EPA Brownfields Job Training Grants: Interested in Applying for Funding?

Here’s what you need to know...

What Is EPA’s Brownfields Program?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program empowers states, Tribal Nations, communities, and other stakeholders to build strong partnerships and local capacity to assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfield sites. EPA provides technical and financial assistance for brownfields activities that protect human health and the environment, encourage sustainable reuse, promote partnerships, strengthen local economies, and create jobs. By providing funds and technical assistance to assess, cleanup, and plan for site reuse, EPA enables communities to overcome the environmental, legal, and fiscal challenges associated with brownfields properties. EPA’s investments in communities across the country help local leaders eliminate uncertainties, clean up contaminated properties, and transform brownfield sites into community assets.

What Are Job Training Grants?

Brownfields Job Training Grants provide funding for a grant recipient to deliver trainings to unemployed and under-employed residents from communities impacted by brownfields. Students develop skills needed to secure full-time employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field, including sustainable cleanup and reuse, and chemical safety.

Funds may be used to offer trainings in:
- Brownfields hazardous waste training
- “Green Remediation” technologies
- Green infrastructure and stormwater management
- Emergency planning, preparedness, and response training for emergencies leading to contamination on brownfield sites
- Enhanced environmental health and safety related to site remediation
- Energy efficiency and alternative energy technologies
- Training in assessment, inventory, analysis, and remediation of brownfield sites
- Use of techniques and methods for cleanup of hazardous substances
- Awareness training in Environmental Stewardship and Environmental Justice
- Training in climate change mitigation and adaption

For more information, please visit https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-jt-grants

How Much Funding Is Available?

An applicant may request up to $500,000 in funding to use for their environmental job training curriculum development.

A brownfield is defined as: real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. The Brownfields Law further defines the term to include a site that is: “contaminated by a controlled substance; contaminated by petroleum or a petroleum product excluded from the definition of ‘hazardous substance’; or mine-scarred land.”
Who Is Eligible To Apply For A Job Training Grant?

Eligible entities include:

- 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 is chartered or otherwise sanctioned by a state.
- State.
- Indian tribe other than in Alaska.
- Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and Metlakatla Indian Community.
- Nonprofit organization; including, but not limited to, organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Public and nonprofit private institutions of higher education.

How Long Is The Job Training Grant Period?

The performance period for a Job Training Grant is up to five years.

How Do I Apply For A Job Training Grant?

Applicants submit an application through www.grants.gov. Applications should be concise and well organized, and must provide the information requested in the guidelines. Applicants must demonstrate that they meet threshold criteria requirements and must respond to evaluation criteria. Factual information about your proposed project and community must be provided.

Where Do I Find The Application Guidelines?

Copies of the Application Guidelines can be obtained from EPA’s Brownfields Program website at www.epa.gov/brownfields or from www.grants.gov.

What Is The Evaluation/Selection Process?

Responses to threshold criteria are evaluated on a pass/fail basis. If the application does not meet the threshold criteria, the application will not be evaluated. In limited circumstances, EPA may seek additional information.

Brownfields Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Evaluation panels consisting of EPA staff and other federal agency representatives assess how well the applications meet the threshold and evaluation criteria outlined in the Application Guidelines. The Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization will provide to the Selection Official a ranking list of applicants to select based on the application’s final score, availability of funds, and as appropriate, the other factors described in the Application Guidelines.

Is Pre-Application Assistance Available?

If resources permit, EPA Regions may conduct open meetings with potential applicants. Check with your regional office for date and location information. Your regional Brownfields Job Training Program contacts can be found at www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-program-contacts.

EPA can respond to questions from applicants about threshold criteria. EPA staff cannot meet with applicants to discuss draft applications or provide assistance in responding to evaluation criteria.

For additional information please visit https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-funding#jt

Important: This document is not a substitute for the EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant Application Guidelines located on the Brownfields Program website at www.epa.gov/brownfields.