

January 30, 2019



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 20, Session 2.

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. Community assessment – Choosing the best target community
4. Getting past the initial qualifying criteria
5. Environmental Justice – using the EJ screening and mapping tool
6. Training and professional development opportunities
7. Contact active EWDJT grantees
8. Funding announcements
9. Placement opportunities
10. EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators
11. Join us on future Professional Learning Community (PLC) calls

1. NEWS FROM WASHINGTON AND HMTRI

EPA Happenings:

EPA Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) grant proposals have been submitted to [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for review and evaluation. Next up, EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grants.

As discussed in the last PLC call MAC grants are designed to support the assessment and cleanup of Brownfield sites. MAC grantees can be potential partners in supporting the workforce development program and employing EWDJT graduates. As we will discuss later, assessment and cleanup grantees have already compiled significant research regarding target communities and neighborhood demographics. Establishing local contacts, partnerships, and governmental relationships are a few of the community engagement activities prospective and current grantees have already completed. When possible, we suggest prospective EWDJT grantees locate and work with assessment and cleanup programs.

As far as the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grants, specific timelines for the competition are still up in the air. News from Washington is slim right now due to the shutdown. We have heard that there is not likely to be a major impact on funding or scheduling because of the shutdown. Based on conversations before the shutdown, this is what the timetable might look like.

- Request for Proposals issued - February-March, 2019
- Proposals due (60 days) - April-May, 2019
- Proposal evaluations (60-90 days) – June-July, 2019
- Awards and work plans –August-September,2019
- Authorization to spend funds – After October 1, 2019(when the new Federal fiscal year begins)
- 1st year training cohorts – winter 2019 and spring 2020 for summer placements

We will keep PLC participants informed as we learn more.

HMTRI News:

Check out the updated [2018 Certified Employee Finder](#). The purpose of this document is to assist employers in finding workers with the specific credentials needed for employment. Better yet, the employee finder provides a summary of 23 grantee programs, core curriculum, certifications, life skills training and contact information. EWDJT grantees are more than willing to discuss specifics about their program. Many have served as mentors to new communities interested in starting a job-training program.

For questions regarding the scan, additions or revisions, please contact Bruce Diamond at bdiamond@eicc.edu or 563.441.4092.

See section 7 of these notes for a list of current EWDJT grantees. If you are interested in contacting any of the grantees, you can find the [participant list](#) for our last Annual All Grantee Meeting available on the Brownfields Toolbox.

2. QUESTIONS FROM PLC MEMBERS

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

I heard that EWDJT awards have changed. Can you explain what will be the funding level and duration of the grant?

Requests for proposals are expected in February or March with a due date late April or May. EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training cooperative agreements (EWDJT) have a maximum funding level of \$200,000 total to be spent over a three-year period. One change this year is that indirect costs will now be funded. New applicants, as well as, all current and past grantees, are eligible to apply. As in the past, there will not be matching requirements. Another possible change would be grant solicitations issued every two years instead of annually. The number of awards has yet to be determined depending on available funding.

Why is the EWDJT grant called a cooperative agreement?

EWDJT cooperative agreements are, in simple terms, grants where EPA has a role in guiding work plans and program operation. Traditional grants award funds with minimal input over the execution of the grant. Cooperative agreements allow for a more participatory conversation between EPA Project Officers and EWDJT grantee program managers. Grants and cooperative agreements are often used interchangeably but technically EWDJT awards are cooperative agreements.

3. COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT – CHOOSING THE BEST TARGET COMMUNITY

In the past, “community need and description” in evaluation criteria accounted for about 10% of the overall proposal ranking. Clearly, that is an understatement of the importance community assessments. Conducting a well thought out community assessment can make or break an EWDJT proposal. Properly identifying target communities goes a long way in responding to other ranking criteria as part of the proposal review process. Evaluation criteria including community engagement, community partners, leveraging, partnering, community need, and even curriculum all depend on neighborhoods selected to be primary recipients of EWDJT efforts.

The easy part of community assessment is to pull data from the mayor's office, internet, or EJ Screen that provides the demographic information asked for in the RFP. However, partnering with local stakeholders, community groups, community leaders, service providers, and residents is essential and more difficult. Recruiting local stakeholders early provides many benefits during the planning and grant writing process. More important, community stakeholders should actively participate in proposal development. The reason community assessment and stakeholder recruitment needs to begin early is that target community stakeholders are the basis for developing meaningful partnerships, recruitment strategies, curriculum, and placement efforts. We consider the first critical issue in developing a successful EWDJT program is community assessment. As part of that critical issue, we present four best practices for discussion. Best practices are strategies that successful grantees have used to enhance and improve program performance.

Best Practices for community assessment include the following topic areas:

1. **Neighborhood assessment – location, demographics and environmental justice considerations**
2. **Stakeholder assessment and neighborhood partnership development**
3. **Neighborhood support and leveraging opportunities**
4. **Special factors and designations attributed to the target area**

Stakeholders to be included in the neighborhood assessment effort include offices with names like The Office of Economic Development, Health and Environment, Community Development, Brownfields, Health and Human Services, Labor and Workforce Development (WIBs), and even City Council Representative (especially in the target community).

Neighborhood assessment – location, demographics and environmental justice considerations

The first best practice should be considered last when conducting a community assessment, as it is one of the easiest to complete. Data requested in the RFP can be collected from a number of sources. Perhaps the best source of current information would be the mayor's office or County Office of Community Development. Their information is likely the most accurate and has the potential to spin off additional conversations, which we will discuss later.

Another invaluable tool is the EJ Screening and Mapping Tool. While the tool was developed as an environmental justice project, it provides an incredible amount of information on a highly detailed basis. See section five of these notes to learn about the capabilities of the application. This brings up the point of Environmental Justice:

EPA defines environmental justice (EJ) as, "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. EPA's goal is to provide an environment where all people enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making."

The EWDJT program contributes to environmental justice goals and objectives by providing employment opportunities to disadvantaged community residents. Unemployed residents with environmental training and recognized certifications can compete for good paying, secure jobs created by economic redevelopment and remediation. Section eight (funding announcements) of these notes goes deeper into the EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants program. It is important to determine if the target communities under consideration have ever received an Environmental Justice Small Grant (EJSG). If so, EJ projects and initiatives should be integrated into the grant proposal.

Stakeholder assessment and neighborhood partnership development

Prospective grantees should identify community groups, church and religious affiliated organizations, fraternal, community nonprofit organizations, and local Chambers of Commerce willing to help in awareness, recruitment, and placement. These organizations need to participate in the grant development process and when possible written into the grant as partners. A suggested approach to community and stakeholder assessment:

- Begin a search for stakeholders and community assessment in the offices of city government. Start with the mayor's office or Office of Community Development. Other offices may include Neighborhood Development, Community Relations, City Ward, or Borough elected officials.
- Request contact information and introductions to applicable divisions including an introduction to City Council members in proposed target communities.
- When reaching the office familiar with potential target communities, seek contact information and introduction to community groups in target communities.
- In the Offices of Environment and Health, seek contacts and introduction to Brownfield redevelopment and associated cleanup project managers – If possible seek out public hearings to announce plans for the proposed EWDJT program (document participation in any public meeting).
- In proposed target communities, visit religious and civic organizations again seeking contact information for possible stakeholders and partners

Retention and placement are highly dependent on the quality of program participants. The PLC will discuss the all-important recruitment process in future calls. Regarding community assessment and the availability of prospective applicants, the following issues should be considered concerning applicant populations:

- Student demographics of prospective applicants
- Ex-offender, criminal background and gang demographics
- Specific underserved ethnic groups
- The extent that remedial education and life skills education will be necessary
- Student educational disparities- will instructors be successful with large educational disparities in the classroom
- Cultural disparities and age disparities – Can underserved youth work and learn with older mature participants?
- Unemployment and underemployment demographics

Neighborhood support and leveraging opportunities

Training and Student Support Services are often provided by local community colleges and universities, community nonprofits, training consultants, or fire and first responder teams. Workforce Investment Boards and affiliates, Goodwill, Salvation Army, and other training and outreach organizations such as Youth Build, Strive, or Conservation Corps are located in many underserved neighborhoods. The questions that must be answered when choosing a target community include the following:

- Are any of these support organizations located in the proposed target community?
- What types of programs are available as potential leveraging partners?
- Are local governmental offices located in the proposed target community?
- Are governmental services available locally including law enforcement?
- Where are the local K-12 and community colleges?
- Is the community an employer desert?
- Is there transportation in and out of the community?

- Are there local training or community centers?
- Is there an employment office nearby?

As presented, the stakeholder and potential partner list is large and requires a significant effort to identify and organize. However, a systematic assessment approach will provide information and detail to answer most of the ranking criteria questions requested in the RFP. Additionally, this effort represents the necessary legwork necessary to build a firm foundation on which to construct a comprehensive EWDJT program.

Special factors and designations attributed to the target area

All-important and not to be overlooked are special factors that impact community residents such as plant closures, chemical spills, natural disasters, or accidents. Special factors should be considered as part of community assessment in choosing target neighborhoods. Many special factors are easy to identify, as they are public and newsworthy issues. Program staff should not assume that grant reviewers will be informed or even consider special factors unless they are written into the proposal.

Applicants should provide a summary of special factors in the narrative section, if applicable note the corresponding page number in the Other Factors Checklist and attach supporting documentation as needed. Failure to do so may affect EPA's ability to consider special factors during selection decisions.

Although this year's guidelines may change here are some of the special factors considered in the past:

- Fair distribution of funds between urban and non-urban areas, including an equitable distribution of funds to micro communities (those communities with populations of 10,000 or less). EPA strongly encourages non-urban communities, including micro-communities, to apply.
- A balanced distribution of funds among EPA's 10 Regions and among states and territories
- Fair distribution of funds between new applicants and previous job training grant recipients.
- The needs of communities adversely affected by natural disasters including, but not limited to, those affected by recent hurricanes in the United States and Caribbean and recent wildfires in the Western United States
- Whether the applicant is a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory, or is an organization that will primarily serve tribal or territorial residents
- Whether the applicant is located within, or includes, a county experiencing persistent poverty where 20% or more of its population has lived in poverty over the past 30 years.
- Whether the applicant is a member of an Urban Waters Federal Partnership project, including, but not limited to, recipients of EPA Urban Waters Grants and members of the Urban Waters Learning Network
- Whether the applicant's project is located in a city, county, state, or federally designated revitalization zone
- Proposals that seek to serve veterans, ex-offenders, and special populations

Renewal Communities (RCs), Empowerment Zones (EZs), Enterprise Communities (ECs), and Opportunity Zones are highly distressed urban and rural communities that may be eligible for a combination of grants, tax credits for businesses, bonding authority, and other benefits. Most of these programs are incentive based. The latest and largest of these programs established Opportunity Zones. While not directly associated with EPA (usually the IRS, Commerce, or Labor Departments), revitalization programs are important to EWDJT and considered in proposal evaluation.

Opportunity Zones were created by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to encourage long-term investments in low-income urban and rural communities nationwide. They were designed to spur investment in distressed communities throughout the country through tax benefits. The Treasury has certified 8,700 Opportunity Zones nationwide or over twelve percent of U.S. census tracts. Many Opportunity Zones have already attracted businesses and investments. By comparison, Congress has authorized only 40 empowerment zones and 40 renewal communities. The Office of Economic Development is the place to identify communities that are included in one of these revitalization programs. Those communities should also be considered as a potential EWDJT target community.

4. GETTING PAST THE INITIAL QUALIFYING CRITERIA

The first question is “who can apply for an EWDJT grant”. This year’s MAC guidelines list the following entities eligible to apply. EWDJT grants are likely to be the same.

- General Purpose Unit of Local Government
- Land Clearance Authority or another quasi-governmental entity that operates under the supervision and control of, or as an agent of, a general purpose unit of local government
- Government Entity Created by State Legislature
- Regional Council or group of General Purpose Units of Local Government.
- Redevelopment Agency that chartered or otherwise sanctioned by a state
- A State
- Indian tribe other than in Alaska
- Nonprofit organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Limited liability corporation in which all managing members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
- Limited liability partnership in which all general partners are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
- Qualified community development entity

Only those proposals that pass all the threshold or qualifying criteria will be evaluated for funding. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review are notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination. The remaining proposals will go on to be evaluated using Ranking Criteria questions and Special Factor situations.

All proposals must be submitted through the federal grants administration system. In order to submit an application through www.grants.gov, you must have the following in place:

- Have an active DUNS number
- Have an active System for Award Management (SAM) account in www.sam.gov
- Be registered in www.grants.gov
- Have a designated and authorized contact person

The registration process for all the above items may take a month or more to complete. The electronic submission of your application must be made by the authorized contact registered with www.grants.gov and authorized to sign applications for federal assistance. Tutorials and guidance for the entire process is readily available at www.grants.gov. If it is not likely that your organization can meet these requirements, consider partnering with an established organization with federal grant experience.

Remember, in order to maintain the integrity of the competition process, EPA staff cannot meet with individual applicants to discuss draft proposals, provide informal comments on draft proposals, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria. Also, note that cost match is not required and indirect costs are fundable.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE – USING EJ SCREENING AND MAPPING TOOL

Environmental justice can be supported through equitable development approaches and intentional strategies to ensure that low-income and minority communities not only participate in but also benefit from decisions that shape their neighborhoods and regions. There are many different approaches that promote equitable development, including the following:

- Ensuring a mix of housing types across a range of incomes
- Access to fresh food
- Access to jobs
- Access to local capital
- Policies to ensure creation or integration of affordable housing
- Local or first-source hiring
- Minority contracting
- Inclusionary zoning (where a percentage of new housing is designated as affordable housing)
- Healthy food retailers in places where they do not exist (e.g. food deserts)
- Co-operative ownership models where local residents come together to run a community-owned, jointly owned business enterprise
- Rent control or community land trusts (to help keep property affordable for residents)
- Supportive local entrepreneurial activities
- Adherence to equal lending opportunities

EPA maintains a powerful tool called the [EJ Screening and Mapping Tool](#) to help address environmental concerns and equitable development. This comprehensive and detailed tool can be used to characterize just about any neighborhood providing location, demographic and environmental data in detail.

The mapping tool uses high-resolution maps combined with demographic and environmental data to identify places with potentially elevated environmental burdens and vulnerable populations. EJSCREEN's color-coded maps, bar charts, and reports enable users to better understand areas in need of increased environmental protection, health care access, housing, infrastructure improvement, community revitalization, and climate resilience. EJSCREEN can highlight communities with greater risk of exposure to pollution based on eight pollution and environmental indicators, including traffic proximity, particulate matter, and proximity to superfund sites. These indicators are combined with demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community 5-year Summary Survey enabling users to identify areas with minority or low-income populations who also face potential pollution issues. To access the tool, go to <http://www2.epa.gov/ejscreen>.

6. TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ACRES training for EWDJT grantees

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

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

1pm Eastern Time

[WebEx Session EXIT](#)

To join the session there is no need to pre-register for training, however it is recommended that you [test your computer](#) to ensure compatibility prior to the training. On the day of training, follow the instructions below (you will need to join BOTH a conference call and a virtual meeting):

Phone: Dial 1 (408) 650-3123

Phone: Enter the conference code 958-346-757

Phone: the Audio Pin is not needed

Click the Join Meeting link next to the training you would like to attend, enter the meeting password: ACRES

For additional information go to <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-online-acres-training>.

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:

..... **Now accepting applications**

The GreatEST Institute

June 3-14, 2019

Davenport, Iowa

OSHA Health and Safety Instructor Training

The Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST)

Instructors are prepared through a 10-day Train-the-Trainer Program called the GreatEST Institute (Great Environmental Safety Training Institute) to deliver required certifications for public and private responders and workers including:

- 40-hour Waste Site Worker Health and Safety
- 24-hour Industrial Emergency Response
- DOT Haz Mat Awareness
- Confined Space Non Entry Rescue
- Hazard Awareness and Communication
- Disaster Site Worker Awareness

Applications can be found at <https://nationalpete.org/events/> and are due **February 28, 2019**.

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

Applications can be found at <https://nationalpete.org/events/>.

7. CONTACT ACTIVE EWDJT GRANTEES

Are you interested in contacting current environmental workforce development and job training grantees? EWDJT grantees are happy to assist other grantees and prospective applicants to share their experiences with interested organizations. Contact information is available from the [2018 All Grantee Meeting participant list](#).

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

New and Refunded Grantees	Region	State	FY Award
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](#)

8. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Opportunity](#)

Full Proposal Due Date: Friday, February 15, 2019

The Environmental Justice Small Grants (EJSG) program awards grants that support community-driven projects designed to engage, educate, and empower communities to better understand local environmental and public health issues and develop strategies for addressing those issues, building consensus in the community, and setting community priorities. The EJSG program will award approximately \$1.5 million nationwide for this competitive opportunity. EPA anticipates awarding approximately 50 grants (5 per EPA region) of up to \$30,000 each. These grants are for one-year projects. Given projected increases in extreme weather events and the vulnerability of underserved populations, this opportunity will emphasize projects that address emergency preparedness and increase resiliency, as well as projects that include the needs of US military veterans and homeless populations.

Eligible entities include incorporated non-profit organizations including, but not limited to, environmental justice networks, faith based organizations and those affiliated with religious institutions, federally recognized tribal governments—including Alaska Native Villages; OR tribal organizations. **All applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](#).**

[FY2019 Request for Proposals - Environmental Justice Small Grant Program](#)

Informational Pre-Application Assistance Calls

Potential applicants are invited to participate in conference calls with EPA to address questions about the EJSG Program and this solicitation. Interested persons may access the pre-application assistance calls by dialing 866-299-3188 and entering the code 202-564-6349# when prompted. The following are the conference call dates and times:

Wednesday, January 23, 2019
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. EST

Thursday January 31, 2019
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. EST

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) for answers to common questions about this opportunity. This page will be updated throughout the open solicitation period with additional questions and answers.

U.S. Department of Labor

Sector-based approaches to expand apprenticeships

U.S. Department of Labor 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 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 www.grants.gov.

9. PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Linking solar employers and job seekers

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 our 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. 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

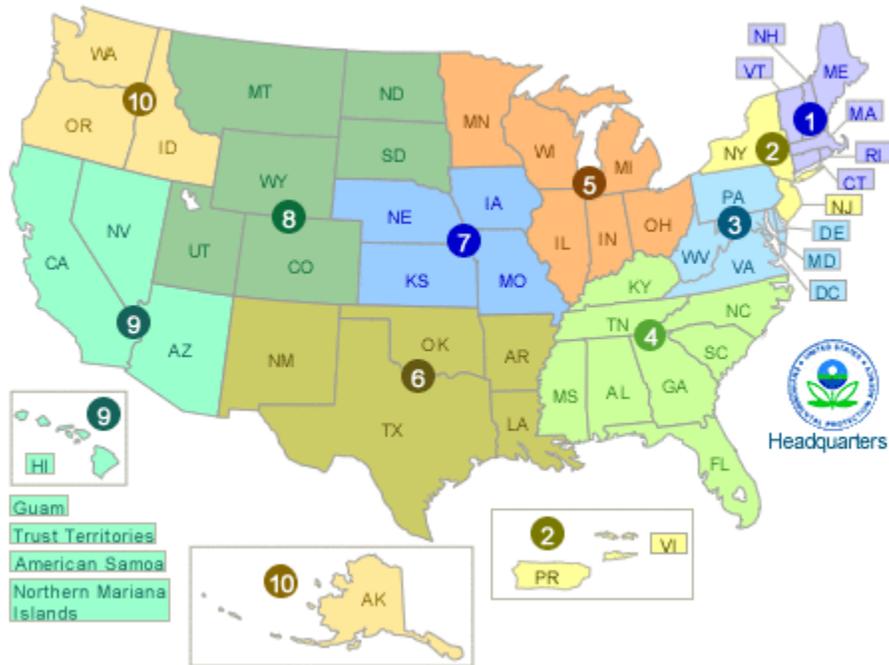
solar companies can engage with local workforce development resources and build a pipeline of talented employees. The platform also features a “Solar Panel” with advice from workforce experts, and a shared news and events page for users to post updates.

Any employer or job seeker can sign up on the platform now and start building new connections in solar. Go to AmericanSolarWorkforce.org.

10. 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 Wanda Jennings	AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN	Phone: (404) 562-8682 E-mail: jennings.wanda@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
EPA Region 8 Christina Wilson	CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY	Phone: (303) 312-6706 E-mail: wilson.christina@epa.gov
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

Map of EPA Regions



Credit: epa.gov

11. FUTURE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY (PLC) CALLS

Missed a few of our PLC sessions? Post session notes are available on the [Brownfields Toolbox](#).

Cycle 20 – 2019 Environmental workforce PLC discussions

2/13/2019	Session 205
2/27/2019	Session 206
3/13/2019	Session 207
3/27/2019	Session 208
4/10/2019	Session 209
4/24/2019	Session 210
5/8/2019	Session 211
5/22/2019	Session 212

Tune into the next PLC call - **Wednesday, February 13, 2019**.

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. For questions or to be placed on the PLC register, send your 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.

