

PLC Session 304 - June 26, 2024

FY25 RFA Highlights and Resources



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1. Welcome to Today's Professional Learning Community (PLC)

Welcome to the fourth monthly Professional Learning Community Call of this cycle. As the Kansas State University Job Training Technical Assistance to Brownfields (KSU JT-TAB) continues monthly Professional Learning Community (PLC) sessions, we will be reviewing highlights from EPA's FY25 Request for Job training Applications (RFA). Along the way, we would like to present some helpful hints for submitting a successful application.

If you are on the PLC participant list, you receive reminders and links to scheduled events. If you did not receive reminders to today's PLC, please send your contact information to: JT-TAB@KSU.edu. If you would like to be removed from the PLC list, please return this email with "remove" in the subject box.

Statements made by KSU JT-TAB during this webinar or in post session notes do not constitute official EPA advice, interpretations, or positions.

2. Brownfield Job Training News

Since the last PLC, lots has happened regarding the new round of Brownfields job training grants. Today we are going to identify numerous publications, webinars and websites that we think will be useful in developing a brownfields job training program and responding to the FY25 EPA Requests for JT Applications. Links to all of these resources will appear in the post session notes.

Recent events and announcements

May 17th - EPA posted the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on Grants.gov with a closing date of August 15th, 2024. An estimated \$14 million is available to fund cooperative agreement grants for a period of up to 5 years for a total grant of up to \$500 thousand each.

May 23rd - KSU JT-TAB hosted a webinar titled "***Establishing A Successful Brownfields Job Training Program***" **JT101** addressing critical components associated with starting and implementing a successful job development program.

June 6th - EPA presented an outreach webinar reviewing the FY25 Request of Brownfields Job Training Applications, Notice of Funding Availability (NOFO).

June 12th - KSU JT-TAB hosted a webinar titled "***Tips on Writing a Competitive EPA Job Training Proposal***" **JT201** presenting tips for applicants as they plan and write their JT application.

Recordings, slides and accompanying notes are available for all of these events at <https://www.ksutab.org/job-training> and will be discussed in today's PLC.

Mark your Calendar for these upcoming JT events

- Wednesday, July 17th - Last PLC before applications are due - *"Do's and don'ts to supercharge JT applications"*
- July - August 7th - Regional TAB Job Training Consultants will be available to review draft applications.
- August 15th - FY25 JT applications due.
- August 21st - **Save the date** - KSU JT-TAB virtual All-Grantee Meeting – *"Exploring Training Resources"*. This year's All Grantee Meeting will explore current and cutting-edge resources available to JT grantees as they implement their training programs.
- Wednesday, Sep 18th - The PLC pivots to assisting current grantees implement their programs - *Looking forward - "Things to Do Now"*

3. Frequently Asked Questions

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

Question:

Is there a list of past grant recipients by State available and the types of projects they've worked on?

Response:

EPA's Grant Factsheet tool tracks past and current JT grantees with links to information about their program. https://java.epa.gov/acrespub/gfs/?grant_announcement_year=2024&grant_type_id=1003.

The *Certified Employee Finder*, produced by HMTRI, identifies current JT grantees including the curriculum, certificates and services they provide to participants

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-10/2023-certified-employee-finder.pdf>

Question:

Is there a map of where brownfields are located?

Answer:

The EPA Cleanups in My Community Map identifies brownfields sites

<https://www.epa.gov/cleanups/cleanups-my-community>. You can also Contact your state brownfields program. They maintain an online database of brownfields: <https://java.epa.gov/acrespub/stvrp/>. It is important that a brownfield site is located in the area being served as it influences the curriculum being offered.

Question:

How does the presence of brownfields influence curriculum?

Answer:

Eligible curriculum is limited to training which facilitates the inventory of brownfield sites, site assessments, remediation of brownfield sites, community involvement, or site preparation. EPA has published an extensive list of eligible training topics <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/list-eligible-and-ineligible-brownfield-job-training-courses>.

Question:

Can you target several target communities?

Answer:

Applicants must identify only one target area. However, a target area can be any area (e.g., county/counties, lands of Federally Recognized Tribes, several neighboring towns or cities, a district, a corridor, a shared planning area, or a census tract, etc.) that is impacted by the presence of one or more brownfield sites.

New this year, EPA will consider coalition applications that propose to serve large geographical areas, especially rural communities that include several towns and/or Tribal lands, as well as applicants able to serve sister-cities (partnerships between U.S. cities located in different states).

Question:

Do you anticipate this program will continue to be ongoing in FY 2026?

Answer:

Yes, EPA anticipates this program will continue in FY 2026 subject to the availability of appropriations.

Question:

Now that the RFA has been posted on grant.gov, can you give me a timeline for FY25 training cycle?

Response:

The FY25 grant cycle timeline for each grantee will depend on the final award date and when applicants are authorized to spend funds. If grantees request funding for the full 5 years of the grant cycle, the first four years will focus on program development, training delivery and placement. A fifth year is for additional training, placement, tracking and program sustainability. Estimated milestones for the FY25 grant cycle might look like the schedule below.

May 17th, 2024

- FY25 Brownfields Job Training Request for Applications (RFA) are posted on grants.gov

August 15th, 2024

- Application acceptance is closed. Applicants have been given 90 days to prepare their applications

Early September 2024

- Applications that did not pass threshold criteria are notified in approximately 15 days that their application is not eligible to continue for review

November - December 2024

- Announcements of successful candidates are announced in 3-4 months
- Unsuccessful candidates have an opportunity to review their application with Regional Job Training Coordinators

1st and 2nd Quarters 2025

- Grant packages are sent to successful applicants for acceptance and returned to EPA
- Work plans and grant administration is completed prior to final award (60-90 days after submitting grant package)
- Funds available for training are released before September 31st, 2025

3rd and 4th Quarters 2025

- Training cohorts begin with program refinements, partnership and placement development

2025- 2029

- Training cohorts continue with program refinements, partnership development and placement improvements based on experience
- Training and placement progress with ACRES reporting quarterly
- Consideration regarding program expansion, improvement and sustainability continue

2030

- Placement, funding development and program continuation is considered as the completion date of the grant approaches
- Final placement, tracking, program continuation plans, and grant wrap up – through 2030

4. Helpful Resources for organizations responding to the FY25 RFA

With numerous webinars and technical assistance materials available to prospective and new grantees, we thought it would be helpful to summarize and provide links to resources that may be useful in responding to the RFA. Resources covered include the following:

- EPA guidance for applicants seeking FY25 brownfields job training grants
- EPA links to data resources helpful in application preparation
- Resources from Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) providers
- Job training resources developed by HMTRI

EPA guidance for applicants seeking FY25 brownfields job training grants

Applicants interested in learning about the EPA Brownfields Job training program find a host of information with links that been consolidated into a single site. Applicants are advised to check back to this site for new and updated postings.

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/fy-2025-brownfields-job-training-grants>

This site provides links to EPA issued guidance for potential applicants.

- [Opportunity Notice at grants.gov](#)
Official Notice of Funding Opportunity issued May 17th for a maximum of 20 cooperative agreements each with a maximum to \$500 k and closing date is August 15th, 2024.
- [Fiscal Year 2025 Brownfields Job Training Grant Guidelines \(pdf\)](#)
Full text of the FY25 Request for Applications (RFA).
- [Fiscal Year 2025 Brownfields Job Training Guidelines Summary of Changes \(pdf\)](#)
Summary of changes to FY24 guidelines.
- [Frequently Asked Questions About Brownfields Job Training \(JT\) Grants](#)
Questions and answers to clarify statements in the RFA.
- [Interested in Applying for Brownfields Job Training Funding?](#)
General information for organizations considering submitting a grant application including contact information for additional technical assistance.
- [List of Eligible and Ineligible Brownfield Job Training Courses](#)
A detailed list (not all inclusive) of training eligible for funding under this grant.
- [How to Register and Apply for Grants](#)
A summary from EPA for registering (with SAM.gov) and submitting a grant application (grants.gov).
- [How to submit an application through Grants.gov](#)
Additional tips from EPA on submitting Brownfields grants through grants.gov.
- [FY 2025 Brownfields Job Training NOFO Outreach Webinar Presentation \(pdf\)](#)
PowerPoint slides of the June 6, 2024, EPA hosted outreach webinar for prospective applicants.
- [Recording of the FY 2025 Brownfields Job Training NOFO Outreach Webinar Presentation \(mp3\)](#)
Recordings of the June 6, 2024, EPA hosted outreach webinar for prospective applicants.
- [FY 2025 Brownfields Job Training NOFO Outreach Webinar Q&A Report \(pdf\)](#)
Answers to questions from the June 6, 2024, EPA hosted outreach webinar for prospective applicants.

EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators

Organizations are advised to contact the EPA Regional Coordinators if they are planning on submitting a proposal or if they have questions regarding their eligibility to apply. Contact information can be found at the following site. [Regional EPA Job Training Coordinators](#)

While EPA Regional Coordinators are prohibited from discussing individual grant applications. They do encourage potential applicants or do the following.

- Communicate to the Regional Coordinator an interest in submitting a Brownfields JT application
- Review threshold criteria to ensure applicants qualify for funding
- Confirm questions regarding allowable and disallowed costs

EPA links to data resources helpful in application preparation

- **EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities** - The EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities map combines multiple datasets that can be used to determine whether a community is disadvantaged. The EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities Map combines multiple datasets (including CEJST and EJScreen).
<https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=f3be939070844eac8a14103ed6f9affd>
- **Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)** - Can be used to locate communities that are disadvantaged because they are overburdened and underserved. Data sets are assigned values at the Census block group level.
<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/about#3/33.47/-97.5>
- **EJScreen** - Supplements CEJST and the Disadvantaged Communities map with additional demographic and environmental data
<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>
- **Cleanups in My Community** - Identify brownfields and local cleanup activity
<https://www.epa.gov/cleanups/cleanups-my-community>
- **EPA Fact Sheet data file** - In addition to brownfields job training grants Fact Sheets identify local brownfield
https://java.epa.gov/acrespub/gfs/?grant_announcement_year=2024&grant_type_id=1003
- **State online database of brownfields programs** - A state-by-state compilation of brownfields program contacts
<https://java.epa.gov/acrespub/stvrp/>
- **Jobs Principles** - Provides guidance regarding principles of screening, selection, hiring, retention of program participants
<https://www.dol.gov/general/good-jobs/principles>

EPA Fact Sheet Data File - Identifies organizations (past and present) receiving EPA job training grants

https://java.epa.gov/acrespub/gfs/?grant_announcement_year=2024&grant_type_id=1003

Resources from Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) providers

EPA has funded five regional TAB service organizations to provide free technical assistance to communities and tribes who are revitalizing communities via brownfields redevelopment. Regional TAB Job Training Consultants are available to review draft grant applications before they are submitted to grants.gov. To request a review, please notify your Regional TAB Point of Contact (POC) that you will be sending a draft application for review. Allow three to five days for a response and do not send applications later than August 7th. Contact information for Regional TAB POCs can be found at the KSU JT-TAB website site.

Kansas State University Job Training Technical Assistance to Brownfields website (KSU JT-TAB)

Kansas State University (KSU JT-TAB) provides general guidance to organizations interested in developing EPA Brownfields Job Training Programs. <https://www.ksutab.org/job-training>
This site contains the following resources.

- **PowerPoints and recordings of recent JT webinars** – Identifies successful components of job training programs and provides tips on writing successful grant applications.
 - *Establishing A Successful Brownfields Job Training Program -Thursday, May 23rd, 2024*
 - *Tips on Writing a Competitive EPA Job Training Application- Wednesday, June 12th, 2024*
- Recordings and notes from recent Professional Learning Community (PLC) Zoom - Discuss best practices of successful brownfields job training programs.
- **CONNET Newsletters** - Summarize challenges faced by new job training programs.
- **EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators** - Available to review only the **Threshold** criteria section of JT applications to verify conformity to issued guidelines and answer questions regarding the guidelines.
- **TAB Regional Job Training Points of Contact (POC)** – Available to review **entire draft JT applications** before submission to grants.gov. To request a review, please notify your Regional TAB Point of Contact (POC) that you will be sending a draft application for review. Allow three to five days for a response and do not send applications later than August 7th.

KSU JT-TAB also provides examples of successful job training applications

Download examples of five successful FY23 JT applications

https://www.ksutab.org/resources?combine=Example+Job+Training&field_state_target_id=All&field_tag_target_id=All&field_category_target_id=2

Grant Application Preparation hosted by the University of Connecticut, KSU and Region 1

Preparing a successful EPA Job Training Grant Proposal Technical Assistance for Brownfields Program - Provides a step-by-step guide to responding to the EPA JT RFA (Prepared for FY24 Applicants). Download [slides](#) and listen to the [recording](#)

Platform for Exploring Environmental Records (PEER)

The [Platform for Exploring Environmental Records \(PEER\)](#) is an interactive, open-source data tool that informs brownfields redevelopment and planning decisions. The tool aggregates and displays publicly-available environmental records in an easy-to-use, accessible way. PEER provides locations in a given search area where regulated chemicals and materials are stored or handled, and a Revitalization Risk Rating (RRR) for these locations, which indicates the likelihood of encountering a release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant on or adjacent to the associated property. Abandoned or underutilized properties with a likelihood of a such a release, or that are adjacent to these properties, may qualify as a brownfield, for redevelopment into a new use that benefits the community.

This tool may be most useful in cases where there is not a good list of known brownfields in their community, or to get a feel for how many sites pose possible environmental risks are in their community. Users can simply zoom to the area of their city they are interested in, specify the risk ratings they care about, and download a table to get a count of sites in their community. Specific ties to sites on the map with sites the community has identified as brownfields can be made to reach general inferences about the magnitude of risks posed by brownfields in their community.

Job training resources developed by HMTRI

EPA maintains links to materials previously developed by HMTRI that may be useful to JT applicants as they develop their training programs.

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants-technical-assistance-resources>

- [Environmental Job Training Programs: Critical Components and Best Practices \(pdf\)](#)
Offers guidance for local organizations to help maximize participant placement and grow sustainable workforce development programs. Topics include community and labor market assessments; curriculum design; student recruitment; participant retention, placement and tracking; and more.
- [Certified Employee Finder \(pdf\)](#)
Provides a listing of EPA-funded Brownfields Job Training programs. Contents include contact information, core curriculum provided, certificates offered, and additional services provided to participants.
- [Social Media Directory \(pdf\)](#)
Links to the accounts of several Brownfields Job Training Grantees as a reference for others looking for ways to recruit students and potential employers.

5. Highlights of the FY25 RFA

Getting started

EPA Job training grants need to be submitted online. Organizations thinking of applying for FY25 funding must be registered in two government systems.

- The System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registers organizations to conduct business with the U.S. Government.
- Grants.gov is the official system for managing all federal grant applications.

These two systems share information. Together, they provide access to everything needed to complete the online application process.

Individuals access both systems through a single user account which can be created when registering with SAM.gov or Grants.gov.

First, organizations must register with SAM.gov to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

(Note that registration must be renewed annually.)

After obtaining a UEI, organizations need to designate an E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC). The EBiz POC is likely to be the organization's chief financial officer or authorizing official. The EBiz POC does not submit the grant application in Grants.gov. Applications are submitted by an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) designated by the EBiz POC.

Tutorials with step-by-step instructions for getting started - <https://www.epa.gov/grants/how-register-apply-grants>

A You Tube presentation is also available - <https://www.youtube.com/user/GrantsGovUS>

Tips:

- If your organization is not registered with SAM.gov or grants.gov, start the registration process now.
- If you feel you are not in a position to complete the process just described, consider partnering as a subgrantee with an organization experienced in submitting federal grants.
- Contact your organizations EBiz POC as soon as possible. The EBiz POC needs to appoint an AOR. The AOR will be the person who will be submitting the grant application to grants.gov.
- Commit the AOR to work with a schedule for grant submission before August 15th. Suggest they check to see if their account is current. Try a test run prior to grant submission.

Passing Threshold Criteria

Threshold Criteria is a “pass/fail” screening process. In order to continue with the application evaluation, applicants must pass nine threshold criteria. An explanation of each criterion is explained in the RFA section referenced. It is important to address every item. Applicants will be notified within 15 days of a “pass/fail” determination. The nine qualifying threshold criteria are discussed in section III starting on page 14 of the RFA. A link to the RFA pdf is

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-05/fy25jt-nofo_final_0.pdf

1. **Applicant Eligibility** - Applicants and coalition members must be eligible entities. From the list of eligible entities is provided in Section III.A.
2. **Coalition Agreement** - Each non-lead coalition member must submit a signed letter to the grant applicant in which they agree to be part of the coalition. If the application is not a coalition respond with “not applicable”.
3. **Demonstration that Proposed Project Does Not Duplicate Other Federally Funded Environmental Job Training Programs** - Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed training project does not duplicate other EPA, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) or Department of Labor (DOL) programs in the target community. Links to those programs are on pages 17 and 18 of the RFA.
4. **Required HAZWOPER Training** - The application must document that OSHA 29 CFR § 1910.120 - 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training will be included in the training curriculum and be provided to all trainees. Include the page in the Narrative where this information can be found.
5. **Federal Funds Requested and Estimated Project Period** - Indicate the requested funding amount and estimated project period not to exceed 5 years and \$500,000.
6. **Substantial Conformity with Instructions and Format Requirements** – Confirm that the application conforms to the application submission instructions and format requirements (page counts, no photos, font type and size etc.).
7. **Training Curriculum Chart Indicating the Cost of Each Course** - The training curriculum chart with associated costs for each training course must be included with responses to the ranking criteria as part of the Narrative. Indicate on which page of the Narrative the training curriculum chart can be found.
8. **Target Area** - Identify one target area to serve including a county or counties, Tribal lands, a number of neighboring towns or cities, a district, a corridor, a shared planning area, or census tract data. Indicate on which page of the Narrative detailed information can be found.
9. **Previous Funding Requirement** – Confirm that an EPA Brownfields Job Training grant was not received in FY24.
10. **Expenditure of Existing Brownfields Job Training Grant Funds** - Affirm that an EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant is not open. Current EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant recipients must demonstrate that drawn down funds have been disbursed, for at least 50.00% of the funding by June 1, 2024.

Tips:

- Submit Threshold Criteria to EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators if there may be issues regarding application eligibility. While Regional Coordinators are not able to discuss specific grants, they can review and answer questions regarding the Threshold section of applications and clarify guideline questions.
- The project period can be less than 5 years and less than \$500,000.
- If the application is not a Brownfields Job Training Coalition or previous grantee, state 'n/a' or 'not applicable'.
- Additionally, respond to every threshold criterion indicating “not applicable” when appropriate.
- If a grant has not been received in the past, be sure to also state this in the narrative.
- Cost sharing and matching funds are not required. Voluntary cost share will not be accepted. Contributions from applicants should be included with leveraged funding.
- The training curriculum chart with associated costs for each training course must be included with responses to the ranking criteria as part of the Narrative. When addressing this threshold criterion, indicate on which page of the Narrative your training curriculum chart can be found.

Developing the Narrative Information Sheet

The Narrative Information Sheet provides an introduction to the project. It is limited to 3 pages and should be printed on your organization's letterhead. The Narrative Information Sheet is not a summary or overview of the project. EPA does not consider information in the Narrative Information Sheet to be responses to the evaluation criteria. The 3-page narrative information sheet should include the following information

1. **/Target Area Data Application Identification** - Name address etc.
2. **Grant type** - “Brownfields Job Training Grant” or “Brownfields Job Training Coalition.”
3. **Project Period and Funding Request** – Up to 5 years and up to \$50,000.
4. **Coalition Members** - Indicate “not applicable” when appropriate.
5. **Training program website** - If selected for funding, EPA will include the links to the social media accounts on the Brownfields Grant Factsheet Tool.
6. **Population**
 - Provide the general population of the area you are proposing to serve and the population of your defined target community.
 - Identify the target area discussed in the Narrative.
 - If the target area is smaller than a city/town, list the eleven-digit census tract number(s) within the target area.
 - Identify where the training facility will be located.
7. **Contact Information**
 - Project Director assigned to the proposed program and may be contacted if additional information is required.
 - Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Official who may also be contacted if additional information is required.

Developing the Narrative Information Sheet *(Continued)*

8. **Releasing Copies of Applications** - Indicate which portion(s) of the application are confidential, privileged, or sensitive information, or state 'not applicable' if the application does not have confidential, privileged, or sensitive information.
9. **Other Factors:** Evaluators may consider Other Factors in making their final funding decisions. Applicants should identify applicable Other Factors and note the corresponding page number where Other Factors are discussed in the Narrative section of the application. Other factors include the following.
 - Whether the community population is 10,000 or less.
 - Whether the applicant has not received an EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant since 2015.
 - Whether the applicant is a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States territory or whether the project is assisting a tribe or territory.
 - Whether the applicant is seeking to serve veterans.
 - Whether a target area is located within a community in which a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2015 or later) or is closing.
 - None of the above

Tips:

- Many JT programs seek to serve veterans. Consider how a recruitment plan would include opportunities for exiting the military.
- While not part of Other Factors, issues such as proposed programs located within an area experiencing persistent poverty or programs addressing populations with special needs such as returning citizens should be noted in the narrative.
- Additional consideration is given to the distribution of funds among EPA's ten regions, new applicants, rural and tribal applicants, and coalition grants.

Writing the Narrative

Writing the narrative is essentially responding to Ranking Criteria which total 200 evaluation points. As previously noted, every request for information must be addressed. Failure to respond may result in a lowered score for the criteria in question. When combined with other evaluation considerations, applications with the highest scores will be considered for funding.

Community Need (45 points total)

- Community Description (25 pts)
- Labor Market Demand (20 pts)

Training Program Description (25 points total)

Budget (15 points total)

Program Structure, Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes (50 points total)

- Outcomes and Outputs (10 pts)
- Recruitment and Screening (20 pts)
- Program Support for Job Placement (15 pts)
- Program Sustainability (5 pts)

Partnerships (35 points total)

- Collaboration with Environmental Entities (5 pts)
- Collaboration with Job-Readiness/Life Skills (5 pts)
- Collaboration with Community (10 pts)
- Collaboration with Employers (15 pts)

Leveraging (5 points total)

Programmatic Capability (25 points total)

- Grant Management System (5 pts)
- Organizational Experience (10 pts)
- Past Performance and Accomplishments (10 pts)



Tips:

- Determine the jobs most in demand as part of a labor market assessment.
- Verify the appropriate training to fill those positions and verify their eligibility for funding
- Locate the service area based on community need, accessibility to brownfields, trainers and facilities
- Begin completing tables and charts to complete threshold requests for information.
 - Service area identification and demographics – Page 26 of the RFA
 - Curriculum offerings, training providers and associated costs – Page 28 of the RFA
 - Begin tracking partnerships by constructing partnership and leveraging tables – Page 31 and 34 of the RFA
- Dissect the Ranking Criteria guidelines point by point.
- Respond to every criterion. Failure to do so will mean loss of evaluation points.
- Write the narrative around the base program established

Attachments

Attachments include letters of support from community organizations, environmental partners, leveraging resources, and potential employers. Contributions from organizations noted in the Narrative should provide a letter of support or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) elaborating their commitment to the program. Attachments should also include a milestones schedule indicating start times and completion dates of significant tasks under the program including the following.

Tips:

- Never use repetitive or form letters of support to be signed and returned
- Personally contact partners providing letters of support
- Obtain specific commitments and MOUs when applicable

6. Online Meetings and Webinars

Save the Date!

KSU National JT-TAB Virtual All Grantee Meeting

August 21st

12:00-5:00 p.m. Eastern

A KSU Job Training TAB (JT-TAB) Zoom Webinar

Registration will be required (to be announced)

Workshop Topics

- Understanding resources available to EPA Job Training Grantees.
- Exploring existing resources available to grantees.
- Introducing innovative strategies and new training resources.
- The emergence of artificial intelligence in Job training programs
- Career exploration using virtual reality headsets used by JT grantees

National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

**Expanding the
Conversation**



**working for
environmental
justice**

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 and meeting materials from previous sessions, Go to: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>

For Those Who Missed EJScreen 101 Training

EPA hosted a webinar titled 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](#).



2024 FBA Annual Brownfields Conference

June 26-28, 2024

***Hilton University of Florida Conference Center
Gainesville, FL***

Online registration is now open and sponsorships available.

[Registration Link -- online form](#)

[Registration/Sponsor Fillable Form for mailing](#)

Call for Abstracts now ready for your submissions.

[Abstract Link](#)

Scholarship -- apply for a scholarship through the FBA Foundation

[Fillable Form](#)

Nominate someone or a project for one of the following awards to be given at the Conference:

Sunrise Award for excellence in redeveloping Florida's brownfields

Willa Carson Award for excellence in promoting brownfields-to-health fields redevelopment

Environmental Justice Spirit of Excellence Award for excellence in supporting environmental justice and health equity

EPA Region 6 Brownfields Regional Brownfields Conference

July 23-25, 2024.

Dallas, TX

Mark your calendar for an unforgettable experience. It has been too long since our last Regional Brownfields Conference and we are excited to see you all in person again!

A full agenda is coming soon. For now, here's a sneak peek at topics:

- Brownfields Eligibility and Liability
- Environmental Justice and Climate Change
- Procurement Requirements
- QMP and QAPP Standard Updates
- The Build America Buy America Act
- Marking Your Brownfields Grants

Come join us in Dallas as we learn about what is new and take a fresh look at all things Brownfield. Don't miss this chance to meet with EPA's Region 6 Brownfields team, network amongst grantees and stakeholders, and enjoy downtown Dallas. The conference is free. Registration is required.

Please visit <https://www.ksutab.org/event/epa-region-6-brownfields-conference> to reserve your spot.

Contact Mike Kennedy at kennedy.michael@epa.gov with any questions.

8. JT Related Technical Assistance

COMMUNITY CHANGE EQUITABLE RESILIENCE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

EPA has launched a technical assistance program to help disaster prone and disadvantaged communities prepare to apply for Community Change Grants. The Community Change Equitable Resilience program will provide free design and project development assistance, community engagement, and partnership development workshops.

Climate resilience projects that qualify for technical assistance include a focus on new or expanded green infrastructure, open spaces, and/or retrofits of existing community buildings or streets to address climate change impacts (such as extreme heat and more intense heat islands, wildfire and smoke, floods, storms, or other climate impacts that pose a greater risk to disadvantaged communities).

For additional information including how to request this technical assistance, please visit [our website](#). For more information on the Community Change Grants program overall, please see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page and [Community Change Grants NOFO](#) page.

EPA Office of Grants and Debarment - How to apply for EPA grants

EPA Office of Grants and Debarment has announced the availability of several new and updated training resources for grant applicants and recipients.

- 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.

Please visit and bookmark the [EPA Grants Webinars](#) page where you will find tips for preparing for EPA webinars, presentation materials, helpful resources, and webinar recordings. 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.



9. Funding Opportunities

Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) EPA Community Change Grants are NOW OPEN

EPA's new Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants) is now OPEN with approximately \$2 billion dollars in Inflation Reduction Act funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities.



Inflation Reduction Act Environmental and Climate Justice Program

The Environmental and Climate Justice Program (ECJ Program), created by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) under Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 138, provides funding for financial and technical assistance to carry out environmental and climate justice activities to benefit underserved and overburdened communities. EPA has created the [EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities map](#) layer to assist potential applicants seeking to identify whether a community is disadvantaged for the purposes of implementing programs under the IRA.

Congress has appropriated \$2.8 billion for financial assistance, and \$200 million for technical assistance, to implement this new program at the EPA. EPA must award grants and technical assistance under the ECJ Program by September 30, 2026.

[Learn more about the Notice of Funding Opportunity for Community Change Grants Program \(Community Change Grants\)](#)

NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) 2024 NOFO - Hazardous Materials Worker Health and Safety Training Cooperative Agreements (U45) and (UH4)

NIH U45 and UH4 are cooperative agreement award mechanisms. Visit the NIEHS Requests for Applications page.

<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/funding/grants/announcements/request>

- **U45** – Funds agreements to develop model programs for the training and education of workers engaged in activities related to hazardous materials and waste generation, removal, containment, transportation, and emergency response.
- **UH4** – Funds agreements to develop, implement, and evaluate programs to train workers who are or may be engaged in activities related to hazardous waste removal, containment, or emergency response at the [U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\) nuclear weapons complex](#). UH4 is the single project equivalent to the U45.
- Both the Hazardous Materials Worker Health and Safety Training cooperative agreements (U45) and the HAZMAT Training at DOE Nuclear Weapons Complex cooperative agreements (UH4) are solicited, and awards made in response to Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs). Visit the [NIEHS Announcements of Grant Opportunities webpage](#) for information on current FOAs.



The Susan Harwood Training Grant Program Occupational Safety and Health Administration

The Susan Harwood Training Grant Program was created in 1978 to provide funding to nonprofit organizations to develop and deliver training to small business employers and workers on the recognition, avoidance, and prevention of occupational safety and health hazards in their workplaces and to inform workers of their rights and employers of their responsibilities under the OSH Act. Three different grant types are available: Targeted Training Topic; Training and Educational Materials Development; and Capacity Building. Applicants are encouraged to provide training in languages participants can understand. Training materials developed under this grant program are made publicly available on the OSHA webpage.



Estimated Application Period:

Spring 2024 – Summer 2024

Announcement of Awards:

Summer 2024 / Fall 2024

Target Population:

Small businesses; Limited English Proficiency Workers; Low Literacy Workers; Young Workers; Temporary Workers; Disadvantaged Workers; Underserved Workers; Low-Income Workers; Minority and Other Hard-to-Reach Workers; Workers in High-Hazard Industries with High Fatality Rates.

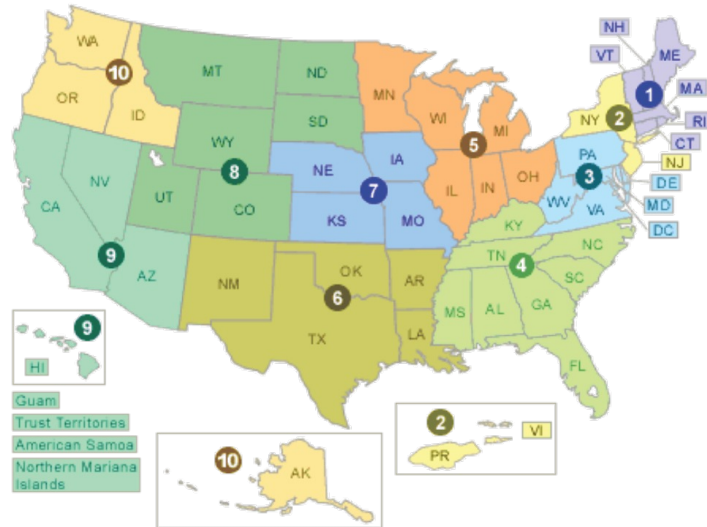
Eligible Applicants:

Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations and include qualifying labor unions; community-based, faith-based, and grassroots organizations; employer associations; Native American tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Native entities, Native Hawaiian organizations, and native-controlled organizations that are not an agency of a state or local government; and public/ state-controlled institutions of higher education.

Contact: Robert Murphy (Harwoodgrants@dol.gov)
<https://www.osha.gov/harwoodgrants/awards#tab1>

9. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators

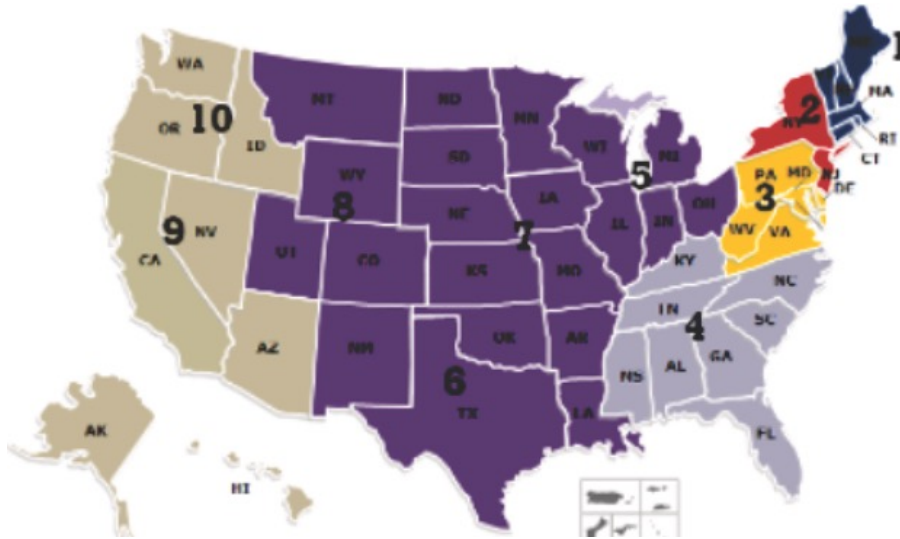
Regional Coordinators are the first place to go regarding questions about JT grants, extensions, budgets, or work plans. Many Regions maintain a Listserv for past, current, and potential recipients.



<p>EPA Region 1 CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT William “Bill” Lariviere Phone: (617) 918-1231 e-mail: lariviere.william@epa.gov</p>	<p>EPA Region 2 NJ, NY, PR, VI Schenine Mitchell Phone: (212) 637-3283 e-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov</p>
<p>EPA Region 3 DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV Nancy Shannon Phone: (215) 814-3175 e-mail: Shannon.Nancy@epa.gov</p>	<p>EPA Region 4 AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN Olga Perry Phone: (404) 562-8534 e-mail: perry.olga@epa.gov</p>
<p>EPA Region 5 IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI Linda Morgan Phone: (312) 886-4747 e-mail: morgan.linda@epa.gov</p>	<p>EPA Region 6 AR, LA, NM, OK, TX Emily Jimenez Phone: (214) 665-2176 e-mail: jimenez.emily@epa.gov</p>
<p>EPA Region 7 IA, KS, MO, NE Alma Moreno Lahm Phone: (913) 551-7380 e-mail: moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov</p>	<p>EPA Region 8 CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY Christine Michaud-Tilly Phone: (303) 312-6706 e-mail: MichaudTilly.Christine@epa.gov</p>
<p>EPA Region 9 AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU Amanda Pease Phone: (415) 972-3068 e-mail: pease.amanda@epa.gov Jasmine Williams e-mail: Williams.Jasmine.A@epa.gov</p>	<p>EPA Region 10 AK, ID, OR, WA Angel Ip Phone: (206) 553-1673 e-mail: ip.angel@epa.gov</p>

Contact TAB Technical Assistance Consultants

Regional TAB Job Training Coordinators are in a position to discuss and review your grant throughout the competition.



Region 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT) University of Connecticut
Randi Mendes: randi.mendes@uconn.edu

Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, and VI) New Jersey Institute of Technology
Sean Vroom: svroom@njit.edu

Region 3 (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, and WV) West Virginia University
Carrie Stanton: carrie.stanton@mail.wvu.edu

Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, and TN) International
City/County Management Association
Chris Harrell: charrell@icma.org, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)

Region 5 (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, and WI) Kansas State University
Blase Leven: jt-tab@ksu.edu

Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, and TX) Kansas State University
Blase Leven: jt-tab@ksu.edu

Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, and NE) Kansas State University
Blase Leven: jt-tab@ksu.edu

Region 8 (UT, MT, WY, CO, ND and SD) Kansas State University
Blase Leven: jt-tab@ksu.edu

Region 9 (AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, and GU) Center for Creative Land Recycling
Claire Weston: claire.weston@cclr.org

Region 10 (AK, ID, OR, and WA) Center for Creative Land Recycling
Claire Weston: claire.weston@cclr.org

Contact KSU JT-TAB National Consultants

National job training technical assistance questions can be directed to our JT-TAB@ksu.edu email team. Individual JT consultants may also be contacted directly at the following addresses:

Mike Senew	msenew@ksu.edu
Steve Fenton	stevenfenton@ksu.edu
Nolan Curtis	nolan.curtis@ksu.edu

11. Save the Date - Join us for The Next PLC July 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

JT-TAB@ksu.edu

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

To join the KSU Professional Learning Community

From Zoom:

Go To: Meeting ID: 856 2617 9544

Passcode: 225041

From your browser:

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

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