking and finance, and healthcare, we can offer new job seekers opportunities and upskill those already employed in these industries to bolster the sector's competitiveness; increase the level of apprenticeship activity among a range of new employers within these industry sectors, particularly

small and medium-sized businesses; and Promote a sector-based approach to large-scale expansion of apprenticeships that include a paid, work-based learning component and a required educational or instructional component that results in the issuance of an industry-recognized credential and meet appropriate quality assurance standards. For additional information on grant eligibility, and how to apply for funds, visit <https://www.grants.gov>.

11. PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[AmericanSolarWorkforce.org](https://www.americansolarworkforce.org) links solar employers and job seekers

AmericanSolarWorkforce.org, a comprehensive online platform linking solar employers and job seekers to build a strong and diverse solar workforce. This career platform is managed by the Solar Training Network, a program led by The Solar Foundation with a team of partners and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office.

The Solar Training Network developed the platform after its research showed a large majority of solar employers find it difficult to hire qualified candidates. And their 2017 study, [Solar Training and Hiring Insights](#), reported that a majority of solar employers find current job board services insufficient or difficult to use.

[AmericanSolarWorkforce.org](https://www.americansolarworkforce.org) helps fill these gaps by facilitating connections between solar companies, career seekers, training providers, and workforce boards. Using this platform, which is free of charge, employers can post job opportunities and connect with thousands of candidates. Solar career seekers can create attractive profiles, apply for jobs, identify training providers, and make connections with solar companies.

This platform includes original research and useful resources to support solar workforce development. For example, a new toolkit, [Strategies for Solar Workforce Development](#), shows how solar companies can engage with local workforce development resources and build a pipeline of talented employees. The platform also features a “Solar Panel” with advice from workforce experts, and a shared news and events page for users to post updates.

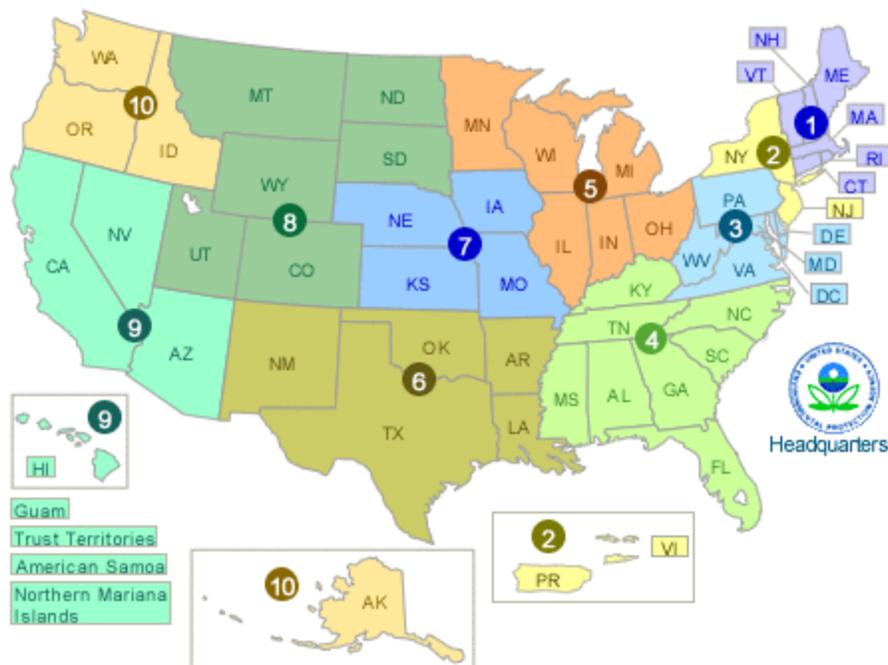
Any employer or job seeker can sign up on the platform now and start building new connections in solar. You can get started by creating a free profile on [AmericanSolarWorkforce.org](https://www.americansolarworkforce.org).

12. 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
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[Map of EPA Regions](#)



13. TUNE INTO THE NEXT PLC CALL – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018

Cycle 19 – 2018 Environmental workforce PLC schedule

11/07/2018 Session 201

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.

