

March 13, 2019



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 20, Session 5.

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. Leveraging strategies
4. Dig deeper into leveraging resources beyond EPA Brownfields grants
5. Training and professional development opportunities
6. Contact active EWDJT grantees
7. Funding announcements
8. Placement opportunities
9. EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators
10. Join us on future Professional Learning Community calls

1. NEWS FROM WASHINGTON AND HMTRI

EPA Happenings:

The request for Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training proposals appears to be just a few weeks away. Based on information from EPA, this is what the timetable now looks like.

- Request for Proposals issued – Late March or early April, 2019
- Proposals due (60 days from the announcement) – May – June, 2019
- Proposal evaluations (60-90 days after proposal submissions) – July – September, 2019
- Annual All-Grantee Meeting (Open to applicants, past, & current grantees) – August – September, 2019
- Awards and work plans –October, 2019
- Authorization to spend funds – Fall 2019 (after 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.

We encourage all potential applicants to contact their EPA Regional Coordinator (see section 9 for contact information). Let your Regional Coordinator know you are planning on submitting a proposal in response to the job training Request for Proposals. Contacting your Regional Coordinator is not mandatory and there is no obligation to submit a proposal. Many Regional Coordinators maintain a listserv for past, current, and potential grantees. Until the RFP is issued, Regional Coordinators are able to provide applicants with information that may be useful when developing their EWDJT grant. After the RFP is issued, Regional Coordinators are no longer able to discuss individual programs.

HMTRI News:

As summer approaches, it's time to begin planning for the Annual All-Grantee Meeting. Although dates have not been finalized, this year's meeting is being planned for Alexandria, VA between mid-August and mid-September. HMTRI will be seeking ideas in coming weeks. The All-Grantee Meeting is open to current and alumni grantees. Community organizations interested in establishing an EWDJT program are also invited. The two-day workshop consists of large and small group sessions, peer to peer coaching, networking opportunities, and discussions with Regional and EPA staff. Lodging is provided but participants must cover the cost of transportation and evening meals. Prospective grantees are encouraged to attend which is all about organizing, implementing, and sustaining effective environmental workforce development and training programs. More on this later.

2. QUESTIONS FROM PLC MEMBERS

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

We just received an EWDJT grant in the FY18 competition. Should we (or can we) reapply as part of the upcoming RFP cycle?

Absolutely. In a departure from what EPA has been done in the past, this year's guidelines allows everyone to apply for EWDJT funding regardless of when or if they were last awarded a grant. New to the program, past grantees, one, two, or three year grantees are all encouraged to apply. As noted in past PLC sessions, EPA has designed the RFP is insure that existing grantees do not have an unfair advantage over new applicants. In addition to special considerations and other factors, EPA evaluators will be looking at the quality of the proposal, the extent that programs have lined up working partners and their ability to leverage available resources.

3. LEVERAGING STRATEGIES

The last PLC, we discussed the importance of partnerships, various types of partners and how they are administered. As a follow-up to that discussion, today we addressed leveraging strategies used by successful grantees. Leveraging partners not discussed today are stakeholders who support environmental training bringing awareness to the community. These important partners enhance the reputation of the EWDJT program serving as ambassadors and advocates. While they may not immediately bring material resources to the program, their advocacy and networking efforts generate support among stakeholders interested in contributing to community environmental workforce development. With that said, let's discuss strategies for securing tangible leveraged resources. Contributions provided by organizations outside the EPA grant can be divided into three types of leveraging:

- Leveraging for unsupported training and student services
- Leveraging for enhanced training and services supported by the EPA grant
- Leveraging funds available for discretionary spending, sustainability, and program expansion

Leveraging for unsupported training and student services

Following mandates in federal legislation (The BUILD Act) and subsequent appropriations, the EWDJT program operates with tight restrictions on how funds may be used. EPA is essentially able to support environmental remediation training including recruitment, placement, tracking, and administrative functions linked to those activities. Curriculum is limited to specific program areas which include worker health and safety certifications. Remedial education, life skills training, and student services are not supported by the EPA grant. These restrictions present the following options to potential grantees:

- Deliver an excellent EWDJT program with a specific narrow scope. This option would be open to community residents not requiring additional training, student support, or special services.
- Supplement other programs which offer services and training not provided by the EWDJT grant. This option would act as a follow-up or advanced training provided by another program such as Youth Build.
- Use leveraging strategies to supplement the EWDJT program, providing training, and services not fundable by EPA. This option employs leveraging strategies to enhance EWDJT offerings and services.

We would not make a judgement on which of these approaches is the most successful or has the best chance of securing an EPA grant. Indeed, each of these approaches has been used successfully by EWDJT grantees. The option chosen depends on available local resources, the nature of the organization applying for EWDJT funds and the necessity for providing a “full service” or “limited service” training program.

An analogy used in today discussion was Walmart vs an independent retailer. Walmart likely has all the resources, goods, and services to provide a comprehensive shopping experience with no need to leave the store or leverage outside resources. On the other hand, an independent retailer has a select menu of excellent goods and services to offer. While limited, the independent retailer may, if he wishes, subcontract or leverage goods and services not immediately available. Both retailers can provide the same comprehensive experience using different leveraging strategies. Let’s focus on the independent retailer (less comprehensive organization) who would like to deliver a full service EWDJT program. Below is a list of unsupported training and services grantees have added to their program either with existing internal resources or using outside leveraged resources. When outside leveraged partners are used, here are some tips on where to begin.

- **Case worker guidance** – Applicants selected for EWDJT should be screened to see if they are entitled to employment benefits (Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) provide a host of services and resources which we discuss at a later date). Health and Human Services (HHS) or the WIB can provide case worker guidance.
- **Environmental training not supported by the grant** – Employers requiring workers with specific skill sets are willing to support environmental training required by their workers. Community colleges (business and industry) will also provide training when there is a demonstrated local demand.
- **OSHA safety training not related to fundable topics** – NIEHS and OSHA provide training resources in select areas. We will discuss these programs and offerings on another call. Again, employers may support additional certifications that would benefit to their workforce.
- **Soft skills, employability, remedial reading, writing, and math skills** – Partnerships with community colleges is the first place to seek leveraged services for life skills and remedial education. Depending on the strength of local nonprofits, organizations such as Goodwill, Strive, or Salvation Army often offer similar services.
- **Child and dependent care** - The best places to start looking for childcare assistance are the state or county Department of Human Services, Child Care Services, or Family Services. If a student is on public assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a state and federal program that provides funds for support services and family assistance.
- **Financial literacy training and support** - Leveraged opportunities are available from educational and nonprofit organizations as well as local banks, foundations, and faith-based community

organizations. The US Federal Reserve has established an extensive financial literacy education program which may be active locally.

- **Personal and legal assistance** – Many communities have legal aid offices in addition to lawyer associations providing assistance to underserved residents. Check out the community “Weed and Seed” program to see if local resources are available. Volunteer legal assistance is available in many communities.
- **Transportation** - It is not uncommon for students to receive free or discounted public transportation passes to and from class. In some communities, auto dealerships and transportation companies such as Uber have provided discounts to EWDJT participants. Go to the municipal transportation agency for leveraging opportunities.
- **Drug and alcohol rehabilitation** – In addition to Departments of Human and Family services, philanthropic nonprofits and faith-based organizations can provide leveraged services and counseling.
- **Supplemental training support, facilities, and equipment** – Private sector remediation, equipment distributors, and consulting firms have provided training materials (not covered by the grant) to EWDJT partners. Check local consultants, vendors, and contractors for facilities, materials, and equipment.
- **Veteran assistance** – Local veteran organizations often support education and support assistance to veterans especially those with disabilities. Veteran assistance is best sought after on a local basis with organizations like the VFW or The Wounded Warrior project.
- **Workers with disabilities assistance** – As with veteran assistance, leveraging will be on the local level. Depending on the availability of HHS and WIB services, governmental assistance may be available. Faith-based and philanthropic organizations and foundations are the best choices for leveraging partners.
- **Housing assistance** – Leveraging partners include faith-based organizations, nonprofits focusing on family assistance. Housing development and Health and Human Services may have special programs depending locations and available services.
- **Stipends and financial assistance** – Work study opportunities, apprenticeships, scholarships, and stipends provided by enterprise partners should not be overlooked as an important resource. Start with local consultants, environmental contractors, city vendors and business with a large footprint in the community.
- **Pre apprenticeship programs** – Organized labor has provided facilities and opportunities to EWDJT programs and program participants. The best place to begin is contacting the local business manager associated with trades active in the community.

Leveraging for enhanced training and services supported by the EPA grant

Thus far we have discussed training and services unsupported by the EPA grant. EPA supports recruitment, assessment, training, and placement that are essential to basic program operation. This does not mean EWDJT programs should not seek leveraged partners to enhance current program deliverables. The first and foremost leveraged partner every EWDJT grantee should have is the Workforce Investment Board. The USDOL Employment and Training Administration (ETA) provides assistance to qualified dislocated workers. Similar programs include the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which supports state WIBs. Funds from these programs flow to States with block grants. Here is where every community and every grantee has a different level of available support. State WIBs are independent organizations operated by a board selected by the Governor. Some WIBS provide comprehensive services to qualified residents. Others, not so much. Here are examples of WIB services that may or may not be available in specific communities:

- Occupational awareness and marketing
- Recruitment assistance
- Labor market assessments
- Participant referrals
- Applicant testing and assessment
- Case management
- Counseling services
- Job readiness training
- Training and equipment assistance
- Placement assistance
- Tracking assistance

The National Association of Workforce Investment Boards acknowledges the disparity of services offered in each State. As they say, we have our stars and rocks. In any case, the WIB should be the first and foremost leveraged partner for every EWDJT grantee. If for no other reason, WIB awareness and assessment services can be a supplemental resource in recruiting the most capable and deserving applicants. Often WIBs are closely associated with community colleges which, as we discussed earlier, are also a source for leveraging unsupported training and services.

Community colleges can become a valuable partner, leveraging EPA supported training and services as well as those not supported by the grant. Community colleges are charged with filling workforce needs for local business and industry. As such, most are experienced in conducting and interpreting local community and needs assessments. In the early stages of program development, community college staff can become an important leveraged partner in assessing labor market needs and developing EWDJT awareness among employers.

Environmental workforce development and job training is a two way street. Trainers are constantly concerned with placing graduates. The other side of the story involves employers seeking a source for skilled, reliable, and certified workers to fulfill contract obligations. In addition to being screened and vetted, the typical EWDJT graduate instantly brings \$3K to \$5K worth of training and certifications to the employer. For employers, these are funds and effort that will not have to be invested to develop new workers. In some communities, local tax incentives add to employment benefits associated with EWDJT graduates. The argument being presented illustrates why local employers are interested in investing in EWDJT programs as leveraged partners. The challenge for program development staff is to identify and offer investment opportunities to interested employers. Here are a few of the resources employers can bring to the program:

- Student internships or work study programs
- Student stipends and scholarships
- Equipment and facilities for training and administration
- Training
- Food, snacks, and support for student events
- Field trips
- Admission and travel to employer events and job fairs
- Employment programs for special populations

Some of these resources can be funded by the EPA grant and some are restricted. In either case, they enhance and contribute to the overall training experience. EWDJT programs should not overlook

municipal agencies such as water and electric utilities. Both as employers and leveraged supporters, local monopolies are usually required to assist community organizations as well as provide employment opportunities.

Leveraging funds available for discretionary spending, sustainability, and program expansion

What EWDJT program does not need discretionary funding for day to day operation? Unintended expenses and gaps in formally funded grants and contributions are almost certain. Most successful EWDJT programs employ several of the fundraising strategies listed below.

- Individual and corporate donations
- Family foundation contributions
- Philanthropic organization support
- Non-governmental and faith-based contributions
- Social media - Go Fund Me, website donation requests
- Funding drives, events, sponsorships,
- Fines, judgements, and penalties
- Legislative funding
- Special fundraising projects

The common thread among each of these fund raising strategies is their dependence on the awareness and reputation of the program in the community. Most are self-explanatory except fines, judgements, penalties, and legislative funding. Environmental fines, penalties, and judgements can be considerable. Oil spills, hazardous materials spills, and regulatory infractions generate millions of dollars each year. Large judgements can last for years. Where does that money collected by the Attorney General's office go? In most cases, distribution of funds is governed by the state legislature. Often, funds go to education and sometimes, as in the case of Alaska, to environmental education. As a long shot, but one worth pursuing, is tracking down the disbursement of fines, penalties, and judgements. Check with the Attorney General's office to see if the EWDJT program qualifies for fines, penalties, and judgement distribution. This action may require working with state legislators but would be well worth the effort. Every legislative session, depending on the state, allows nonprofits to be written into the legislative budget. Inclusion in a reoccurring budget becomes the gold standard for EWDJT program operation and sustainability. Again, every state is different, and perception of EWDJT varies and working local politics can be challenging.

Leveraging is time consuming, requires incredible outreach and communication skills. When possible, a staff member designated as the chief development officer needs assume the duties and responsibility associated with resource leveraging. The rewards of such a strategy will contribute greatly to the reputation and stability of the entire EWDJT program.

4. DIG DEEPER INTO LEVERAGING RESOURCES BEYOND EPA BROWNFIELDS GRANTS

Setting the Stage for Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization

EPA has developed a [publication](#) with some applicability to all of the brownfield programs including EWDJT. Below is a summary of the content presented.

- **Organize a project team with local leadership from the top, and designate a manager.**
Brownfield success is about people. The most successful localities establish brownfields project teams, led by strong leaders from local government. Project teams should include prominent local leaders, brownfields champions, and a cross sector team representing key organizations.

- **Articulate a clear community vision and identify brownfields revitalization priorities.** Planning for community revitalization requires leadership, patience, and determination. It also requires community engagement and involvement.
- **Build and maintain local stakeholder and citizen support.** Obtaining significant public support for brownfields revitalization projects is critical to leveraging success. Community leaders and the project team must effectively market brownfields redevelopment projects to citizens. This requires clearly communicating what the completed project will look like, the benefits that are likely to result, and how the project will help the community realize its overall vision.
- **Delineate brownfield project components and project phases.** Brownfield projects are not monolithic endeavors. A brownfield project usually includes several components, each with multiple stages or phases. A successful funding strategy starts with clearly delineating each project component and phase.
- **Create estimates of project costs.** Once priority projects are identified and their key components and phases are delineated, it is useful to estimate project costs for each key project and its core components. With well-estimated project costs, a community can better identify the best potential funding sources, understand and estimate the levels of matching-share funds that will be needed, and tailor efforts to gain support for funding requests. Cost estimates can become more precise as the project moves forward from planning-level cost estimates toward final cost.
- **Identify the best funding sources for project components and phases.** Once a community confirms its priority projects, delineates project components and phases, and develops solid cost estimates, it is ready to seek sources of funding for brownfields revitalization. Consider the following potential sources of funds or investment for brownfield projects:
 - Site redevelopers or private sector investors
 - Banks and other traditional lenders
 - Regional agencies (such as metropolitan planning organizations, industrial development authorities, or economic development districts)
 - Federal or state tax incentives
 - Community foundations and regional, corporate, and national philanthropies
 - State and federal funding agencies
 - Local funds and incentive tools
- **Create a resource roadmap for priority projects.** Creating a resource roadmap can be very useful for developing a strategy for leveraging funding.
- **Develop a strategy for matching-share contributions and leveraging local funding sources.** Confirming matching-share funds and leveraging local resources often are critical steps in securing external grants or investments. Most grants require recipients to provide a significant matching share, which demonstrates the community's commitment to the project and may instill the confidence of potential funders and investors in the feasibility of the project. Beyond any required match, funding organizations also will want to see that the applicant community can leverage additional resources. Leveraging typically refers to additional contributions toward the project, but not necessarily direct financial matching.
- **Create a briefing sheet for each priority project.** Many communities have found it valuable to prepare a compelling briefing sheet that can be used to succinctly convey to the public, key stakeholders and funders the scope, objectives, benefits, status, progress, supporters, funding secured, challenges, and outstanding needs of the overall brownfields redevelopment project or for each major component of a large project.

- **Seek state backing often.** The best sources of funding and technical assistance resources are available through state agencies that support economic development, environmental, and infrastructure priorities. State funding is important for leveraging federal funding and can offer a critical source of funding.
- **Collaborate with federal agency officials.** It is critical to engage early with relevant federal agency and program officials so that they are familiar with the community's brownfield project and its key components. Officials at EPA, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other agencies can support and help guide local projects. Federal program managers routinely host webinars and workshops to explain their funding programs and how they can be used. These sessions can provide excellent opportunities to interact with funding officials on a community's specific projects. Also consider making regular visits to the regional offices of federal agencies and to their headquarters offices in Washington, D.C. Keep in touch by phone and email and invite federal officials to your community for site and project tours. Communities should consider planning collaborative forums, workshops, or roundtable events that include federal officials and a variety of other stakeholders to build understanding and ongoing support for revitalization initiatives.
- **Prepare for grant writing.** Prepare ahead of time to write effective applications for grants or other kinds of resources. Do not wait until the funding notice is issued or the application submission deadline is at hand. Most agencies with grant opportunities have information posted on their websites on previous funding opportunities or suggestions for getting started early. Communities can use this information to help identify the information they need to gather, which will help them get a jump-start.
- **Celebrate Success.** It has been said that nothing succeeds like success, and this certainly is true when it comes to obtaining funding. Success can come by accomplishing significant project milestones and by obtaining the next grant. Effective communities always are looking for opportunities to celebrate success, thank funding agencies and key supporters, hold groundbreaking celebrations and ribbon-cutting events, cultivate media coverage, send newsletters, and spread the word in other ways.

The best place to search for leveraged partners includes local government offices, nonprofit and community organizations. Many local government programs are supported by federal or state block grants to be administered locally. Here are a few national organizations to check out that support local efforts providing life skills training, remedial education and student services:

- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\)](#)
- [DHHS Office of Child Care \(OCC\)](#)
- [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#)
- [DOL Employment and Training Administration \(ETA\)](#)
- [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#)
- [Institute for Urban and Minority Education](#)
- [About MyMoney](#)
- [Financial Literacy and Education Commission](#)
- [U.S. Federal Reserve](#)

5. 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, June 11, 2019

1pm Eastern Time

Tuesday, September 10, 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/>. **February 28th was the last day to register for the Community and College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST)'s GreatEST Institute. If there are any remaining openings, they will accept applications past the registration deadline.**

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

Subscribe to TechDirect

TechDirect's purpose is to identify new technical, policy and guidance resources related to the assessment and remediation of contaminated soil, sediments and groundwater. Anyone interested in subscribing may do so on CLU-IN at <https://clu-in.org/techdirect> . All previous issues of TechDirect are archived there. The TechDirect messages of the past can be searched by keyword or can be viewed as individual issues.

6. 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
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](#)

7. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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.

8. PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

HAZWOPER trainers for hire, for a short-term project:

If you are willing and able to travel to either New York or Puerto Rico within the next four-six months to help teach 40-hour HAZWOPER courses, I would like to discuss a team-teaching opportunity with you! Good pay and travel + expenses will be covered.

Please respond to:

certifiedsafety@me.com

Andrew W. Gondzur, CIH, CSP, CPE

President/Owner

Certified Safety Consulting, LLC

3921 Connecticut Street

Saint Louis, MO 63116

certifiedsafety@me.com

www.certifiedsafetyconsulting.com

314.660.7238 (CELL)

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.

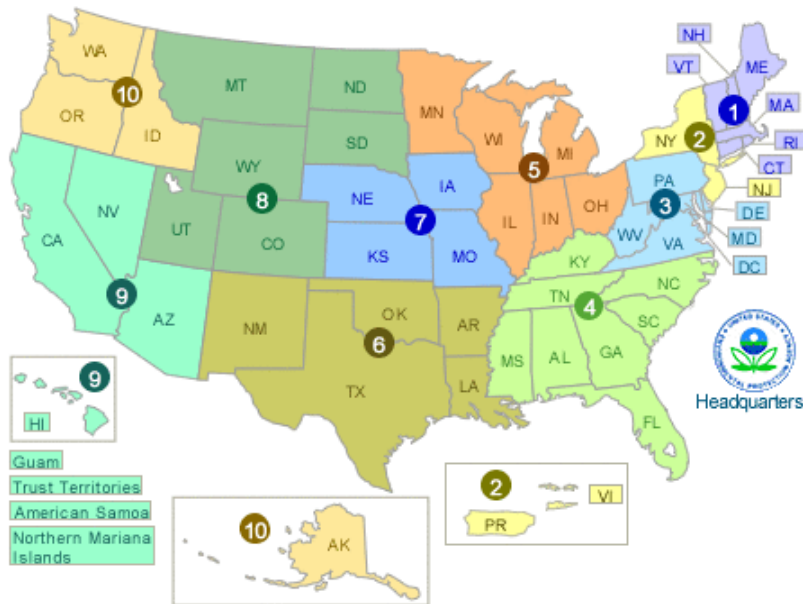
AmericanSolarWorkforce.org helps fill these gaps by facilitating connections between solar companies, career seekers, training providers, and workforce boards. Using this platform, which is free of charge, employers can post job opportunities and connect with thousands of candidates. Solar career seekers 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.

9. 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 Gianna Rosati	DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV	Phone: (215) 814-3406 E-mail: rosati.gianna@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: meric-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

10. FUTURE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY (PLC) CALLS

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

Cycle 20 – Upcoming 2019 environmental workforce PLC discussions

3/27/2019	Session 208	5/8/2019	Session 211
4/10/2019	Session 209	5/22/2019	Session 212
4/24/2019	Session 210		

Tune into the next PLC call - **Wednesday, March 27, 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.