

Session 285, January 18th, 2023

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1. News impacting BJT programs – FY23 Brownfields Job Training funding announcements

Congratulations to the twenty-nine FY23 grant recipients funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. This year's awards represent a dramatic increase in BJT funding to over \$14 Million providing \$500K per grant and an extension of the grant period from 3 to 5 years. Successful applications include the following organizations:

Alaska Forum, Inc.
Auberle
Baker Technical Institute
Civic Works, Inc.
Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa, Inc.
Cypress Mandela Training Center, Inc.
Energy Coordinating Agency
Full Employment Council, Inc.
Green Door Initiative
Kaunalewa
Limitless Vistas, Inc.
Los Angeles Conservation Corps
Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, Inc.
OAI, Inc., Chicago
PathStone Corporation
Pittsburgh Conservation Corps d/b/a Landforce
Richmond, City of (California)
Rochester, City of
Springfield, City of (Missouri)
St. Louis Community College
St. Nicks Alliance
Sustainable Workplace Alliance
Tacoma, City of (Washington)
The Fortune Society, Inc.
The HOPE Program
West End Neighborhood House, Inc.
Workforce, Inc., dba Recycle Force

WorkPlace, The
Zender Environmental Health and Research Group

With this announcement, 59 organizations across the country will be receiving assistance through the EPA Brownfield Job Training program. Prior to FY23, successful applicants were funded for three years. As a result, BJT training has staggered start and stop dates with new programs entering BJT, developed programs successfully recompeting for additional funding, some winding down their program, and others returning after a several year recess. Here is a rundown of funded programs after the FY23 announcements.

- 8 programs were funded for three years in 2020 but have not received additional assistance.
- 14 programs were funded for three years in 2021 and have not received additional funding.
- 8 programs were funded for three years in 2022 and did not receive or apply for FY23 funding.
- 29 new programs will be funded in FY23 for the next 5 years.

Funded BJT grantees range from first year applicants to those leaving and returning, and those who have been successful in recompeting their program for over a decade.

Special congratulations go out to first time BJT grantees.

- The Baker Technical Institute
- Kaunalewa
- The Sustainable Workplace Alliance
- The Green Door Initiative

Additional recognition goes out to the City of Tacoma returning to BJT after successfully competing for 8 grants between 2000 and 2018 and The Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board submitting three successful applications between 2009 and 2016.

As previously noted, several excellent and deserving applications were not funded this cycle. Unfunded proposals do not represent the effectiveness or quality of a program but rather a reflection on the response to ranking criteria in relation to other proposals submitted. As demonstrated in the past, first-time applicants often need a second try before submitting a successful application. Alumni grantees often need to rethink their partnerships and expand the scope of their proposals. In each case, the PLC will address moving forward with BJT in future conversations.

Following the tradition of past BJT grantees, those who have found successful strategies can be of great assistance assisting new grantees with the challenges and issues faced by developing programs. As a group, the BJT community can assist each other by exchanging best practices and sharing critical issues necessary for program success.

2023 in-person Annual All Grantee Meeting
Tentative date: May 24 & 25, 2023
Travel: May 23 and 26
Alexandria, Va.

The Annual All-Grantee Meeting will provide an in-person platform to continue conversations on critical issues and best practices among successful BJT programs. The full two-day workshop is facilitated by HMTRI with participation from grant recipients, EPA staff and outside experts. As in the past, the meeting will include complementary registration and housing. Travel, meals, incidentals, and other costs are not included. The Annual All-Grantee Meeting is open to BJT grant recipients and organizations interested in establishing local environmental job training programs. HMTRI will be working with participants and Regional Coordinators for the agenda format, guest speakers and topic ideas as we approach the date.

Brownfields 2023 National conference
August 8 - 11, 2023
Detroit, MI

The recently concluded National Brownfields Conference in Oklahoma City attracted more than 2,100 registrants and featured 130 educational sessions. The conference is a partnership between ICMA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and one of ICMA's longest running grant funded programs. To make up for the cancellation of last year's national brownfields conference, EPA and ICMA has announced dates for a conference to be held in Detroit Michigan August 8th through the 11th, 2023. Following next year's national conference, Brownfields will return to the previous scheduled 18 months between events. Educational sessions, registration and location will be announced later in the year.

The Brownfields 2023 Call for Ideas is Open
Call for Ideas will close on Monday, February 6, 2023

The Brownfields Conference planning committee is looking for dynamic sessions that will explore the latest and greatest tools, methods, trends, and case studies in brownfields redevelopment and revitalization. Brownfields 2023 will feature over 100 panels, roundtables, topic talks, training workshops, and more.

This year will feature seven new tracks to explore the evolving brownfields landscape, with topics like **Housing, Equity, and Minimizing Displacement, Environmental Justice and Public Participation, and Assessment and Cleanup Approaches.**

For more information, go to:
<https://brownfields2023.org/call-for-ideas/>

The GreatEST Institute
May 8-19, 2023, Bettendorf, Iowa
OSHA Health & 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

Instructors use CCCHST curriculum to train workers and responders in their local area and report to NPETE the number of courses they provide, for which they may be provided a small reimbursement. NPETE reports these numbers to NIEHS. CCCHST members may charge for the courses offered in their local area. Instructors reporting numbers must return every two years for Instructor Refresher training offered either at live conferences or through NPETE StayFreshers via zoom.

This program is supported with grant funding from the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences. 20 scholarships covering travel, tuition, lodging and Per Diem are available from NPETE. Electronic Applications are available on our website at www.nationalpete.org

A complete on-line application package is due by due February 28, 2023

For more information contact:

Hilary Kessler, Office Manager NPETE at hkessler@nationalpete.org

To apply please go to www.nationalpete.org

New EPA cooperative agreements to assist communities better respond to revitalization of brownfield communities

EPA is requesting two major cooperative agreements to assist communities better respond to revitalization of brownfield communities. The first totals \$53 million over a 5-year period and is an expanded version of the current TAB program to service each region.

FY 2023 Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Grants

EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-22-11

Application deadline - Feb 14, 2023

This grant has the goal of guiding communities through the brownfield assessment, cleanup and revitalization process and helping them understand complex brownfields-related subject matters.

- The solicitation is anticipated to be \$5 million over a 5-year period for each of EPA's 10 Regions
- In addition, a \$3 million grant will be awarded for nationwide technical assistance

For more information and a link to TAB application guidelines, go to:

FY 2023 Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Grants

[FY 2023 Guidelines for Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities](#)

The second new program focuses on research and technical assistance related to brownfield communities totaling \$4M over a 4-to-5-year period.

FY 2023 Brownfields Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grants

EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-22-12

Application deadline - Feb 14, 2023

Five entirely new Nationwide Brownfields Technical Assistance cooperative agreements, which will focus on five different areas of technical assistance and research.

Award amounts will range from \$500,000 to \$1 million over a 4-year or 5-year period

For more information on the five focus areas, go to:

- [Revolving Loan Fund Technical Assistance](#)
- [Nonprofit Technical Assistance](#)
- [Local Government Leaders Technical Assistance](#)
- [Minimizing Displacement Research](#)
- [Land Bank Research](#)

For additional information and a link to application guidelines, go to:

[FY 2023 Guidelines for Brownfields Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grants](#)

3. Pittsburgh Conservation Corps d/b/a Landforce

Thank you, Thomas, and Jasimine for Wednesday's presentation.

Please view the attached PowerPoint presentation Landforce prepared for the PLC.

Below is a summary of their presentation.

As with the LA Conservation Corps in California and OAI in Chicago, The Pittsburgh Conservation Corps (doing business as Landforce) provides skills and training to preserve green assets while promoting land stewardship in Brownfield communities. With a successful implementation of their first grant in 2021, Landforce has been selected as a grant recipient for FY23 funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. The Pittsburgh Conservation Corps is a social enterprise 501c3 nonprofit organization that specializes in assisting adults in removing barriers to employment through a workforce development program. Landforce focuses on land stewardship throughout the Pittsburgh region. Organized in 2016, its mission is investing in people and restoring land.

LandForce is targeting residents of Pittsburgh and nearby communities who experience barriers to employment including communities like greater Hazelwood where poverty levels can exceed 60%.

On average the completion rate for training has been 82% and for transitional employment 72%. Of those who completed the program, 94% applied for jobs, 92% had at least one job interview. 84% were offered jobs or went into industry training within two weeks of the season's end. 100% of 2020 & 2021 respondents were still employed 12 months out, all with raises (average wages from 15.90-\$19.13/hour).

Thomas emphasized the importance of partners in developing a successful technical and life skills training program. Below is an example of their numerous partnerships addressing all aspects of recruitment, technical, life skills training and placement. You can find this material in more detail as part of the attached PowerPoint.

Recruitment Partners

- Garfield Jubilee
- Operation Better Block
- Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc.
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Mon Valley Initiative
- Auberle
- APRI
- Renewal, Inc.
- Allegheny County Probation and Parole

Training Partners

- Restorative Practices (Brandi Taylor)
- Mental Health Conversations (Dr. Channing Moreland)
- Financial Empowerment (Pgh FEC counselors)
- Healthy eating on a budget (Pitt Dept. of Nutrition)
- Mock interview day (various partners)
- Employer Site Visits & talks (various partners)
- TABE Testing (Allegheny Intermediate Unit)

Hiring Partners

- Eichenlaub
- Plantscape
- Department of Public Works
- Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
- Davey Tree

Technical Training and Certifications

- Game Of Logging Chainsaw Safety Level 1 Certification
- OSHA/ HAZWOPER 40 Certification
- Tree Tenders Certification
- Green Infrastructure/ NGICP Overview
- Spotted Lanternfly Identification and Reporting
- Plant/Tree ID & Ecology
- First Aid/ CPR Certification
- Trail Building & Maintenance
- Landscaping Machinery Safety & Maintenance
- Basic Carpentry & Construction
- Invasive Plant Management
- Tool Identification, Safety, & Maintenance
- Body Mechanics
- Worksite Safety Tailgate Talks
- Covid Safety on the Worksite

Life Skills Training

- Bring Your "A" Game Certification

- Attitude; Attendance; Appearance; Ambition; Acceptance; Appreciation; Accountability
- Pre-Workday Preparation
- Understanding The Human Resources Manual and Your Rights & Responsibilities As An Employee
- How To Complete Timesheets
- Effective & Professional Phone, Email And In-person Communication
- Anti-harassment
- Chain Of Command
- Financial Literacy
- Healthy Eating on A Budget
- Driver's License Training

PLC participants are encouraged to review the PowerPoint presentation attached that details the summary just presented. Thomas or Jasimine would be happy to discuss and expand on the topics presented today.

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15208

4. Brownfields training related virtual meetings

National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Calls



The purpose of these calls is to inform communities about EPA's environmental justice work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with environmental justice advocates. As environmental justice continues to be integrated into EPA programs and policies, the Agency

hopes that these calls will help reaffirm EPA’s continued commitment to work with community groups and the public to strengthen local environmental and human health outcomes.

January 24th (2 - 4 pm Eastern)

EPA environmental justice initiatives

Listening Session and Dialogue: Q&A about ongoing EJ initiatives

For more information and registration, go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>

“Thriving Downtowns”

A special webinar with the authors of “The Investment Playbook”

Jan 31 1:00 PM Eastern

Released in summer 2022, the Playbook does a great job of breaking down the process for helping small towns attract investment. It includes practical approaches re: how to get started and gain traction to initiate and sustain downtown redevelopment.

Examples included are from Regions 3, 4, 5: OH (Shawnee); VA (Pulaski); WV (Princeton & Grafton); KY (Hazard, Hyden & Pineville). While not brownfields-specific, the info in here is very relevant to efforts to help small & rural downtowns.

More info on the playbook go to:

<https://wvhub.org/2022/08/an-investment-playbook-for-rural-appalachia/>.

No registration needed

[join at https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1608913546](https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1608913546)

5. Funding opportunities in recycling

The Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of \$100 million in grants for recycling infrastructure and recycling education and outreach projects across the country. EPA has published two Requests for Applications (RFAs) for new [recycling infrastructure grants](#) and education and outreach grants totaling \$70 million. EPA also announced a new grant program for states and territories totaling \$30 million.

The new grant programs support improvements to local waste management systems and recycling education and outreach, meeting Congress’ goal to create a stronger, more resilient, and cost-effective U.S. municipal solid waste recycling system.

The [Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling \(SWIFR\) Grant Program](#) for which EPA is now seeking applications includes:

- **\$30 million** in funding that is available for states, territories, and the District of Columbia to improve solid waste management planning, data collection, and program implementation; and

- **\$40 million** in funding that is available for counties, cities, towns, parishes, and similar units of government to fund projects that improve post-consumer materials management and infrastructure, including collection, transport, systems, and processes related to post-use materials that can be recovered, reused, recycled, repaired, refurbished, or composted.

The Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program

The [Recycling Education and Outreach \(REO\) Grant Program](#) for which EPA is now seeking applications includes:

- \$30 million in funding for projects to improve consumer education and outreach on waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting. These education and outreach grants to states, Tribes, territories, local governments, and other organizations aim to reduce waste generation, decrease contamination in the recycling stream, and increase recycling rates across the country in a manner that is equitable for all.

Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy consumption. Using recycled materials to make new products reduces the need for unused raw materials, avoiding emissions from mining, and allowing resources to be used more efficiently while reducing the impact on the climate. The Agency continues to accelerate progress through the development of these infrastructure and education grants, best practices and guidelines for batteries, a model recycling program toolkit, and strategies to reduce waste from food, plastics, and electronics.

Communities—oftentimes those with environmental justice concerns—carry the environmental and human health burdens of waste. The grants announced today align with the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to elevate environmental justice to the highest levels of the federal government and advance EPA’s commitment to delivering justice and equity for all.

As part of President Biden’s [Justice40 Initiative](#), at least 40 percent of the funding allocated in EPA’s SWIFR and REO grants will benefit underserved and overburdened communities. EPA encourages interested eligible entities to obtain [SAM.gov](#) and [Grants.gov](#) identification numbers, which can take a month. Interested applicants can [learn how to prepare for a grant application by visiting this webpage](#).

[Learn more about these grant opportunities and how to apply](#).

[Stay connected](#) to learn about upcoming webinars for these grants.

Read more about the [National Recycling Strategy and building a circular economy](#).

6. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of \$100 Million through Inflation Reduction Act for Environmental Justice Grants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of approximately \$100 million for projects that advance environmental justice in underserved and overburdened communities across the country. This funding, made possible through President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act, marks the largest amount of environmental justice grant funding ever offered by the Agency. EPA has published two Requests for Applications for this funding through the

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program and the Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) Program.

7. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators

Regional Coordinators are the first place to go regarding questions about BJT grants, extensions, budgets, or work plans. Many Regions maintain a Listserv for past, current, and potential recipients.

EPA Region 1
CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT
William “Bill” Lariviere
Phone: (617) 918-1231
E-mail: lariviere.william@epa.gov

EPA Region 2
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Schenine Mitchell
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E-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov

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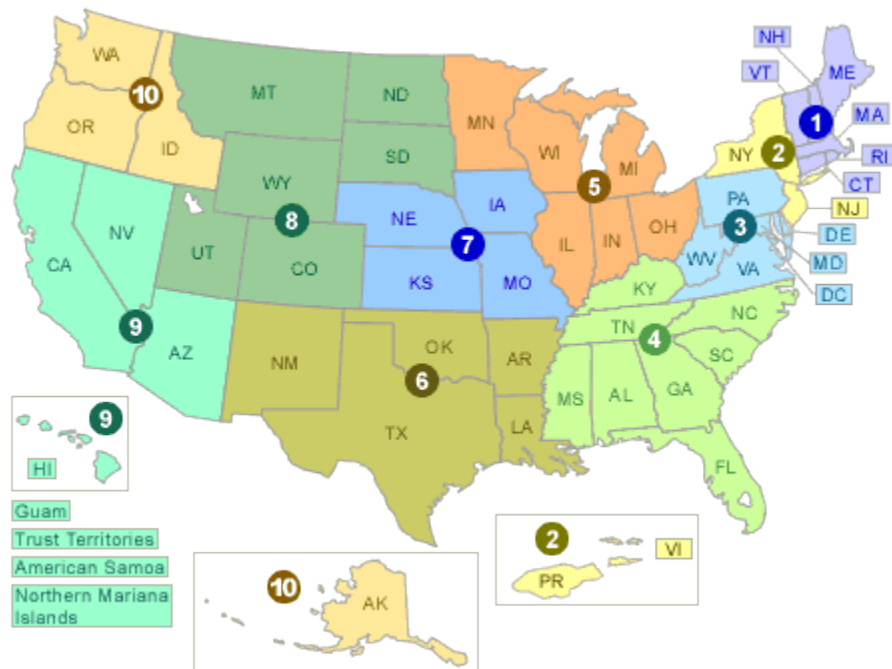
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8. Join us for the next PLC February 1st, 2023

Join a conversation with EPA Brownfields Job Training grant recipients, alumni, and interested stakeholders. PLCs are scheduled on Wednesdays, same time, regular PLC Zoom link.