

PLC Session 301 - March 20, 2024

Welcome to the KSU JT-TAB Professional Learning Community

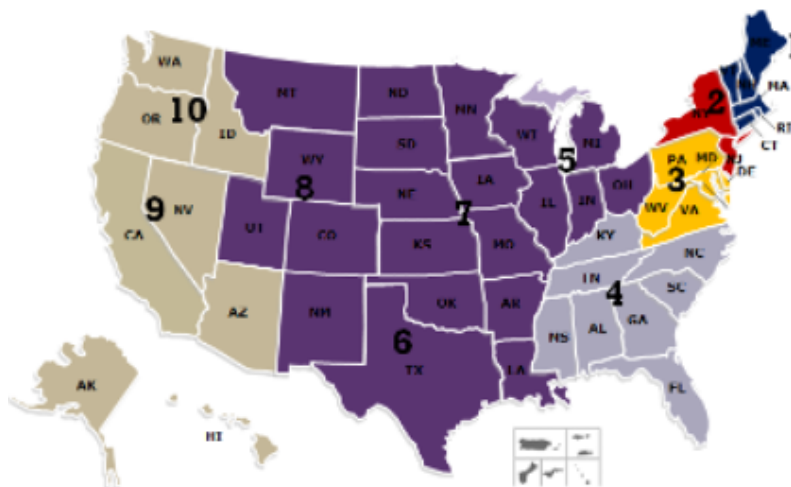
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TAB
Technical Assistance
to Brownfields

**KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY**



**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO
BROWNFIELD (TAB) COMMUNITIES**

1. Welcome to the KSU JT-TAB Technical Assistance Program

Kansas State University (KSU) is pleased to announce the continuation of EPA's brownfields job training technical assistance program. KSU JT-TAB will provide a forum for aspiring, new and current job training (JT) grantees to learn the latest strategies for developing and implementing successful JT programs. Those familiar with the previous HMTRI job training assistance program will recognize Mike Senew, Steve Fenton, and Nolan Curtis as additions to our KSU TAB program. As we organize JT-TAB watch for upcoming Professional Learning Community (PLC) announcements, e*newsletters, Job Training Programs 101 and Grant Writing 201 webinars, a virtual All-Grantee Meeting, and one-on-one technical assistance (including review of draft Job Training grant applications to EPA).

Moving forward, job training technical assistance questions can be directed to our JT-TAB team. To ensure your questions are answered in a timely manner, please address your request to me, Blase Leven at

baleven@ksu.edu

and copy the following JT technical consultants:

Mike Senew msenew@aol.com

Steve Fenton sfenton103@aol.com

Nolan Curtis nolan.curtis@stanfordalumni.org

2. Professional Learning Community Calls (PLC)

Goals and objectives – PLCs provide an opportunity to network and exchange ideas among people with common interests. The focus of our sessions relates to the establishment and successful implementation of Brownfields Job Training Programs. In addition to news, grant opportunities, and training strategies used by experienced grantees, we hope that questions from prospective applicants will be answered in anticipation of the FY25 request for grant applications. Here is a schedule of upcoming PLC calls presented on the third Wednesday each month.

Apr 17 th	2:00 PM Eastern – Critical Components of successful JT programs
May 15 th	2:00 PM Eastern – Reinforcing partnerships and employer relationships
Jun 19 th	2:00 PM Eastern – RFA review and ranking criteria
Jul 17 th	2:00 PM Eastern - Application review – Do's and don'ts
Aug 21 st	2:00 PM Eastern – Post RFA wind down
Sep 18 th	2:00 PM Eastern – Looking forward – Things to do now

3. Introductions and Housekeeping

Housekeeping for PLC calls

- Please post your name, organization, and total number of years as an EPA JT Grantee
- Feel free to ask questions as discussions progress
- Raise hand or leave question in chat box
- Feel free to contact other participants through the chat box to get their personal contact information.

Notes from the PLCs and recordings will be posted.

4. Frequently Asked Questions

Each session we like to share with everyone questions of interest or have been raised by PLC participants.

Question:

If we are a new applicant without prior job training or EPA grant history, will we be at a disadvantage when competing against experienced grantees?

Response:

EPA is interested in expanding both the applicant pool and population of recipient communities for the Brownfield Job Training Grants. Therefore, new applicants are encouraged to apply. Evaluation criteria are detailed in the Request for Applications guidelines. While the job training grant program includes past performance, evaluators recognize that some applicants may not have past performance. New applicants will not be penalized and will receive a neutral score as this part of the evaluation.

Question:

What is the time frame for receiving EPA funding to start a new job training program in our community?

Response:

Grant application, review, award, and finalization may vary but as an estimate, this is what you can expect regarding EPA's schedule for awarding FY25 Brownfields Job Training assistance.

EPA Request for applications	Early June 2024
JT Grant applications for funding due	Early August 2024
Initial screening of applications	September 2024
Announcement of funded applications	December 2024
Grant finalization (approval to spend funds)	Spring 2025

Question:

Can an organization submit more than one application during each grant cycle serving different communities?

Response:

Applicants cannot submit multiple applications, even if the applicant proposes to serve a different target area.

5. Brownfield Job Training News

The expected criteria have been provided by EPA early so that prospective Brownfields Job Training applicants can plan accordingly. Additional details, definitions, and final criteria will be included in the FY25 Brownfields Job Training Request for Applications in early June.



Applying and reapplying for EPA JT grants- Past grantees must affirm that they do not have an open JT grant. If current EPA JT grantees with open grants wish to reapply for an additional grant, they must demonstrate that they have drawn down and disbursed funds to at least 50% of their current grant by June 1, 2024.

Applicants will be allowed to form coalitions - Applicants may, but are not required to, propose forming a coalition to carry out their Brownfields Job Training program. Applying as a Job Training Coalition could allow the Job Training provider to recruit, train, and place students in environmental jobs, especially in rural areas where the geographic area is larger. A Job Training Coalition is comprised of one “lead” eligible entity that partners with one or more non-lead eligible entities. The lead entity is the applicant that submits an application on behalf of the coalition members, who may receive subawards.

Details regarding these changes can be found at the following EPA site

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants#RFA>

6. Moving Forward

First – A shout out and congratulations to the 14 new FY24 applicants who received their awards late last year.

- Cornerstones of Care
- E3 Solutions, Inc.
- Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps, Inc.

- Groundwork Ohio River Valley
- Honeybee Strategies
- Housing and Redevelopment Authorities of Cumberland County
- Kern County Builders Exchange
- North Side Industrial Development Company
- Pittsburg, City of (California)
- Research Foundation of The City University of New York
- Santa Fe Community College
- Texarkana, City of
- Workforce Development Board of Herkimer, Madison and Oneida Counties
- YouthBuild Louisville

Spring is a great time to review program plans, prepare for the next training cycle and anticipate the next round of Brownfields Job Training Requests for Applications. Currently we have 50 active Brownfields Job Training programs. Depending on each organization's situation, spring activities may vary.

Existing Grantees Funded in FY22 – There are 7 active grantees remaining with grants awarded in FY22 that were funded for \$200k over 3 years. Organizations in this group are well seasoned and have experienced the problems and benefits associated with brownfields job training. These programs have an opportunity to renew partnership relationships and consider how they may expand their program in anticipation of resubmitting an FY25 application next summer for \$500k over a 5-year period.

FY23 Grantees – 29 FY23 organizations received their authority to spend funds and are now actively training and establishing new cohorts. Special attention needs to be given to community awareness, recruitment, and student assessment.

New FY24 Job Training –The class of FY24 consists of veterans including Santa Fe Community College, City of Pittsburg California, and Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps along with several new organizations just beginning their first training cohort. The first training cohort of a new grant is the most difficult. It reveals unintended issues not previously anticipated. Hopefully with helpful tips from experienced grantees and JT-TAB assistance, recruitment, training, and placement will be successful as planned.

FY25 Prospective Job Training Applicants – Often potential applicants consider developing a job training program but procrastinate until it is too late to develop a credible program plan. Community and partner relationships take time and effort to establish. Now is the time to begin “testing the water”. Begin contacting potential governmental and nonprofit organizations regarding their interest in assisting the development of a local job training program. Communities need a champion to move the concept forward and a team of volunteers willing and able to participate in the JT development process.

7. Critical Components when Implementing Successful Brownfields Job Training

Before reviewing critical components that are part of successful JT programs, stakeholders interested in training unemployed residents must determine that a need exists and there is sufficient political, community, and employer support for a JT initiative. The following steps can be taken to answer those fundamental questions.



1. A champion or advocate is identified who serves as program organizer, task master and perhaps project manager as the JT effort develops.
2. Once a project manager has been recruited, his initial task will be determining the benefits associated with JT for the communities that might be served.
3. The next step is the identification of resources required to implement a successful JT program. Those resources include.
 - A. Governmental support
 - B. Partnership and leveraging opportunities
 - C. Community involvement and support
 - D. The availability of project staff familiar with critical components of job training programs
4. After identifying program resource requirements, the project manager needs to begin identifying and recruiting program developers. Development partners will be part of a “founders working group” responsible for program planning and resource acquisition and leveraging. With a working group in place, milestones and commitments from each working partner needs to be established. Communities interested in applying for FY25 funding have a grant submission date in early August. As previously noted, FY25 applications for the Brownfields Job Training (JT) program will be issued in early June. Applicants have 60 days to prepare and submit their application. As part of their application, aspiring grantees will need to address the following issues.

Community assessment - Identifying target communities best suited for a proposed JT program

Labor market assessment - Establishing the need for locally trained and certified environmental technician graduates

Partnership development & leveraging of program resources – Partnership development

Selection of student candidates - Student recruitment, screening, and assessment

Training - Technical, life skills and remedial training

Student support - Support services, and student retention

Graduate placement - Employer screening, placement, and tracking

Program sustainability - Establishing community support and program continuation

At first glance, addressing the issues presented today can appear intimidating. Organizing a JT working group will provide sufficient time to prepare for the FY25 EPA Job Training Request for Applications (RFA). As a guide, go to the FY24 RFA. It is anticipated that there will be minor changes to this year's RFA as noted by Steve earlier in this session but generally grant evaluation criteria will be similar.

To download the FY24 Brownfields Job Training RFA, go to:

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-05/FY%2024%20BF%20Job%20Training%20RFA_0.pdf

To see frequently asked questions regarding the Brownfields Job Training RFA, go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/frequently-asked-questions-about-brownfields-job-training-jt-grants>

8. 2024 Virtual All-Grantee Meeting



Save the Date! – We are currently planning to hold the 2024 All-Grantee Meeting during the week of August 19, 2024. The meeting will be virtual and should provide important information and networking opportunities for all levels of JT Grantees from aspiring to seasoned programs. We have not yet landed on the final format, presenters, or duration (1 day or 2 day), but would like you to pencil in Tuesday through Thursday of that week pending final decisions and announcements.

Input Process – We are interested in your input as to what topics or discussions would be beneficial to you, your programs, or communities. Please submit your comments and ideas to Mike, Steve, or Nolan. Our contact info is in the chat and at the end of this presentation.

9. Online Webinars

National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

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.

For more information and registration, go to:

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

Due to limited space, participation in these calls will be on a first come, first-served basis. Pre-registration is highly suggested, but not required. If you are unable to join a call, meeting materials and a recording of the meeting will be posted to the page after each call.

- [Upcoming Calls](#)
- [Previous Calls](#) (recordings, transcripts, meeting materials)

Webinars offered by EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment periodically hosts webinars for the EPA grants

community. If you are interested in applying for EPA grants or are currently managing an EPA grant, please consider attending one of these webinars. [Subscribe to the EPA Grants Update Listserv](#) to receive updates about these webinars.

[Competition Process Webinar](#)

March 26, 2024, 1:00-2:00 pm ET

This webinar intends to help grant applicants learn how to find and successfully apply for competitive EPA grants. EPA will also provide an overview of the competition process from application through evaluation and selection.

[Procurement, Subawards, and Participant Support Costs Webinar](#)

March 27, 2024, 11:30 am-1:00 pm ET

This training will cover procurement regulations and requirements. Specific topics include: best practices for contracts, consultants, equipment, and supply purchases; review of subawards (grant awards provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient); and participant support costs (payments to individuals who participate in grant activities but are not employees of the grant recipient).

[New EPA Davis-Bacon Grant Term and Condition Webinar](#)

March 28, 2024, 12:30-1:30 pm ET

This training will discuss EPA's new Davis-Bacon Term and Condition that is required for certain programs that involve construction activities.

We also invite you to visit and bookmark the [Community Library of Frequently Asked Questions](#) to find answers to questions about EPA grants that were asked by previous webinar participants.

For Those Who Missed EJScreen 101 Training **EPA hosted a webinar “EJSCREEN 101: Mapping Tools and EPA Competitive Grants”**

EJSCREEN is an environmental justice mapping and screening tool that allows users to access environmental and demographic information for locations in the United States. Anyone can use this web-based tool to access high-resolution content about environmental justice, and compare data across state, EPA region, and national locations.

This webinar provides guidance on how to use EJSCREEN effectively, as well as how to tailor its usage to specific needs, like responding to competitive grants or other organizational needs. To learn more about EJScreen, please [visit the EJSCREEN website](#) and [access the EJSCREEN webinar here](#).

10. In Person Meetings and Workshops

2024 Tennessee Environmental Network Show of the South

May 15-17

Chattanooga Convention Center

Save the date for the 2024 Tennessee Environmental Network Show of the South

Attendee and Sponsorship (including **Exhibitor**) registrations are open!

[Register Here](#)

Register for GBA's 2024 Brownfield Seminar

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION	VIRTUAL REGISTRATION
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April 9, 2024, 8 am to 5 pm (program) + reception until 7 pm

Georgia State Knowles Law Center + Virtual Registration is also available

A full day of timely, relevant educational programming plus networking with sponsors and attendees.

Continuing Education: Earn up to 7.5 hours of CE/CLE credit: GBA is submitting the 2024 Brownfield Seminar to the State Bar of Georgia for CLE credits, and will provide Certificates of Participation to professionals in other industries.

Visit Our Website for the Full Program and to Register for GBA's 2024 Brownfield Seminar

11. Technical Assistance Resources

New Resource: EPA Grants Community Library of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is excited to announce a new tool for grant applicants and recipients! The [Community Library of Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) is a comprehensive resource based on questions asked by participants of EPA's grants webinars. Use the library to quickly find answers to questions about applying for grants, executing grants, and complying with EPA grants policies and requirements. In many cases, the answers provide links to more details and additional training materials. You can filter questions by topic (for example, Budget, Certification and Compliance, Drawdowns, among others) or use the search control to find questions based on a keyword. The library of FAQs will be updated with new questions and answers as EPA grants webinars are held. If you have questions or feedback regarding the Community Library of FAQs or EPA grants, please send an email to EPA_Grants_Info@epa.gov.

Training from EPA Office of Grants and Debarment

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment periodically hosts webinars for the EPA grants community. EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is pleased to announce the availability of several new and updated training resources for grant applicants and recipients.

If you are interested in applying for EPA grants or are currently managing an EPA grant, please consider visiting one of these sites.

- NEW—Learn how to [Register in SAM.gov and Grants.gov](#) to apply for EPA grants. This webpage will help you register your organization in SAM.gov, create an applicant profile in Grants.gov, and get familiar with using Workspace.
- The [How to Develop a Budget training](#) was recently updated. This course will help you prepare work plans, budgets, and budget narratives for EPA grants.
- The [EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients](#) course introduces key aspects of the grant life cycle starting with preparing an application through closing out a grant. The six modules can be completed individually.

Additional webinars or completed webinars with recordings and PowerPoints are available at the following sites.

[Competition Process](#)

This webinar is intended for help grant applicants learn how to find and successfully apply for competitive EPA grants. EPA will also provide an overview of the competition process from application through evaluation and selection.

[Training for EPA Pass-Through Grant Applicants, Recipients, and Subrecipients](#)

This training is intended for EPA grant applicants and recipients that plan to use EPA funding to provide grants to other entities through “subawards.” This type of EPA grant recipient is considered a pass-through entity because the goal of the grant is to further award EPA funds. This training will focus on:

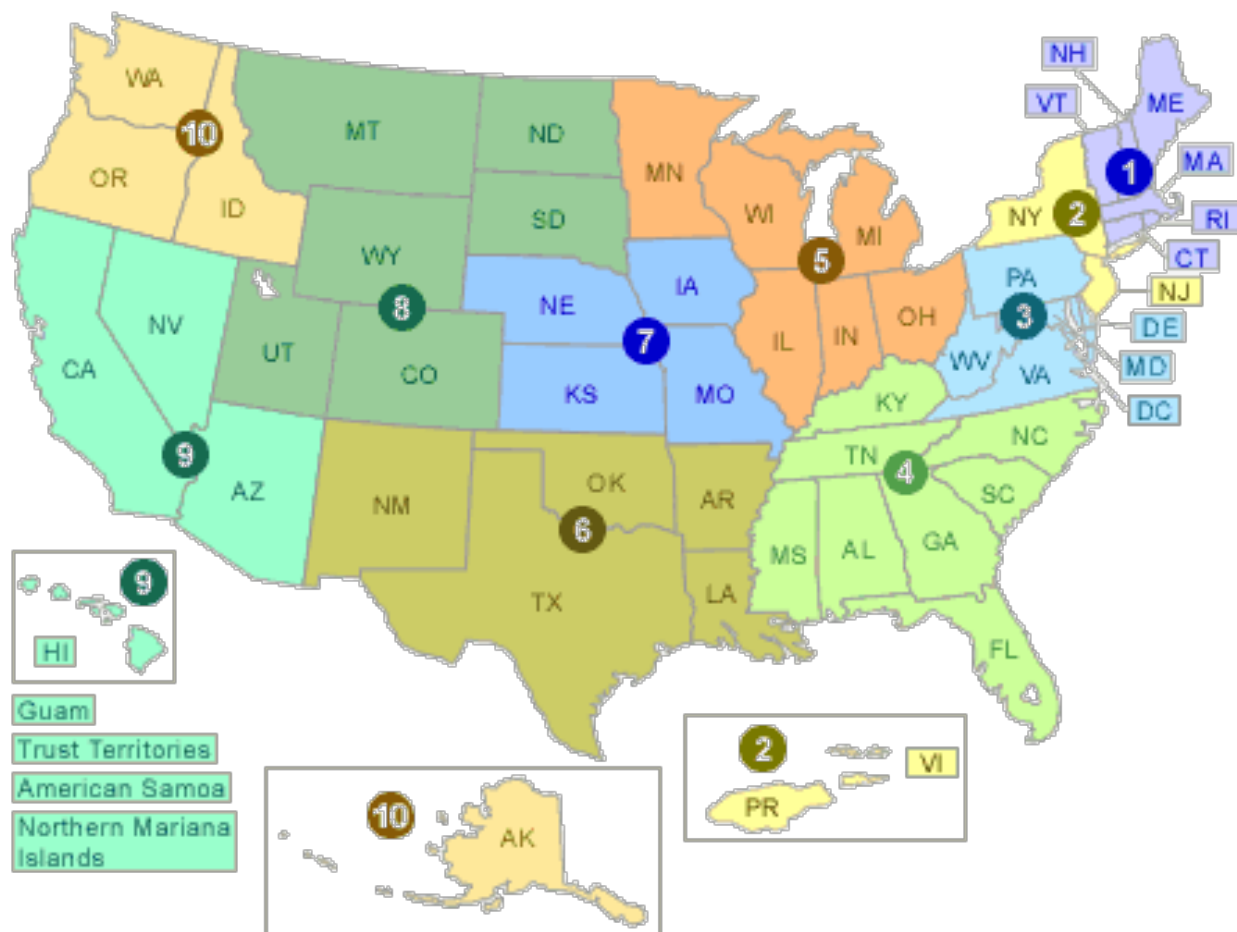
- Oversight responsibilities of EPA pass-through entities

- Federal regulations that govern pass-through entities and the recipients of subawards (subrecipients)
- EPA's specific requirements for subrecipients

EPA pass-through entities are encouraged to share this training information with their subrecipients.

12. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators

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



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13. Save the date - Join us for the next PLC April 17th

Join an open conversation with EPA Brownfields Job Training grant recipients, alumni, and interested stakeholders.

PLC meetings are held monthly on the third Wednesday at 2:00 pm Eastern.

PLC ZOOM calls provide aspiring, new, and current job training (JT) grantees an opportunity to network and learn the latest strategies for developing and implementing successful JT programs. If you are on the previous PLC participant list, no need to register.

If you know of another individual who would like to attend the PLC, pass this email along and have them respond with their contact information to msenew@aol.com

Likewise, if you would like to be removed from the PLC list, please return this email with “REMOVE” in the subject line.

To Join KSU JT-TAB Professional Learning Community (PLC) calls

GO TO:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85626179544?pwd=pmAeWjiESqIUbbgKERwlt0VIP7cpxF.1>

Meeting ID: 856 2617 9544

2:00 p.m. Eastern Time

PLCs will continue monthly on the Third Wednesday each month

Apr 17 th	2:00 PM Eastern – Critical Components of successful JT programs
May 15 th	2:00 PM Eastern – Reinforcing partnerships and employer relationships
Jun 19 th	2:00 PM Eastern – RFA review and ranking criteria
Jul 17 th	2:00 PM Eastern - Application review – Do’s and don’ts
Aug 21 st	2:00 PM Eastern – Post RFA wind down
Sep 18 th	2:00 PM Eastern – Looking forward – Things to do now

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85626179544?pwd=pmAeWjiESqIUbbgKERwlt0VIP7cpxF.1>

Meeting ID: 856 2617 9544

The objective of the (PLC) has been to promote and share innovative strategies among those interested in establishing community based environmental job training programs. Our sessions allow participants to stay in touch with JT happenings, ask questions, showcase their programs, and help others.

Mike at:
msenew@aol.com

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