

March 18, 2020



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 22, Session 3.

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 participants
3. Grantee News
4. Understanding employer needs – labor market assessments
5. Webinars and presentation power points
6. Training and professional development opportunities
7. Conferences, workshops and meetings
8. Funding and leveraging opportunities
9. Check in with EPA Regional Coordinators
10. Join us on future Professional Learning Community calls

## 1. NEWS FROM WASHINGTON AND HMTRI

### EPA Happenings:

For those who may have missed the news, EPA will be issuing an FY21 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) Request for Proposals (RFP) this spring. Details have not been finalized. If this schedule "holds" the FY21 EWDJT grant cycle will be similar to the FY20 cycle. We do not anticipate major changes in the RFP. For those interested in seeing what the Request for Proposals might look like, go to the FY20 RFP, EPA outreach webinar and FAQs at the sites listed below.

- [FY 2020 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training \(EWDJT\) Grant FAQs \(PDF\)](#)
- [FY 2020 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training \(EWDJT\) Grants RFP \(PDF\)](#)
- [FY20 EWDJT Outreach Webinar \(PDF\)](#)

### HMTRI News:

#### **2020 EWDJT Annual All-Grantee Meeting**

**August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Holiday Inn Old Town, Alexandria, VA**

The Annual All-Grantee Meeting is open to PLC members, past and current EWDJT grantees, and will be attended by EPA Headquarters Staff in addition to EWDJT Regional Coordinators. This workshop consists of two full days of group networking and breakout sessions addressing issues associated with the development, operation and sustainability of community environmental workforce training programs. Lodging costs for three nights will be provided, with travel on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Participants will be responsible for their own transportation and supplemental expenses. Registration information will be sent out in the next few weeks.

## **Certified Employee Finder- A compilation of active EWDJT programs**

Grantees recently responded to our annual scan of active EWDJT programs and anticipated graduation dates. Information compiled can be used by employers nationwide in locating workers with the specific skills and certifications to fill available job openings. This document includes:

- Grantee contact information
- Website addresses
- Current status of EPA support
- Graduation dates
- Estimated number of graduates available for employment
- Certifications and technical curriculum offered
- Core competencies associated with program graduates
- Life skills and student services provided program participants

As useful as this scan is for prospective employers, it is equally valuable for grantees and stakeholders interested in checking out active EWDJT programs, course offerings and anticipated cohorts. Dates and numbers are approximate and will be updated as new information is provided. Corrections and updates can be emailed to Bruce Diamond: [bdiamond@eicc.edu](mailto:bdiamond@eicc.edu)

## **Certified Employee Finder**

<https://brownfields-toolbox.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Certified-Employee-Finder-2020.02.28.pdf>

## **Social Media Directory**

A similar scan will be updated in the near future for EWDJT social media sites. Our last scan is posted on the [brownfields-toolbox.org](https://brownfields-toolbox.org) and can be accessed at the following address.

<http://brownfields-toolbox.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/SocialMediaDirectory-Grantees.pdf>

## **2. PLC QUESTIONS**

When will the RFPs be issued?

*Our best guess would be an RFP issued in June with a due date in August. Again, these are assumptions based on past competitions.*

What will be the funding level and duration of the grant?

*EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training cooperative agreements (EWDJT) have a maximum funding level of \$200,000 to be spent over a three-year period. In FY2020 EPA awarded twenty-six grants, in 2018 - seventeen, in 2017- fourteen and in 2016 - eighteen. The number of grants varies and depends upon program budgets and funding allotted to EWDJT. An expected provision in this year's RFP restricting FY20 funded programs from additional FY21 support provides a great opportunity for new programs and those applications not able to be funded last November. Note: simply resubmitting a former application without expansion will not work (we will discuss this issue in a later PLC session).*

Why is it called a cooperative agreement?

*EWDJT cooperative agreements are, in simple terms, grants where EPA has a role in program planning and operation. Cooperative agreements permit the EPA's Project Officers to be involved in overseeing the work performed by EWDJT grantees. Project officer involvement may include the following:*

- *Monitoring of the grantee's performance to verify the work plan*
- *Collaborating during performance of the scope of work*
- *Review of proposed procurements.*
- *Reviewing qualifications of key personnel*
- *Reviewing and commenting on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement*
- *Reviewing outputs and outcomes to ensure substantial progress has been made in accordance with the cooperative agreement terms and conditions*
- *Approval of project phases, such as curriculum development, prior to the implementation of training*

*Prospective grantees should not be "spooked" by involvement of Project Coordinators in their grants, as it is only their intention to assist and promote a smooth execution of the EWDJT grant.*

### Questions?

Still have unanswered questions? Send them to [hkballou@eicc.edu](mailto:hkballou@eicc.edu).

### 3. GRANTEE NEWS

#### A Shout-out to West End Neighborhood House in Wilmington , DE

Thanks Ronike Haynie for the great news.

"FYI... this past Fall cohort of 2019 was my first cohort here at West End Neighborhood House in Wilmington, DE. I serve as the recruiter, case manager and I do the Job Placement. With the help of my Director Anya Lindsey we created a sound curriculum and focused on Social Emotional Learning (S E L) and worked on creating a community with our students through properly engaging them the first two weeks in our five-week program. I was able to recruit successfully by using a newly created needs assessment that our admin and case managers developed. I brought in 17 students and all 17 graduated, this was our biggest class to date for our program. We currently have seven placed out the seventeen. One of the 17 started last week as an Asbestos Abatement Worker with the School District of Philadelphia. During the cohort, he worked as waiter at local restaurant making \$2.50 an hour plus tips. Below is an outline of the job description, job requirements, and current salary for his new job."

#### **The Job --- at a Glance:**

- Salary starting at \$48,791
- Comprehensive medical benefits package
- Paid holidays, vacation and personal leave
- Enrollment in PA State Retirement System (PSERS)
- Health insurance, Paid time off
- Bi weekly or Twice monthly
- Monday to Friday work schedule
- \$52,464.00 /year with experience

#### **Asbestos removal program in the role you'll do the following:**

- Repair and/ or remove asbestos containing materials from buildings
- Install HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filtering equipment
- Removed suspended ceilings
- Remove acoustical plaster, steel beam fireproofing and/ or pipe and boiler insulation

### What are the requirements to be hired?

- High School Diploma or GED equivalent
- Three years of full-time asbestos abatement experience
- Valid Asbestos Worker license issued by Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia
- Valid EPA- approved Asbestos Worker/Supervisor Certificate
- Valid Driver's license

Ronike would be happy to hear from those interested in his program at West End Neighborhood House.  
[RHaynie@westendnh.org](mailto:RHaynie@westendnh.org)

### When a National Laboratory copies your training methodology

“The basic format of my job training program has been ‘copied’ by N3B [ed. note: Newport News Nuclear BWXT Los Alamos] for their apprenticeship program for the Legacy Waste Cleanup at Los Alamos. I guess that is the sincerest form of compliment. 😊

There are several job training programs floating around NM right now. The various colleges, universities and contractors are ‘duking it out’ to get pieces of the pie from the state and federal sources. The ‘competition’ focuses on the training rather than the recruiting of viable potential employees in these other programs. So, they don’t have the placement rates that SFCC has.

IMHO, many of the other programs don’t deal with the attendees as people...they are ‘students’. And, when there are several, disconnected instructors who can’t compare notes on where an attendee is having issues/trouble/etc., they don’t/can’t help the students. This results in high dropout rates. At least, out here in this neck of the woods.

And, the final issue, many of these other programs do not have knowledge about what the environmental profession actually is (or how big and broad the types of jobs are). I’m watching these programs focus on LANL (for example) rather than the other employers and their needs for workers.

I just try to stay out of the way of the ‘big guns’ and find the opportunities where I can. For example, working with Kirk and his team is a great experience!”

Janet Kerley  
Santa Fe Community College  
[Janet.kerley@sfcc.edu](mailto:Janet.kerley@sfcc.edu)

## 4. UNDERSTANDING EMPLOYER NEEDS – LABOR MARKET ASSESSMENTS

With the expected date for EPA’s Request for Proposals only four months away, it’s time for the PLC to address “Ranking Criteria” which is a key factor in determining which grants are funded and which applicants have submitted less rigorous proposals. Ranking Criteria are subdivided into seven categories describing how grantees propose to deliver a successful EWDJT program. The first criteria is “Community Need”: Community need investigates why applicants have selected a particular target community (community assessment) and whether there is an actual demand for program graduates (labor market assessment). Out of a total 100 evaluation points, 10 points are allocated to community assessment and 10 points to labor market assessment. Today’s PLC addressed labor market assessment first because it may influence the community selected for workforce development. The RFP states the following:

## Labor Market Demand

“Provide a description of the local labor market assessment and/or employer survey you, as the applicant, conducted. Detail the methods and results of these steps taken to assess the local labor market demand and indicate when they took place. Discuss how these labor market assessments informed the development of your proposed training curriculum. Discuss how these results indicate a demand for skilled environmental professionals with the certifications you are proposing to incorporate into your curriculum.

- The depth and degree you conducted a labor market assessment to gain an understanding of the current job market in your target area;
- The methods used to conduct your assessment;
- The extent to which the labor market assessment resulted in an indication that your target area has the demand for a skilled environmental workforce your training program would provide; and
- The extent to which the results of your assessment were incorporated into the development of your proposal and training program curriculum.”

To properly address labor market evaluation criteria, EWDJT applicants need to begin early to develop a comprehensive labor market assessment. Comprehensive labor market assessments go way beyond superficial surveys projecting potential job creation. Properly conducted, labor market assessments identify community supporters, training needs, leveraging partners, and recruitment strategies. Rather than being an afterthought or justification for training, comprehensive labor market assessments can serve as a foundation for planning and developing a sustainable job development program.

As part of the data collection effort, labor market assessments not only guide the training program, but also provide the following benefits.

- Promotes business and industry support of the EWDJT program
- Assures employers that EWDJT graduates will meet their hiring criteria and performance standards
- Becomes a marketing tool to demonstrate how business/EWDJT program partnerships can benefit the community
- Creates a database of prospective employers as graduation approaches
- Establishes a list of potential supporters, advisory board members and instructors
- Announces to the community a source of screened, trained and certified workers for First Hire, Project Labor Agreements and other local cleanup efforts

Identifying employers interested in workers with environmental remediation skills and certificates can be challenging. As discussed in the February 19th PLC (go to: <https://brownfields-toolbox.org/>), job titles do not always directly relate to environmental jobs. This is because environmental remediation skills are often integrated into traditional occupations. For example, many construction and deconstruction jobs may require workers with environmental remediation certifications. Welders may need asbestos training. Painters may require lead testing, remediation training, and confined space certifications. Some trades working with potential hazardous exposures are required to have 1910.120 training. Even workers directing the movement of hazardous materials may need flagger certifications in addition to hazardous materials training.

A cursory review of environmental technician job titles only reveals a fraction of environmental job opportunities. To create a meaningful labor market assessment, traditional job titles need to be closely examined to determine if EWDJT skills and certifications are required as part of that job. In the February

issue of the CONNECT Newsletter we discuss in detail where EWDJT graduates find employment. Here is a partial list of employers who have employed EWDJT graduates having environmental remediation skills and certifications:

- Local unions and pre apprentice programs – check with the business manager
- Local government departments – streets and sanitation
- Manpower and temp firms – especially those specializing in cleanup and restoration
- Consultants – remediation and service providers
- Manufacturing firms – those requiring the use of potentially dangerous materials
- Chemical and refining facilities
- Power generating facilities – oil, gas, wind, solar and nuclear
- Municipal facilities and utilities – landfill and waste handling substations
- Water/wastewater facilities – private and public
- Pest control companies
- Painting companies – particularly in older communities
- Railroad repair and maintenance facilities
- Construction and deconstruction companies
- Transportation and material handling operations
- Scrap, recycling, storage, and landfill operations

As one can see, potential employers are diverse and cross many governmental and private sector applications. The challenge of the labor market assessment is to find employers looking for attributes EWDJT graduates possess regardless of position title. This is the next point of discussion.

### **How to find potential employers - Where to begin a comprehensive labor market assessment**

A good approach for finding potential employers is to “proceed from general to specific”. Organizations including Department of Labor occupational outlook reports can provide general information; however, this type of general information is only a starting point and will not contribute much to your understanding of potential local employer needs. After an overview of general labor conditions, it’s time to begin identifying specific employers who may have jobs that are suited to the training, skills, and knowledge EWDJT graduates can provide.

Begin searching for organizations from the following sources:

- Traditional yellow page and print media advertising that still exists
- Google searches such as environmental consultants, recycling, hazardous materials technicians, asbestos workers
- Departments of economic development and city council purchasing agents
- Workforce Investment Boards or One-Stop databases
- Local disaster response organizations
- School district job postings
- Governmental and municipal job postings sites
- Local union organizations

Local employers identified in the general scan of the community may include names of labor unions, consultants, cleanup service providers, municipal utilities, and large manufacturing and construction firms. This effort will be useful in identifying companies with a reoccurring need for certified graduates. “Cold calls” and inquiries to HR departments are a good start although the best jobs come from current employees.

Now it's time to develop personal relationships with individuals among potential employers who value the training and type of graduates motivated to begin a new career. Obtain contact information for individuals who may have influence or responsibility for filling vacant positions. It is best to set up a "face to face" meeting. If that is not feasible, a phone call/email exchange can serve as an adequate introduction to the EWDJT program. Always plan your employer recruitment conversations with an action plan, commitment or closure. How detailed the conversation gets depends on the enthusiasm of the employer. Discussions may occur over several weeks and meetings with additional employees. It should be noted that labor market assessment begins with proposal development but continues past graduate placement and tracking. Discussions might include the following topics:

- Is the potential employer interested in vetted, trained and certified graduates?
- Is there interest from the potential employer to become an active partner?
- To what extent will the potential employer participate in the program (references, meetings, emails etc.)?
- To what extent can the potential employer provide leveraged resources?
- Are staff available that can serve on an advisory board?
- Can volunteers provide curriculum guidance?
- Are there experienced workers that can participate in the training process?
- Will the organization consider interviewing EWDJT graduates for available jobs? (Document in writing if possible)
- Are there additional contacts, programs or organizations that may be interested in the proposed EWDJT program?
- Always invite employers to attend classes, graduations, and social events.

The objective of the labor market assessment is to establish long-term relationships with potential employers. These relationships will provide EWDJT applicants with specific assurance that there is a demand for graduates and local employers are eager to look at program graduates. In the best outcomes, labor market assessment identifies supporters who will participate in program activities. It must be noted that meetings with potential employers should be documented for inclusion in the proposal. We will discuss this important activity in a later PLC. Labor market assessments can be much more than simple information gathering efforts. When done properly they form a solid base upon which to direct and implement the entire EWDJT program. If this session sounds more like a discussion of graduate placement, you are correct. The best EWDJT programs place graduates before they begin the program. This is the ultimate outcome of a successful labor market assessment.

### **Labor market assessment tools**

Previously in our discussion, we discussed the collection of general information regarding potential community based employers. This effort is useful before moving to a more detailed assessment that involves contacting individual organizations. EPA has created tools that may be useful in understanding environmental conditions, remediation activities, and employment opportunities of local communities. We will discuss these tools as part of our next PLC addressing community assessment.

### **[Cleanups in My Community](#)**

EPA maintains two powerful tools not directly designed to collect labor market assessment data but can be useful in an overall effort to understand environmental remediation activity in target communities. The first is called "Cleanups in My Community." "Cleanups in My Community" identifies locations of EPA assessment and cleanup grants. It can provide valuable information on where and the extent of assessment and cleanup. Where those activities occur, employer opportunities exist.

### [EJ Screening and Mapping Tool](#)

EPA maintains a powerful tool called the EJ Screening and Mapping Tool to help address environmental concerns and equitable development. The same tool can be used to locate potential employers, pollution sources and remediation activities. 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 Five-year Summary Survey enabling users to identify areas with minority or low-income populations who also face potential pollution issues. EJSCREEN identifies and locates Superfund sites and major emitters in the community.

## 5. WEBINARS AND PRESENTATION POWERPOINTS

### [Superfund and Brownfields Funding Vehicles for Tribes](#)

03/23/2020

1:00PM-2:30PM EDT

This webinar will provide information about potential tribal funding vehicles to help address contaminated land as well as to build capacity within tribes for environmental response including Brownfields Funding Opportunities, Superfund Subpart O Funding Opportunities, and Superfund Community Involvement Funding Opportunities. Among the topics covered will be what makes tribes eligible for each of the kinds of funding vehicles, what kinds of activities can be funded by each, and how Superfund and Brownfields funding interact (or don't). The webinar should provide tribal environmental professionals with a greater understanding of different potential funding vehicles that may support their work at impacted sites and should assist them in discussing funding options with their EPA regional counterparts.

For more information, visit:

<https://clu-in.org/live>

### [Superfund Redevelopment Roundtable Webinar Series](#)

(Part 2)

03/24/2020

1:00PM-3:00PM EDT

A two-part webinar series for developers and local governments interested in redeveloping Superfund sites and putting them back into productive use. Hear best practices and lessons learned from developers and local governments who have gone through the process. Hear from U.S. EPA, who will answer questions, provide information on available resources and support, and update participants on the latest tools and guidance. Share your thoughts and experiences on how U.S. EPA can better support reuse of sites in your community and across the nation.

For more information, visit:

<https://clu-in.org/live>

**[NIEHS Environmental Career Worker Training Program \(ECWTP\) and EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training \(EWDJT\) grantees attended a joint meeting prior to the 2019 National Brownfields Conference](#)**

NIEHS Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP) grantees attended a joint meeting with grantees from the U.S. EPA's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) Program at the California Community Foundation campus in Los Angeles, California last December. The meeting provided an opportunity for NIEHS and EPA grantees to network and discuss current safety, training, and workforce development issues. Topics of discussion during concurrent breakout sessions included emerging climate issues, disaster preparedness and resiliency, apprenticeship models, wage theft, records management, and many others. The joint ECWTP/EWDJT meeting served as a kickoff for the 2019 National Brownfields Training Conference, which took place at the Los Angeles Convention Center during the remainder of the week. Links to presentations below provide a summary of projects and accomplishments of ECWTP grantees.

Here is the link to the NIEHS announcement

[https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/training\\_program\\_areas/ecwtp/ecwtp\\_ewdjt\\_2019/index.cfm](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/training_program_areas/ecwtp/ecwtp_ewdjt_2019/index.cfm)

**Joint EPA EWDJT and NIEHS ECWTP meeting agenda**

NIEHS Welcome: Sharon D. Beard, M.S. and Chip Hughes, M.P.H., NIEHS

UCLA WRUC Welcome: Linda Delp, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles

[Introductions and NIEHS Update](#): Sharon D. Beard, M.S. NIEHS

**An introduction to the NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP)**

[NIEHS Worker Health and Safety Training Programs](#):

Sharon D. Beard, M.S. and Chip Hughes, M.P.H., NIEHS; Linda Delp, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles

**Introduction to the NIEHS Environmental Career Worker Training program (ECWTP)**

[UCLA WRUC Presentation](#):

Linda Delp, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles and Butch de Castro, Ph.D., University of Washington

ECWTP: Yodit Semu, M.A., University of California, Los Angeles

**Accomplishments/Outcomes of ECWTP grantees**

[CPWR](#): Steve Surtees, CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training

[NJ/NY Consortium](#): Everett Kilgo, D.Min., New York City District Council of Carpenters

[TSU/DSCEJ HBCU Consortium](#): Beverly Wright, Ph.D., Deep South Center for Environmental Justice

[OAI, Inc.](#): Montgomery Proffitt, OAI, Inc.

[USW/TMC/Make the Road New York](#): Maiber Solarte, M.S.W., Make the Road New York

[Ready to Work](#): DeAndrea Lottier-Ross, Janel Bailey, LaTonya Harris, Mindy Garland, Los Angeles Black Worker Center

**[Other presentations of interest](#)**

**A summary of the scale and scope of recent California wildfires**

[Training for Wildfire Recovery, Cleanup, and Resiliency](#)

Presenter: Kevin Riley, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles

## 6. TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### [NIEHS Wildfire Resources and Disaster Preparedness Application](#)

The NIEHS WTP and its awardees have provided resources and training in support of wildfire response operations in the United States. These resources are aimed at protecting the health and safety of those responding to wildfires. The NIEHS/CPWR Disaster Preparedness mobile app, which includes information on wildfires, allows workers exposed to hazards on disaster sites to access a full suite of awareness-level training resources.

### [NIEHS Wildfire Response Training Tool and Resources](#)

### [NIEHS/CPWR Disaster Preparedness App](#)

### [TechDirect](#)

TechDirect, prefers to concentrate mainly on new documents and the Internet live events. However, we do support an area on CLU-IN where announcement of conferences and courses can be regularly posted. We invite sponsors to input information on their events at <https://clu-in.org/courses>. Likewise, readers may visit this area for news of upcoming events that might be of interest. It allows users to search events by location, topic, time period, etc. If you have any questions regarding TechDirect, contact Jean Balent at [balent.jean@epa.gov](mailto:balent.jean@epa.gov)

## 7. CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND MEETINGS

### [National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program](#)

April 22-25, 2020

Hilton Washington DC National Mall

District of Columbia

Leaders from various sectors will engage in 3 plus days of free exchange of new ideas and new approaches to building healthy communities. These general and interactive training sessions will feature voices of experience, research, discussions, and thought-provoking dialogue. The program format will feature needs and challenges of communities, governments, municipalities, tribes, faith-based organizations, and others with interests in environmental justice and health disparities and how addressing them together can build health communities. This joint conference will highlight programs and collaborations that work, as well as initiatives that will not prove successful. Program speakers will feature representatives from Federal and state agencies, local governments, tribes, community groups, business and industry, public interest groups, academia, and other entities. This interactive forum will give conference participants the opportunity to network with a variety of interests from diverse quarters. All conference participants will realize informative and productive resources that can support their individual program goals and objectives. Conference participants will also see examples of approaches that produce positive results through innovation and collaboration. All in all, the conference will prove beneficial and informative to participants.

### [Tennessee Environmental Network Show of the South \(TENSOS\)](#)

Chattanooga Convention Center

May 13-15, 2020

1150 Carter Street

Chattanooga, TN 37402

The Tennessee Environmental Network conference is the largest, most comprehensive and diverse environmental education opportunity in Tennessee, and will be attended by over 1,000 Local, State, and

Federal Government Officials, Business and Industry Leaders, Attorneys, Consultants, Engineers, Developers, Land Owners, Architects, Agribusiness Leaders, Energy Experts, Water Planning Districts, Universities, Public Health Officials, Solid Waste, Enviro-Tech, and Recycling Experts, and many, many others with a strong interest in environmental activities in Tennessee and the Southeast region.

Over the three-day event, TENSOS will host an elite group of environmental professionals seeking to exchange knowledge and share ideas around environmental concerns in Tennessee and across the Southeast region. The educational program, designed and developed by a 40-member Steering Committee, offers more than 70 unique courses in nine educational breakout sessions, allowing attendees to design their own personalized curriculum while receiving approved Continuing Education credits (if applicable). With the combined efforts of the state's leading environmental organizations, the Tennessee Environmental Network conference is a valued educational requirement focused on Sustaining the Future for the People of Tennessee and the Southeast region. The 2020 conference will take place at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your participation, please contact:

David Mook – TEN Co-Executive Director

[DMook@CentergyGroup.com](mailto:DMook@CentergyGroup.com)

678.427.2430

[Attendee Registration](#)

[Sponsorship Registration](#)

[Exhibitor Registration](#)

### [2020 Virginia Brownfields Conference](#)

**Jun 17-18, 2020**

**Norton and St. Paul, VA**

This year the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will be hosting its annual Brownfield Conference in Norton and St. Paul, VA. This conference will give communities a chance to hear from expert speakers, gain valuable inside knowledge on how to remediate and reclaim brownfield properties in their communities, and network with industry professionals.

### [2020 Georgia Environmental Conference](#)

**August 26-28, 2020**

**Jekyll Island, GA**

The Annual Georgia Environmental Conference is the largest and most comprehensive professional environmental education conference serving Georgia and the Southeast region – across the public and private sectors.

Mission: To meaningfully and significantly present Georgia Environmental Conference's diverse slate of topics and featured speakers focusing on providing fresh, new, high value, well-balanced, diverse, and relevant educational content with a positive impact on current and future practitioners and the environment of Georgia and the Southeast region.

The Conference hosts an elite group of environmental professionals seeking knowledge and sharing ideas around environmental concerns in Georgia and the Southeast region. GEC anticipates an estimated 700 attendees, including Attorneys, Consultants, Engineers, Business, Industry, Federal, State, and Local

Government Officials, Planners and Developers, Landowners and many, many others with a strong interest in environmental programs in Georgia and the Southeast. Sponsorships enable more diverse groups and individuals to participate at the Annual Georgia Environmental Conference. Through continued participation in this program, we may continue to offer course registration fees far below that charged for comparable events and learning opportunities, while providing a top-notch Conference experience.

### [The WV Brownfields Conference](#)

**September 15-17, 2020**

**Huntington, WV**

The WV Brownfields Conference & Main Street/ON TRAC Training is West Virginia's premier redevelopment event that combines educational programs with networking opportunities between communities, local governments, development professionals, and service providers. The conference features expert panels, interactive workshops, technical training, and project case studies.

The Conference Planning Committee is currently seeking mobile workshop and breakout session ideas to fill limited slots for the 2020 Conference in Huntington, WV on September 15-17. We are looking for session ideas focused on downtown development, remediation and site preparation strategies, re-use planning approaches, and redevelopment funding opportunities. Creative session formats, such as town hall or roundtable discussions and interactive workshops, as well as traditional panel presentations, are encouraged.

The deadline for session ideas is March 16, 2020. Interested entities can submit up to two presentation proposals. Speakers will be required to register at the reduced speaker rate of \$50 by August 3, 2020. Questions can be directed to Carrie Staton at [carrie.staton@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:carrie.staton@mail.wvu.edu).

## **8. FUNDING AND LEVERAGING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Develop and Implement National Environmental Education Training Programs**

As directed by the National Environmental Education Act of 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce the availability of approximately \$11 million in funding for a multi-year cooperative agreement to develop and manage the National Environmental Education Training Program. Applications must be submitted no later than May 29, 2020.

"Training environmental educators on the latest science, technology, and engineering is crucial not only to their engagement on the issues, but also to inspiring the next generation of environmental educators," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "Through this cooperative agreement, we hope to increase the availability and understanding of scientific information to improve environmental decision making and promote a cleaner, healthier environment for all Americans."

The purpose of the program is to develop and deliver environmental education training and long-term support to education professionals across the U.S. Applications must include proposals for national programs that will:

- Help train environmental educators.
- Increase distribution of quality materials.
- Improve non-formal education programs.
- Enhance coordination among environmental education organizations to help reduce duplication and costs.
- Increase the number of environmental educators.

- Increase public knowledge of the environment.

Only one cooperative agreement will be awarded to a U.S. institution of higher education, a not-for-profit institution, or a consortium of such institutions. Applicants must provide non-federal matching funds or in-kind contributions of at least 25% of the total cost of the project.

### **Background**

In 1991, EPA established the Office of Environmental Education to implement programs mandated by the National Environmental Education Act, including the National Environmental Education and Training Program. Since 1992, the program has trained more than 4,400 formal and nonformal educators by building infrastructure through leadership clinics, developing state certification programs, and using technology to expand access to resources to enhance the value of environmental education, among other initiatives.

Information on how to apply for the National Environmental Education and Training Program for 2020 is available at:

<https://www.epa.gov/education/national-environmental-education-and-training-program-solicitation-notice-2020-rfa>

Information about the teacher-training program:

<https://www.epa.gov/education/national-environmental-education-training-program>

### **For those new to EWDJT – Check out Grants.gov early**

**Grants.gov** is the Federal portal for the listing of Federal funding opportunities from 26 Federal agencies. With Grants.gov, individuals and organizations can perform the following:

- Find Grant Opportunities
- Search for available grant opportunities
- Register to receive notification of grant opportunities
- Apply for Grants
- Search for and download application packages
- Complete application packages offline
- Submit completed application packages
- Track the status of submitted applications

To view the website, click:

[Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)

### **Registering at Grants.gov**

Any person may view or download applications from Grants.gov. However, in order to apply for any grant opportunities, organizations will need to register at Grants.gov. Please note that registration may take from 7 to 28 business days to process. Organizations that do not have a taxpayer identification number or an employee identification number will have to obtain this information from the Internal Revenue Service. The following are three primary user roles in Grants.gov:

- The e-business point of contact (E-Biz POC) determines who is allowed to submit grant application packages on behalf of an organization (registration required).
- The authorized organization representative (AOR) has the ability to submit applications on behalf of an organization.

- The application author (AA) downloads and prepares grant application packages but does not have signature authority to submit the applications.

### Registration Process

Preparing to Apply for grants via Grants.gov opportunities is a 3-step process:

- 1) Register organization with Central Contractor Registry (CCR) (one time)
- 2) Individual authentication through Grants.gov Credential Provider (one time)
- 3) Logging in to Grants.gov as a verified member

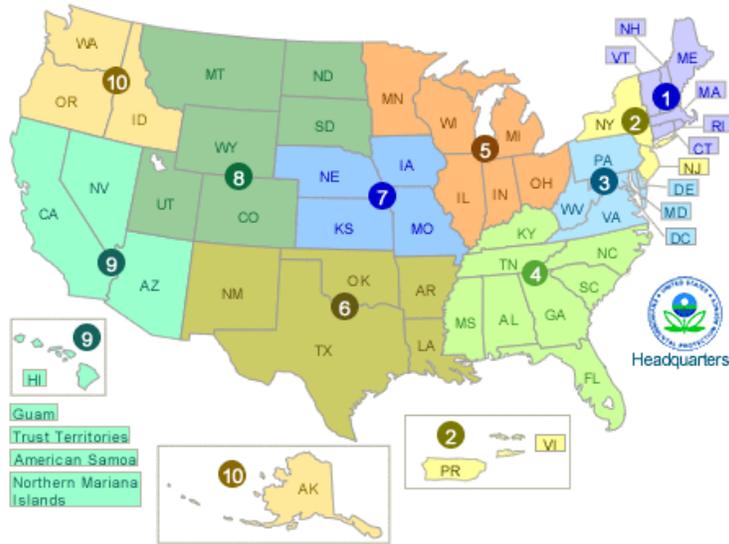
Register with Grants.gov as an AOR (Authorized Official Representative). The E-Biz POC will be notified by email and goes to Grants.gov to grant the AOR access.

### [Guide to Finding Federal Assistance and Resources for Environmental Justice Efforts](#)

This EPA guide offers general guidance and tips on searching for funding opportunities, as well as information on tools, trainings and other relevant resources that are available to help address community needs. The Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG) includes several federal agencies and White House offices that increase local community capacity to promote and implement innovative and comprehensive solutions to environmental justice issues.

### 9. EPA REGIONAL JOB TRAINING COORDINATORS

<b>EPA Region 1</b> Danny Rodriguez	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	Phone: (617) 918-1060 E-mail: rodriguez.danny@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 1</b> Myra Schwartz		Phone: (617) 918-1696 E-mail: schwartz.myra@epa.gov
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Map of EPA Regions

Credit: [epa.gov](http://epa.gov)

## 10. JOIN US ON FUTURE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CALLS

### Upcoming PLC calls

- March 18
- April 1
- April 15
- April 29
- May 13
- May 27
- June 10

Missed a few of our PLC sessions? Post session notes are available on the [brownfields-toolbox.org](http://brownfields-toolbox.org). 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](mailto:hkballou@eicc.edu).

Visit our [HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox](http://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](mailto: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.

