

Narrative Information Sheet**A. Applicant Identification:**

Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas
300 W Douglas, Suite 800
Wichita, KS 67203

B. Grant Type: Brownfields Job Training Grant**C. Project Period and Funding Request:**

Indicate the length of proposed project period: 24 months

Indicate the amount of federal funds requested: \$500,000

D. Coalition Members: N/A**E. Website URL: www.workforce-ks.com****F. Population/Target Area Data:**

529,175 population

Target Area: Sedgwick County, KS

Training provided at multiple locations within Sedgwick County, KS

G. Contacts:

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- **Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Official:**
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H. Releasing Copies of Applications

The application does not have confidential, privileged, or sensitive information.

I. Other Factors:

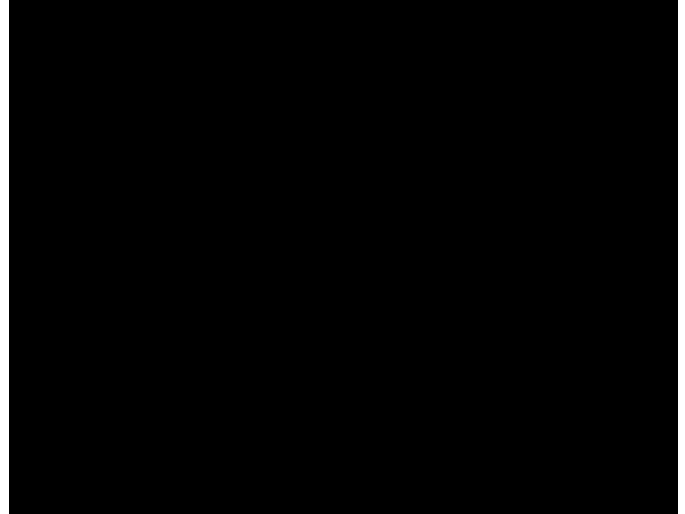
Other Factors		Page #
<input type="checkbox"/>	Applicants that propose to serve a community population of 10,000 or less.	N/A
X	Whether the applicant is new (i.e., has not received an EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant since 2015).	10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whether the applicant is a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory, or is an organization that will primarily serve tribal or territorial residents.	N/A
X	Applications that seek to serve veterans.	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whether the target area is located within a community in which a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2015 or later) or is closing.	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	None of the above apply.	N/A

**Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas
EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant Narrative**

1. Community Need

A. Community Description: The target area for this grant is Sedgwick County, located in South Central Kansas; Wichita is the county seat and is the most populous city in the state with a population of 529,175 in 2023.¹

There 45 census tracts identified as overburdened and underserved within Sedgwick County, highlighted in gray in Figure 1. Disadvantaged census tracts in Sedgwick County are in geographic proximity to one another with group experiences and common conditions, including the following tracts: 20173000100, 20173000200, 20173000300, 20173000400, 20173000600, 20173000700, 20173000800, 20173000900, 20173001000, 20173001100, 20173001500, 20173001800, 20173002400, 20173002600, 20173002700, 20173002800, 20173002900, 20173003000, 20173003100, 20173003200, 20173003400, 20173003500, 20173003600, 20173003700, 20173003800, 20173003900, 20173004000, 20173004300, 20173005100, 20173005200, 20173005400, 20173005800, 20173005900, 20173006000, 20173006200, 20173006300, 20173006500, 20173006800, 20173006900, 20173007000, 20173007500, 20173007800, 20173008200, 20173008700, and 20173008900.²



The environmental, public health, and employment/workforce challenges in Sedgwick County are related and overlapping in many circumstances. While this overlap creates multiple challenges, it actually also opens doors to economic opportunities for citizens in the area. Wichita and Sedgwick County also have a history of developing innovative and effective solutions to community challenges.

Environmental Challenges: The environmental challenges in Sedgwick County include the Gilbert & Mosley (G&M) and North Industrial Corridor (NIC) groundwater contamination projects. The City of Wichita (COW) also operates the Certificate and Release for Environmental Conditions (CAR) Program to investigate soil and groundwater contamination on parcels involved in redevelopment projects or under consideration for purchase by COW and coordinates routine monitoring of remediated pollution sites.³

The G&M Project groundwater contamination was originally discovered in 1986. In 1990, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) submitted the results of its Limited Site Investigation data to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The site was dubbed the G&M

¹ [Economy Overview « Lightcast Developer](#) 8-4-2024

² [Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool \(geoplatform.gov\)](#)

³ [Projects | Wichita, KS](#)

Site. In 1991, the COW signed a Settlement Agreement with KDHE that kept the 3,850-acre G&M Site out of the Superfund program. The COW agreed to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) effort and implement certain site-wide groundwater remedial actions. Other actions included the creation of a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) and a CAR program. A significant portion of the site included the downtown area. The COW's actions facilitated the protection of human health and the environment site while also allowing development of a vibrant commercial, retail and residential district to proceed that otherwise would have been inhibited by the stigma of a designated Superfund site.

Today the G&M Project includes the operation of a groundwater treatment system, an environmental education building, a plaza area, and several site improvement items in Herman Hill Park.⁴ The groundwater treatment system remediates large volumes of groundwater that have been contaminated by various chlorinated solvents such as perchloroethene (PCE) and tetrachloroethene (TCE). The original extent of groundwater contamination above national drinking water standards (maximum contaminant levels = MCLs) was approximately 2,154 acres (3.3 square miles). The groundwater remediation system started operations in 2002 with thirteen groundwater extraction wells and 5.5 miles of piping. As of the end of 2022, over 7.2 billion gallons of groundwater have been extracted, treated, and discharged to the Arkansas River. The total area of groundwater contamination exceeding drinking water standards has been decreased 83% to 371 acres and five of the original 13 groundwater extraction wells no longer need to operate.

The NIC Groundwater contamination was identified in the 1980s near the intersection of 29th and Mead in a highly industrialized area. The 29th and Mead site was declared a Superfund site by the EPA in 1990. In 1994 the COW petitioned the EPA to remove the 29th and Mead Site from the National Priorities List (NPL) in order to implement a local/state/federal cooperative partnership modeled after the successful strategy employed at the G&M Site to the immediate south. In 1995, the COW signed a Settlement Agreement with the KDHE under which they agreed to assume responsibility for the completion of an RI/FS effort and the remedial design and remedial action (RD/RA) of the site-wide groundwater contamination. In return for this commitment, the 29th and Mead Site was removed from the NPL and the NIC Site was created. The NIC Site is approximately four miles long and 1.5 miles wide (4,011 acres) and is the result of the consolidation of three groundwater contamination sites: 29th and Mead, Northeast, and 13th and Washington. Like the G&M Site, this site also utilized a TIF district within the site boundaries to generate finances to help fund the investigation and remediation. In 1996, the 29th and Mead site was deleted from the NPL allowing the creation of the NIC and TIF district.

The COW's NIC Project includes the operation of a groundwater treatment system and a pipeline to convey extracted contaminated groundwater to the G&M Treatment Building. In total, 3.9 miles of pipeline were installed within the NIC Site and 1.2 miles of replacement pipeline was installed in the G&M Site for the remediation effort. The four NIC wells were turned on in 2022 and extracted just under 155 million gallons of groundwater for treatment.

⁴ <https://www.wichita.gov/453/Projects>

The groundwater contamination at the NIC Site is primarily from chlorinated solvents such as PCE and TCE. The overall areal extent and concentration of groundwater contaminants has significantly decreased since the mid-1990s. The reduction in groundwater contamination is largely due to the source control efforts by various companies to reduce the degree of groundwater contamination and, in several instance, contain the contamination within their property. Natural attenuation by biologic activity and abiotic materials have also helped reduce the overall level of contamination in the groundwater. Between source control efforts and natural attenuation, the overall level of groundwater contamination has decreased from greater than 1,000 micrograms per liter (µg/L) to less than 100 µg/L, and the extraction wells are positioned to address the areas of most significant remaining groundwater contamination.⁵

Public Health Challenges: The primary public health concern is Sedgwick County is life expectancy is 77.6 years, compared to 78.5 years in Kansas. Contributing factors to lower life expectancy for Sedgwick County citizens and their concerns include: 78% Lack of Access to Health Care services, 74% Unhealthy Food Options and Eating Habits, 55% Environmental Concerns, 50% Declining Social Engagement, and 50% Drugs/ Alcohol and Violence/Gangs. ⁶ Within the 45 disadvantaged census tracts in Sedgwick County, health disparities, including asthma, heart disease and, diabetes, low life expectancy and low income are more prevalent.⁷

Workforce Challenges: A common workforce concern among many employers in Sedgwick County is a lack of skilled workers to fill open jobs. This challenge results from several factors including low population growth, a skills gap, generational poverty and limited access to quality job opportunities among historically marginalized populations. Those with a high school diploma or less comprise over 35% of adults; however, they represent approximately 62% of unemployed individuals in the regional labor market. Additionally, 35.9% of adults 18-54 years old have “some college” but no credential.⁸ Those in poverty are 13.7% of the population in Sedgwick County however people of color are disproportionally affected including 53% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 27% Black, 22% Hispanic, 16% American Indian, 15% Asian.⁹ Only 76.3 percent of the labor force in Sedgwick County has health insurance, compared to 77.5% of Kansas, and 77.3% of the US.¹⁰

Demographic Information	Target Community: Sedgwick County	Kansas	National
Population ¹¹	529,175	2,954,601	331,097,593
Unemployment ¹²	3.51%	3.20%	3.7%

⁵ <https://www.wichita.gov/453/Projects>

⁶ [Our Story | Sedgwick County Community Health Assessment \(mysidewalk.com\)](#)

⁷ [Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool \(geoplatform.gov\)](#)

⁸ [ACS Data for Sedgwick County, KS « Lightcast Developer](#) 8-4-2024

⁹ [Social and Economic Factors | Sedgwick County Community Health Assessment \(mysidewalk.com\)](#)

¹⁰ [ACS Data for Sedgwick County, KS and US « Lightcast Developer](#) 8-4-2024

¹¹ 2022 American Community Survey <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2022.DP05>

¹² Bureau of Labor Statistics <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empisit.pdf>

Poverty Rate¹³	13.7%	11.6%	11.5%
Median Household Income¹⁴	\$65,372	\$69,747	\$75,149
Violent Crime¹⁵	7.1 crimes per 1000 people	3.73 crimes per 1000 people	3.6 crimes per 1000 people
Property Crime¹⁶	30.06 crimes per 1000 people	18.21 crimes per 1000 people	18.22 crimes per 1000 people
Other	45 Disadvantaged Census Tracts as defined by CEJST, out of 125 total census tracts, 36.0%	240 Disadvantaged Census Tracts as defined by CEJST, out of 770 total census tracts, 31.1%	26,969 Disadvantaged Census Tracts as defined by CEJST, out of 84,414 total census tracts, 31.9%

B. **Labor Market Demand:** The Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas (WA) conducted a Labor Market Demand assessment using the Lightcast software tool, a collection of comprehensive labor market information, government sources, job postings, global data, skills data, compensation data, and online profiles. As of 2023, Sedgwick County's population increased by 3.0% since 2018, growing by 15,298. Population is expected to increase by 2.5% between 2023 and 2028, adding 13,189 residents. From 2018 to 2023, jobs increased by 4.4% in Sedgwick County from 279,639 to 291,928. However, as the number of jobs increased, the labor force participation rate decreased from 63.0% in 2018 to 62.6% in 2023. The educational attainment of Sedgwick County is: 20.1% of residents possess a Bachelor's Degree (1.1% below the national average), and 8.7% hold an Associate's Degree (0.1% below the national average). The top three industries in 2023 were Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing, Restaurants and Other Eating Places, and Education and Hospitals.¹⁷

2. **Training Program Description:** The following industry-recognized certifications and licensures are proposed training to be conducted with Brownfield Job Training Grant funds, which meet the Sedgwick County labor market demands as identified by the partnering employers who have provided letters of commitment to this project:

- **Asbestos Training:** Training according to EPA's Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (AHERA) and OSHA 1910.1001. This course will be for a custom number of students.
- **Class A or Class B Commercial Driver's license(CDL):** CDL to operate any combination of vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more and haul a trailer that weighs more than 10,000 pounds (A), or for single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds more and trailer that weighs less than 10,000 pounds (B). This course will be for a custom number of students.
- **DOT - Hazardous Materials Transportation Training:** for all students participating in pre-

¹³ 2022 American Community Survey <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-280.html>

¹⁴ 2022 American Community Survey <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1901>

¹⁵ [ACS Data for Sedgwick County, KS « Lightcast Developer](#) 8-4-2024

¹⁶ [ACS Data for Sedgwick County, KS « Lightcast Developer](#) 8-4-2024

¹⁷ [Economy Overview « Lightcast Developer](#) 8-4-24

transportation functions for the shipping of hazardous materials by ground, including those signing hazardous waste manifests. DOT training meets the following training requirements of 49 CFR 172.704 (a): Awareness, Safety, Security Awareness and Function-Specific training for anyone who may pre-prepare and offer or transport any hazardous material or hazardous waste in commerce by ground transportation. This course will be for a custom number of students.

- **DOT – Refresher**** Refresher course of DOT Transportation Training for those who have completed initial training to maintain certification. This course will be for a custom number of students.
- **HAZWOPER (40 hr):** Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response. This is an OSHA course to train workers how to protect themselves, plan, prepare for and manage hazardous materials, spills and incidents. All participants will complete this course and/or HAZWOPER Refresher.
- **HAZWOPER Annual Refresher**** Refresher course of HAZWOPER for those who have completed initial course to maintain certification. All participants will complete this course and/or initial HAZWOPER course.
- **OSHA 30 Hr. Occupational Health and Safety for General Industry:** Covers the required topics of Introduction to OSHA, Walking and Working Surfaces Including Fall Protection, Exit Routes and Emergency Action Plans, Fire Prevention Plans, Fire Protection, Electrical Safety, Personal Protective Equipment, Materials Handling and Hazard Communication. All participants will complete this course.
- **RCRA Hazardous Waste Management (KS Regs):** Hazardous waste training for facility managers and environmental engineers per 40 CFR Parts 260-279 and per state and EPA guidelines. Specific to hazardous waste regulations in Kansas. This course will be for a custom number of students.
- **RCRA Refresher**:** Refresher course of RCRA Hazardous Waste Management for those who have completed initial course to maintain certification. This course will be for a custom number of students.

The primary training provider is projected to be iSi Environmental, a local environmental, health and safety consulting, facilities support and industrial services company founded in 1990. iSi is a socially and environmental company with demonstrated sustainable practices and responsible methods for training and material usage.¹⁸

The WA has utilized the Good Jobs Principles¹⁹ to evaluate job training requested by environmental industry employers to ensure proposed training are for high- quality jobs that are within a career pathway or allow for mobility and equitable advancement, provide family-sustaining wages and benefits, economic mobility. Employers have also been evaluated to sure they have a workplace culture with commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility with worker empowerment and representation opportunities, safe working conditions, and demonstrated activities to recruit from underserved populations.

¹⁸ <https://isienvironmental.com/isi-environmental-info/>

¹⁹ <https://www.dol.gov/general/good-jobs/principles>

Training Program Table

Course Name	Projected Trainees	Level of Training	Type of Certification	# of Hours	# of Times Course will be Offered	Training Provider	Cost Per Student	Total Cost	% of Budget
Asbestos Training	8	Intermediate	Industry	8	8	iSi Environmental	\$225	\$1,800	0.36%
Commercial Driver's License Class A or Class B	20	Intermediate	State	160	Every 4 weeks	Multiple Providers	\$6,500	\$130,000	26.01%
DOT - Hazardous Materials Transportation Training	16	Advanced	State	16	8	iSi Environmental	\$625	\$10,000	2.00%
DOT Refresher**	8	Intermediate	State	8	10	iSi Environmental	\$400	\$3,200	0.64%
HAZWOPER 40*	90	Awareness	Industry	40	12	iSi Environmental	\$700	\$63,000	12.61%
HAZWOPER Refresher*	90	Intermediate	Industry	8	24	iSi Environmental	\$275	\$24,750	4.95%
OSHA 30 Hr. Occupational Health & Safety for General Industry*	90	Intermediate	Industry	30	6	iSi Environmental	\$650	\$58,500	11.71%
RCRA Hazardous Waste Management (KS Regs)	12	Intermediate	State	8	8	iSi Environmental	\$300	\$3,600	0.72%
RCRA Refresher**	12	Intermediate	Industry	8	20	iSi Environmental	\$275	\$3,300	0.66%
Total	90							\$298,150	60%

*All Participants will complete this course

**Refresher courses will only be offered in year 2 of the grant, or for individuals with existing certification who are advancing in a career pathway

3. Budget

Direct Costs	Budget Category	Project Tasks				Total
		Outreach, Recruitment, and Retention	Instruction/ Training	Program Management	Placement and Tracking	
	Personnel	\$14,859.60	-	\$32,793.10	\$61,326.30	\$108,979.00
	Fringe benefits	\$3,269.11	-	\$6,931.23	\$13,491.79	\$23,692.13
	Travel	\$364.00	-	\$390.00	\$286.00	\$1,040.00
	Contractual	\$12,800.00	-	\$6,925.00	\$19,600.00	\$39,325.00
	Supplies	\$400.00	-	\$987.50	\$2,800.00	\$4,187.50
	Other: Participant Training Costs	-	\$298,150.00	-	-	\$298,150.00
	Other: Participant Support Costs	-	\$16,000.00	-	-	\$16,000.00
	Total Direct Costs	\$31,692.71	\$314,150.00	\$48,026.83	\$97,504.09	\$491,373.63
	Indirect Costs	\$1,084.64	-	\$2,401.34	\$4,875.20	\$8,361.18
	Total Budget	\$32,777.35	\$314,150.00	\$50,428.17	\$102,379.29	\$499,734.81

Budget Narrative

The WA is requesting \$499,734.81 to support 90 participants over 24 months.

- Personnel: \$108,979 for .82 FTEs to oversee and administer the grant project, recruit, enroll, track and report outcomes; funds will be allocated between a project director, employer partnership manager, case manager, fiscal coordinator and quality assurance.
- Fringe: \$23,692.13, 25% of salary and includes taxes and comprehensive benefits.
- Travel: \$1,040 to support projected grant meeting expenses including travel staff to attend EPA brownfield related training or local day travel within the county to serve participants.
- Contractual: \$39,325 for outreach with community partners, rent, utilities and IT software.
- Supplies: \$4,184.50 for office supplies and materials for day-to-day operations program.
- Participant Training Costs: \$298,150 for training tuition to support 90 participants in environmental credential or licensure programs.
- Participants Support Costs: Include \$16,000 for transportation, childcare, housing, or other items necessary to enable individuals to participate and complete training activities.
- Indirect Costs: \$ \$8,361.18 for facilities, overhead, and professional fees associated with the grant administration including MIS, Audit, and Legal.

4. Program Structure, Anticipated Outputs, and Outcomes

A. Outputs and Outcomes

Overall # of Participants Enrolled in Program	# of Graduates Completing Program	# of Graduates Placed in Environmental Positions	Ave Anticipated Wage for Trainees Obtaining Employment	# of Graduates Not Placed but Pursuing Further Education
90	80	75	\$21.99/hr ²⁰	5

²⁰ [Environmental Occupation Compensation Overview, Sedgwick County « Lightcast Developer](#) 8-4-24

The proposed outcomes are projections based on current trends as well as historical goals and outcomes within the industry and other projects managed by the WA. Overall progress will be evaluated quarterly, with individual participant level progress evaluated monthly by CMs, and then at training completion, upon entering employment, and at six and twelve months for employment retention or career advancement.

B. Recruitment, Screening, and Retention: The WA will target recruitment strategies to individuals residing in disadvantaged census tracts, under-represented populations and veterans. As the LWDB, the WA is able to leverage and align the regional network of WIOA and the American Job Centers (AJC) to support grant strategies and implement the project work plan. There are MOUs in place with nine partner agencies and the WA is engaged in multiple employment and skills training initiatives with community partners.

The operations of the AJCs in the Wichita area are based on a strong customer service integration model that aligns services and leverages resources. Goodwill of Kansas is the designated one-stop operator for the WA, and also manages adult education programs in Sedgwick County in partnership with technical college WSU Tech through the NexStep Alliance. While the primary point of intake will be the AJC in Wichita, the network on AJC and community partners will create a “no wrong door” strategy for the project to create successful outcomes and generate lasting community impact. The commitment letter from the WA lists the WIOA partner programs, community agencies and targeted strategic employment initiatives that will be leveraged and aligned to support the grant project.

Once referred to the program, and prior to enrollment in to the grant, individuals will be initially assessed at the AJC for suitability. The O*NET Interest Profiler My Next Move will be used to assess participant interest and aptitude for environmental occupations. When a career pathway of interest is determined, the WA will gauge the ability for training through the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) Workkeys Assessment. Individuals must earn a bronze level minimum NCRC to be eligible for training support. Candidates will be also assessed according to employer hiring practices, which could include interview, employer assessment, background and/or drug screening. Participant interest, choice, barriers and financial needs will be used to determine appropriate training strategy. Prior work experience and technical skills and digital literacy will determine placement within the career pathway. If an individual does not fulfill the eligibility and assessment requirements, they will be referred for additional services from other AJC programs or partners.

The WA utilizes a human-centered design methodology for the layout and customer flow processes in the local AJC, actively seeks customer feedback, and reports quarterly on customer satisfaction. These factors as well as the mix and expertise of the grant partners create a high level of confidence that access to skills training for environmental jobs.

The WA will focus services on disadvantaged individuals, the significant barriers they face in accessing skills training and employment often include negative misconceptions from potential employers regarding skillset or willingness to work, lack of transportation, and stable child care.

Strategies will be also be designed to recognize that unemployed individuals are less likely to enroll in post-secondary training and more likely to drop-out. The cost of training can also be a barrier; the region is home to a large number of underemployed workers lacking the financial ability to pay for skills training and qualify for middle to high skill jobs. In 2023, 2,949 adults in the area received financial assistance from the KS Department for Children and Families (DCF); the Wichita DCF office maintains the state's largest caseload, more than double other DCF regional offices.²¹ Low-wage workers, with annual household income under \$25,000, comprise 23% of the regional workforce.²²

The starting point to increase access to quality jobs is working closely with environmental sector employers, to provide a clear understanding about the barriers often faced by disadvantaged individuals, unemployed job seekers or and low wage workers seeking to upskill and enter environmental jobs can be addressed through training, career coaching and workforce services, and employer support. Both ISI Environmental and Remediation Contractors have partnered with the WA on multiple employment and skills training projects. This experience along with lessons from previous successful multi-employer sector strategies will allow the WA to increase access to environmental occupations for disadvantaged individuals through this grant.

C. Program Support for Job Placement: The WA will provide job search support, resume preparation, interview assistance, supportive services, and job placement assistance through designated Case Managers (CMs). Training programs funded through this grant were identified by local employers as high need; the companies have commitment to interview to program completers. Participants who are not selected by participating companies will be referred to other local employers in environmental or related fields, or jobs with transferrable skills.

Kansas has a number of employment incentives available to employers for hiring targeted populations. The WA will promote these incentives to employers as part of the job placement strategy. These incentives include Work Opportunity Tax Credits, Kansas Industrial Training and Kansas Industrial Retraining. Additionally, if any employers register their occupations as Apprenticeships, they will qualify for \$2,500 per apprentices per year through the Kansas Apprenticeship Tax Credit. These incentives are marketed to employer's though the AJC. All applicable incentives will be discussed with participants and employers during this project.

The WA utilizes KANSASWORKS, the state's Workforce Services Management Information System (MIS), track and report participant demographics, employment, training and placement outcomes; the WA also maintains a web-based client data and performance MIS and is able to meet quarterly and grant outcome reporting requirements. The MIS is used to generate required reports and will be monitored monthly to assess progress towards performance goals. The Consortium will access KS longitudinal database for education, UI, and workforce systems to track broad customer characteristics and "follow" individuals as they access education, including outcome and completion rates provided by the postsecondary system, UI and workforce services.

²¹ KS Department for Children and Families, [2023-County-Packets-PDF - Agency Information \(ks.gov\)](#)

²² [Economy Overview « Lightcast Developer](#) 8-4-24

D. Program Sustainability: A key goal for this project is to create a sustainable model to continue to effectively create access to quality environmental jobs for citizens in Sedgwick County beyond the terms of the grant. A sustainability plan will be developed at the completion of the grant project that will include strategies for relationship sustainability and programmatic sustainability.

The design of the grant is to create better relationships among Community Based Organizations and the WA to help promote skills training and employment opportunities to underserved and marginalized individuals. A series of community meeting will be conducted during the grant and these will be used to build and develop relationship sustainability among the WA, Community Based Organizations and employers.

The WA fully intends to collaborate on skills training, leverage resources, and align services for ongoing community impact based on lessons learned for this grant. Examples of programmatic sustainability will be targeted use of WIOA funds for environmental occupations. By leveraging these public resources to support skills training in environmental sectors, a level of financial sustainability will be achieved through this project. In addition new partnerships with Community Based Organizations, enhanced relationships with employers creating / operating environmental jobs and increased access to quality environmental jobs by historically marginalized populations will continue.

5. Partnerships

Partner and Contact	Partner Type	Partner Organization Mission	Partner Commitments
Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas	Job Readiness	Growing the regional economy through a skilled workforce	Grant applicant: management and implementation, participant recruitment, job readiness, reporting
Heartland Environmental Justice Center	Environmental Partner	Supporting individuals and organizations who serve in communities that are experiencing environmental injustice	Participant recruitment, project awareness, community engagement enhance and foster future employment for job training graduates in environmental careers
Goodwill of Kansas	Community Partner and Job Readiness	Provide opportunities to people with disabilities and barriers to employment seeking independent and productive lives	Participant recruitment, project awareness, community engagement
Clean Harbors	Employer	Provide hazardous waste management, emergency spill response, industrial cleaning, maintenance, and	Project Awareness, Hire Participants

		recycling services.	
Dondlinger Construction	Employer	A leader in the construction industry, driven by our unwavering commitment to excellence, safety, and innovation.	Project Awareness, Hire Participants
iSi Environmental	Employer and Training Provider	Provides expertise to clients navigating OSHA, EPA and DOT compliance and regulations.	Project Awareness, Training, Hire Participants
Remediation Contractors	Employer	Providing environmental and specialty contractor services, specializing in asbestos, lead and mold remediation in commercial, industrial and residential setting.	Project Awareness, Hire Participants
Terracon	Employer	Provides a full-range of environmental, geotechnical, and materials engineering to discover new and better solutions to overcome challenges.	Project Awareness, Hire Participants
Regional Economic Area Partnership of South Central Kansas	Community Partner – Economic Development	Strengthening the economy of South Central Kansas through the joint action of cities and counties	Project Awareness
Sedgwick County	Government Partner, Employer and Environmental Partner	Cultivate a healthy, safe and welcoming community through exceptional public services, effective partnerships and dedicated employees.	Project Awareness, Hire Participants

A. Collaboration with Environmental Entities: On March 2, 2024 the WA hosted a community meeting with EPA officials at the AJC to learn about the EPA Brownfield grant opportunity. The WA worked closely with the Heartland Environmental Justice Center (HEJC) at Wichita State University on the grant application, engaging the following community groups: Salud + Bienestar, Veterans Unidos Inc., ICT Urban Lift, Sunflower Community Action, and Storytime Village. The WA also received technical assistance from webinars through Kansas State University's Technical Assistance to Brownfields program during the grant application.

The WA has strong relationships with local government Sedgwick County, and the Regional Economic Area Partnership, a regional economic development organization in Wichita, who have both committed to the project; these relationships will increase the likelihood graduates being hired by with local contractors in the community.

B. Collaboration with Job-Readiness/Life Skills: An advantage to have the WA as the applicant is access to the AJC partners and relationships in place with community partners through the public workforce system. The ability to collaborate through the programs and partners in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the AJCs position the WA to recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents with the skills needed to obtain full-time, sustainable employment, facilitating activities related to assessment, cleanup, or preparation of construction sites, including brownfields, while simultaneously building a local workforce with the skills needed to perform remediation work that is supportive of environmental protection and environmental health and safety.

Recognizing that many underemployed, unemployed, and low wage adult job seekers may have challenges to overcome when returning to school for skills training, coaching will be a strong feature of case management for participants. The Case Managers (CM) staffing the project will ensure the participants have a clear understanding about the academic expectations for education and training needed for environmental jobs and will maintain consistent contact during enrollment. Doing so will allow CMs the opportunity to connect participants to tutoring if needed, supportive services such as transportation and childcare, and also speak to training liaisons to track educational progress. The intent is to create a mentoring style relationship between the participants and CMs.

C. Collaboration with Community: As the LWDB in the region, the WA is directly involved in collaborative strategies with many urban and young professional groups, local Chambers of Commerce, and employer associations for outreach, while recruiting participants from community organizations serving the target population including the United Way of the Plains, Urban League of KS, Goodwill Industries, and Dress for Success Wichita. These partnerships are focused on recruiting students from underrepresented and underserved populations and/or providing supportive service and will be leveraged and aligned to support grant outcomes.

To better engage with area residents and individuals interested environmental jobs, the HEJC helped organize a series of meetings with community groups and citizens in the impacted area. To maintain and grow relationships in impacted neighborhoods and with community groups, a series of information sessions and meetings will be conducted during the EPA Brownfields grant to help with participant recruitment, project awareness, enhance and foster future employment opportunities for job training graduates in environmental careers. The WA will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for local partners to assist with leading/coordinating the community meetings.

D. Collaboration with Employers: The WA has involved five environmental employers in developing the proposed job-training program by meeting in person and electronically with each company. The collaborating employers have assisted in the grant proposal by recommending

existing training or proposing curriculum development, discussed use of registered apprenticeships or pre-apprenticeships, and on-the-job training. All five employers have committed to enhancing student learning, utilizing the proposed training for upskilling existing workers, or interviewing students and/or hire graduates as applicable.

One of the employer partners is also a full-service training facility, conducting EPA environmental training, OSHA safety training and hazardous materials shipping training. They may become a contracted education provider in addition to an employer partner.

6. Leveraging: The WA will attempt to leverage additional funds from the public or system and community partners over the life of the grant. Ten partners have provided letters of commitment to the project, however no partners have committed leverage funds or monetary resources. Leveraging that will materialize during the grant includes HEJC's community assessment to help identify local environmental and energy justice challenges, potential solutions, and funding sources, technical expertise related to environmental justice, green energy, and engineering solutions, and support for community education and outreach initiatives. Leveraging that will materialize after the grant has ended is projected to include financial sustainability and higher skilled workforce in the environmental sector. In addition new partnerships with Community Based Organizations, enhanced relationships with employers creating and operating environmental jobs and increased access to quality environmental jobs by historically marginalized populations will continue.

7. Programmatic Capability: The WA has managed federal workforce training grants for more than 25 years and has sufficient resources and expertise to undertake and complete the project. The WA receives an annual allocation for operations from the US Department of Labor; funds pass through the KS Department of Commerce. The WA also maintains established cash reserves, held in local financial institutions, to maintain operations. The WA does not have long-term capital debt.

A. Grant Management System: The WA is managed by a CEO and professional staff, with oversight from a board of directors, comprised of business executives, community partners and elected officials from throughout the six county region and is recognized for both state and national best practices and innovation in workforce development. The grant will be managed by Amanda Duncan, WA Vice President, and staff by additional WA employees who are experienced with grant management, case management, and job placement who possess capacity and are committed to the project. Ms. Duncan has been on staff since 2007. She serves as a liaison to the US Department of Labor, the Kansas Department of Commerce, economic development organizations, and business groups. She holds a Master of Public Administration from WSU, a Bachelor of Public Administration, Public and Non-Profit Management from Washburn University, and SHRM and HRCI certifications. She has managed multiple large scale federal grants. Additional contracts for outreach, fiscal and IT will be procured according to WA policy.

B. Organizational Experience: The WA is the Local Workforce Development Board in South Central Kansas. In 2023, the WA served nearly 40,000 job seekers and 800 business in the region through the AJCs in the Wichita region. The WA also has 11 access points ranging from area

libraries, community centers, non-profit affiliates, and correctional facilities, which serve as outreach and service delivery locations. The WA provides extensive distance learning and virtual services to reach job seekers across the region who do not live in a community with a workforce center or have barriers with transportation or childcare and cannot receive services in person.

The WA has a demonstrated capability and experience in operating federal training grant projects including collecting, monitoring, and reporting participant data required by the US Department of Labor (USDOL) WIA/WIOA , including training and placement activities for multimillion dollar grant programs for more than 25 years. The WA manages four AJCs, with an average monthly traffic of 3,000+ job seekers. The WA has established a successful regional partnership on multimillion dollar federally funded projects. The WA manages, or has managed: WIA/WIOA; TAA, WIRED, HPOG, National Emergency Grant, National Dislocated Worker Grant, H-1B Technical Skill Training, America's Promise, One Workforce, Registered Apprenticeship Expansion, Pathway Home, Social Innovation Funds, local government, economic development, state, corporate, and private/nonprofit grants.

C. Past Performance and Accomplishments: The WA has not ever received an EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant, but has received multiple other federal grants. In its management of past federal grants, the WA has submitted quarterly reports, including financial and data uploads, on time per grant deadlines. Careful oversight by WA management, regular communication with the Federal Project Officers, and participation in technical assistance webinars and trainings ensure the WA has been able to complete past grant activities according to budget, and within the periods of performance. The most recent completed grant sample of accomplishment is below:

Previous Grantor Organization: US Dept. of Labor, Employment & Training Administration			
Project Title and Grant Number: H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant, HG-22615-12-60-A-20			
Grant Description: \$5 million Technical skills training grant to reduce the number of H-1B visas sought for engineers who work for Wichita area aviation manufacturing firms by providing post-secondary education to 100 laid-off workers, women, and minorities leading to degrees in engineering, supporting a career pathway designed to increase the number of local engineers.			
Project Period of Performance: 11/15/2011-6/30/2016			
Population Served: Long-term unemployed, women and people of color			
Metric	Goal	Outcomes	Result
Participants Served	100	143	143% (143/100)
Participants Trained	80	105	131% (105/80)
Credentials Earned	80	134	168% (134/80)
Entered Employment	75%	94.4%	126% (94.4/75)
Employment Retention	87.5%	100%	114% (100/87.5)
Average Wage	\$72,270	\$56,966	79% (\$56,966/\$72,270)
75% long term unemployed	75% (75/100)	76% (109/143)	101% (76/75)
25% female or person of color	25% (25/100)	63% (90/143)	252% (63/25)

Attachment 1: Milestone Schedule

Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas Timeline

[illegible]

Attachment 2: Partnership Letters

Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas List of American Job Center Partners and Programs

Co-Located Partner Program	Partner Organization	Primary Function
Digital Skills to Connect Kansans	Kansas Office of Broadband, WA	Program will enable Kansans to obtain the digital literacy and associated skills necessary to live, learn, work, play and compete.
Job Corps	Flint Hills Job Corps	Residential basic education, career training, and employment services for youth 16-24.
Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG)	Kansas Department of Commerce	Intensive job seeking services for eligible veterans and spouses.
Home Base Wichita	Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas (WA)	Connects Transitioning Military, Veterans, National Guard, Reservists, and Military Spouses to employers in South Central Kansas.
Native American Workforce Program	American Indian Council	Intensive job seeking and training services for Native Americans.
Re-Employment Services	Kansas Department of Commerce	Intensive re-employment services for individuals accessing Unemployment Insurance benefits determined likely to exhaust benefits or meeting other criteria.
Registered Apprenticeship Program	Kansas Office of Registered Apprenticeship, WA	Employer-driven model that combines on-the-job learning with related classroom instruction that increases an apprentice's skill level and wages.
RetainWORKS	Ascension Via Christi, Kansas Department of Commerce, WA	Provides opportunities to improve Stay-at-Work or Return-to-Work outcomes for individuals with injuries and illnesses.
Senior Community Service Employment Program, SC Kansas	WA	Job search and work experience activities for Senior Citizens 55 or older.
SNAP Employment & Training Program	Kansas Department for Children and Families and WA	Job readiness training and job search services to eligible SNAP participants to help them gain self-sufficiency.
Trade Adjustment Assistance Program (TAA)	Kansas Department of Commerce	Re-employment and training services for individuals laid off due to increased imports.
Wagner-Peyser Employment Services	Kansas Department of Commerce	Career services, including job search, assessment, and career guidance, for any job seeker to obtain or retain employment.
WIOA Title I	WA	Employment support for low skilled adults, dislocated workers, and out of school youth, 16-24.
Youth Employment Project	WA	Opportunity to assist young adults in gaining employment or high school internships. Services include resume assistance, job search, preparing for interviews, as well as education in soft skills, customer service, in addition to financial literacy and cash handling

Non Co-Located Partner Program	Partner Organization	Primary Function
Adult Education	Butler Community College, Cowley Community College, Goodwill Industries of Kansas, NexStep Alliance, Wichita Indochinese Center, and WSU Tech	Basic education and training to help adults earn high school diplomas and other credentials needed to become employed and self-sufficient.
Career & Technical Education (Carl Perkins)	Butler Community College, Cowley Community College, WSU Tech	Training services focused on high-skill, high-wage, high-demand occupations to enable students to secure employment upon completion of their training.
Kansas Offender Risk Reduction and Reentry Plan (KOR3P)	Kansas Department of Corrections, Sedgwick County Corrections, and WA	Provides risk reduction and reentry programs, services and interventions for justice-involved individuals.
National Farm Worker Jobs Program	SER Corporation Kansas	Helps farmworkers and their dependents acquire necessary skills to either stabilize or advance in their agricultural jobs or obtain employment in new industries.
Senior Community Service Employment Program, Kansas Statewide	SER National	Job search and work experience activities for Senior Citizens 55 or older.
Unemployment Insurance	Kansas Department of Labor	Provides temporary and partial financial assistance to replace lost wages to Kansas workers when they are unemployed through no fault of their own and meet the requirements of State law.
Vocational Rehabilitation	Kansas Department for Children and Families	Helps persons with disabilities obtain the skills and other resources they need to get a job, keep a job, and develop a long-term career.

Attachment 2: Partnership Letters



August 15, 2025

Environmental Protection Agency - PA FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant Review Team
Matt Wosje
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 5105T
Washington, D.C. 20460.

Re: EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02

Dear Review Team,

As the chair of the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas (WA) Board of Directors, the local workforce development board that serves the greater Wichita region, I am writing to express full support and commitment to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant program (EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02) application. The mission of the WA Board is to grow the regional economy through a skilled workforce, and this grant is a wonderful opportunity for both job seekers and employers. To support the outcomes of the grant the WA Board is directing staff and the One-Stop Operator (Goodwill of Kansas) to leverage and align the resources from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the services from the American Job Center to support project implementation to achieve the goals of the grant, and to create significant and lasting community impact. The attached chart lists the partners and programs that will be accessed as needed to support the EPA Brownfields jobs grant.

If awarded funding the WA will recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents with the skills needed to obtain full-time, sustainable employment, facilitating activities related to assessment, cleanup, or preparation of construction sites, including brownfields, while simultaneously building a local workforce with the skills needed to perform remediation work that is supportive of environmental protection and environmental health and safety. The WA is committed to furthering environmental justice by ensuring that all residents living in communities historically affected by economic disinvestment, health disparities, and disproportionate and adverse exposures to environmental contamination, have an opportunity to reap the benefits of economic revitalization and environmental cleanup.

With its strong network of WIOA partners, along with the many local partnerships with community-based organizations, educational institutions and employers, the WA is well positioned to successfully meet the goals of this grant. On behalf of the WA Board, I thank the EPA and grant review team for this opportunity and hope the project is funded. I am confident the WA will deliver.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [REDACTED]. We look forward to your favorable review of this partnership proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Longwell
Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas Chairman
GC Charities Chairman and Director

300 W. Douglas, Suite 850 • Wichita, KS 67202 • Phone 316-771-6600 • Fax 316-771-6690 • www.workforce-ks.com

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program - Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

In partnership with  **KANSASWORKS.com**

Attachment 2: Partnership Letters



**Heartland
Environmental
Justice Center**

316-945-6615
heartlandej@wichita.edu

heartlandej.org

Environmental Protection Agency - PA FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant
Review Team
Matt Wosje
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 5105T
Washington, D.C. 20460.

Re: EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02

The Heartland Environmental Justice Center supports individuals and organizations who serve in communities experiencing environmental injustice across Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and adjoining Indigenous Nations. We are a first-stop resource for communities seeking help with pressing environmental justice and energy equity challenges. We offer no-cost, customized support to strengthen communities' ability to identify challenges, plan and implement solutions, and work towards achieving their community goals.

Services provided by HEJC, and our partners include:

- Training on grant writing and management, civic engagement, community organizing, and leadership development
- Assistance with developing grant proposals, monitoring, and reporting on progress
- Community assessment to help identify local environmental and energy justice challenges, potential solutions, and funding sources
- Technical expertise related to environmental justice, green energy, and engineering solutions
- Support for community education and outreach initiatives

This letter is solely intended as an expression of interest and shall not be a legally binding agreement. The HEJC and the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas understand that these proposed initiatives and commitments will require an additional contractual agreement(s), and the parties are not obligated to enter into an Agreement. Entering into an Agreement shall be at the discretion and mutual agreement of the parties.

The Heartland Environmental Justice Center may offer the above-mentioned services, which are in alignment with the Workforce Alliance Brownfields Jobs Training Program to underserved and disadvantaged communities within our service area. As with all entities that align with the mission and goals of the HEJC, we will coordinate, collaborate and cross-promote where appropriate to accomplish the mission of the HEJC and our partners.

Jeff Severin
Senior Program Manager
Heartland Environmental Justice Center
EPA Region 7 Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center
jeffrey.severin@wichita.edu



Goodwill Industries of Kansas, Inc.

Wichita, KS • 3351 N. Webb Road, 67226 • P.O. Box 8169, 67208 | Phone: 316.744.9291 • Fax: 316.744.1428
goodwillks.org • facebook.com/GoodwillKS • Instagram: @GoodwillKS

August 14th, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency - PA FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant Review Team

Matt Wosje
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 5105T
Washington, D.C. 20460.

Re: EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02

Dear Review Team,

I am writing to express support and commitment to a partnership in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant program (EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02) as proposed by the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas (WA). Goodwill Industries of Kansas is the designated one-stop operator for the WA and also manages adult education programs in partnership with WSU Tech through the NexStep Alliance. These relationships will be leveraged in the implementation of the EPA brownfields grant to create successful outcomes and generate lasting community impact.

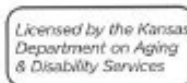
The ability to collaborate through the programs and partners in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the American Job Centers positions the WA to recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents with the skills needed to obtain full-time, sustainable employment, facilitating activities related to assessment, cleanup, or preparation of construction sites, including brownfields, while simultaneously building a local workforce with the skills needed to perform remediation work that is supportive of environmental protection and environmental health and safety.

Goodwill Industries of Kansas has a longstanding commitment to fostering workforce development and advancing environmental sustainability. With these core values in mind, we are enthusiastic about the opportunity to partner on this initiative. We believe this collaboration will create substantial benefits for the community, addressing both economic and ecological needs while promoting positive social impact.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. We look forward to your favorable review of this partnership proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Chris Stanyer
Chief Mission Officer



Attachment 2: Partnership Letters



Clean Harbors
42 Longwater Drive
P.O. Box 9149
Norwell, MA 02061-9149

www.cleanharbors.com

August 8th, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency - PA FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant Review Team
Matt Wosje
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 5105T
Washington, D.C. 20460.

Re: EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02

Dear Review Team

I am writing to express support and commitment to partnership in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant program (EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02) as proposed by the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas (WA).

Clean Harbors is North America's leading provider of environmental and industrial services. The Company serves a diverse customer base. Its customer base spans several industries, including chemical, and manufacturing, as well as numerous government agencies. These customers rely on Clean Harbors to deliver a broad range of services such as end-to-end hazardous waste management, emergency spill response, industrial cleaning and maintenance, and recycling services. Through its Safety-Kleen subsidiary, Clean Harbors also is North America's largest re-refiner and recycler of used oil and a leading provider of parts washers and environmental services to commercial, industrial and automotive customers. Our Vision is to be recognized as the premier provider of environmental and industrial services.

If awarded, the funding will allow the WA to recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents of solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities with the skills needed to obtain full-time, sustainable employment, facilitating activities related to assessment, cleanup, or preparation of contaminated sites, including brownfields, for reuse, while simultaneously building a local workforce with the skills needed to perform remediation work that is supportive of environmental protection and environmental health and safety. The WA is committed to furthering environmental justice by ensuring that all residents living in communities historically affected by economic disinvestment, health disparities, and disproportionate and adverse exposures to environmental contamination, which may include low-income, minority, Tribal and indigenous communities, have an opportunity to reap the benefits of revitalization and environmental cleanup.

"People and Technology Creating a Safer, Cleaner Environment"

Clean Harbors will partner in developing the proposed job training program by interviewing students and/or hiring graduates.

The following training programs will aid students and graduates in being prepared for work within our industry.

- 40-Hour HAZWOPER
- Confined Space Entry
- CPR/First Aid
- DOT Hazardous Materials
- Emergency Response
- Environmental Awareness
- Forklift
- Hazardous Waste Management and RCRA
- HAZMAT
- OSHA 10
- OSHA 30
- RCRA Hazardous Waste Management
- Chemistry for Environmental Technicians
- Spill Response and Cleanup

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at

[REDACTED] We look forward to your favorable review of this partnership proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Aileen Kennedy
Talent Consultant

Attachment 2: Partnership Letters



Dondlinger
CONSTRUCTION

2656 S. Sheridan, Wichita, Kansas 67217
P.O. Box 398, Wichita, Kansas 67201-0398
Phone: 316-945-0555 Fax: 316-945-9009
www.dondlinger.biz

August 13, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency - PA FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant Review Team
Matt Wosje
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 5105T
Washington, D.C. 20460.

Re: EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02

Dear Review Team,

I am writing to express support and commitment to partnership in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant program (EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02) as proposed by the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas (WA).

At Dondlinger Construction, our mission is to continue to be a leader in the construction industry, driven by our unwavering commitment to excellence, safety, and innovation. With over 125 years of experience, we have built a reputation for delivering high-quality projects that meet the unique needs of our clients.

We strive to provide exceptional value to our clients through the use of cutting-edge technology, sustainable practices, and a highly skilled workforce. Our goal is to exceed expectations on every project we undertake, delivering superior results that set the standard for excellence throughout the industry.

At the core of our success is a deep commitment to safety. We believe that everyone has the right to a safe work environment, and we are dedicated to ensuring the health and well-being of our employees, subcontractors, and clients. We continuously strive to improve our safety practices, utilizing the latest technologies and best practices to keep our workforce safe and healthy.

As a 100% employee-owned and family operated business, we are committed to maintaining our legacy of excellence and integrity. We take pride in our work and are passionate about delivering exceptional results that stand the test of time. We believe that our success is a direct result of our commitment to our clients, our employees, and the communities we serve.

At Dondlinger Construction, we are dedicated to building a better future for generations to come.

If awarded, the funding will allow the WA to recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents of solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities with the skills needed to obtain full-time, sustainable employment, facilitating activities related to assessment, cleanup, or preparation of contaminated sites, including brownfields, for reuse, while simultaneously building a local workforce with the skills needed to perform remediation work that is supportive of environmental protection and environmental health and safety. The WA is committed to furthering environmental justice by ensuring that all residents living in communities historically affected by economic disinvestment, health disparities, and disproportionate and adverse exposures to environmental contamination, which may include low-income, minority, Tribal and indigenous communities, have an opportunity to reap the benefits of revitalization and environmental cleanup.

Attachment 2: Partnership Letters

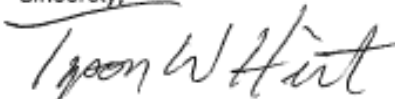
We would be honored to partner with the WA of South Central Kansas in developing the proposed job training program. We have many opportunities for field trips, guest speakers from our experienced and knowledgeable workforce, and mentorship/internship opportunities for those seeking a career in the construction industry. Additionally, we provide on-the-job training opportunities for existing and newly hired employees. This partnership would be mutually beneficial as we would look forward to interviewing and hiring those students whose qualifications meet the needs of our open positions. This program would also strengthen our existing workforce by providing additional training to enhance their skills and knowledge base.

While there is no way to anticipate the actual number of existing employees and newly hired employees that would benefit from the training classes below, we can predict that 30-40% of our current employees would benefit from one or more of the classes listed below. We continuously seek qualified candidates to fill our positions and would welcome the opportunity to interview and employ those who meet our criteria and needs.

- 10-Hour Site Safety Training
- Asbestos Inspection
- Asbestos O&M Class III
- Chemical Safety Awareness
- Welding, Cutting, and Hot Work
- Commercial Driver's License/Hazardous Waste Transport/ Forklift
- Confined Space Entry
- CPR/First Aid
- CPR/First Aid/AED
- DOT Hazardous Materials
- Emergency Response
- Environmental Awareness
- Fall Protection Competent Person
- Forklift
- HAZMAT
- Intro to Soils and Groundwater
- Lead and Asbestos
- OSHA 10
- OSHA 30
- OSHA General Industry Outreach
- Powered Industrial Truck Operator
- Walking and Work Surfaces

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Diane Burris, Director of Human Resources at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. We look forward to your favorable review of this partnership proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tyson Hirt
Chief Financial Officer



Wichita, Kansas ▪ Atlanta, Georgia ▪ Tulsa, Oklahoma ▪ Phone: (888) 264-7050 ▪ www.iSiEnvironmental.com

August 12, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency - PA FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant Review Team
Matt Wosje
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 5105T
Washington, D.C. 20460.

Re: EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02

Dear Review Team

I am writing to express support and commitment to partnership in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant program (EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02) as proposed by the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas (WA).

iSi Environmental is a full-service consulting, training, and facility support company that provides expertise to help clients navigate EPA, OSHA, and DOT compliance issues and regulations. Since 1997, iSi has been providing EPA environmental training, OSHA safety training and hazardous materials shipping training to workers on a regular schedule at our location in Wichita, Kansas and onsite at client facilities. iSi's training program has grown steadily and has trained 54,500 students to-date.

If awarded, the funding will allow the WA to recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents of solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities with the skills needed to obtain full-time, sustainable employment which facilitates activities related to assessment, cleanup, or preparation of contaminated sites, including brownfields, for reuse. The funding will simultaneously build a local workforce with the skills needed to perform remediation work that is supportive of environmental protection and environmental health and safety. The WA is committed to furthering environmental justice by ensuring that all residents living in communities historically affected by economic disinvestment, health disparities, and disproportionate and adverse exposures to environmental contamination, which may include low-income, minority, Tribal and indigenous communities, have an opportunity to reap the benefits of revitalization and environmental cleanup.

In addition to its scheduled classes, iSi provides customized classes to clients. This customization helps tailor content to the exact role of the student. iSi's courses for WA would have customization to the types of work the grant covers. Classes contain both classroom and hands-on training/activities. iSi's training courses are conducted by environmental and safety technical professional staff – project managers, environmental scientists, safety/industrial hygiene professionals and Certified Safety Professionals. In addition to training, they are in the field working with a variety of environmental and safety projects on a day-to-day basis. This ensures they are keeping current with regulations and maintaining hands-on knowledge and real-life

iSi Environmental (iSi)

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Attachment 2: Partnership Letters

experience with the topics they are teaching. As a company who provides services much like what we are training to, this knowledge of real-life project application and lessons learned will be valuable to the students. Also, as an environmental consulting company, we may be able to use this program to find future iSi employees to help us with our field work projects.

Among the classes iSi can provide to WA to help teach students affected by this grant include:

- 10-Hour General Site Safety Training
- Asbestos O&M Class III
- Chemical Safety Awareness
- Chemistry for Environmental Technicians
- Confined Space Entry
- CPR/First Aid/AED
- DOT Hazardous Materials Transportation
- Emergency Response (24 Hr. HAZWOPER)
- Environmental Awareness
- Fall Protection Safety Awareness
- Forklift Safety/Powered Industrial Truck Operator Safety
- HAZWOPER Annual Refresher
- H2S Safety Awareness in Oil and Gas Production
- Lead and Asbestos Awareness
- OSHA General Industry Outreach
 - OSHA 10 Hr. for General Industry
 - OSHA 30 Hr. for General Industry
- RCRA Hazardous Waste Management
- Toxicology Introduction/Awareness
- Walking and Work Surfaces
- Welding, Cutting, and Hot Work

Many of these courses are provided or recommended by iSi for its own workers to take. Future candidates who already have these training courses would factor favorably for future employment.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. We look forward to your favorable review of this partnership proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Marc Mason
CEO

REMEDIATION CONTRACTORS, INC.

319 N. Mathewson Wichita, KS 67214-4044 [REDACTED]
ENVIRONMENTAL and SPECIALTY CONTRACTORS

14 August 2024

Environmental Protection Agency - PA FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant Review Team
Matt Wosje
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 5105T
Washington, D.C. 20460.

Re: EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02

Dear Review Team

I am writing to express support and commitment to partnership in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant program (EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02) as proposed by the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas (WA).

Established in September 1987, Remediation Contractors, Inc. (RCI) has been providing environmental and specialty contractor services to customers in the Wichita area and throughout the State of Kansas for over 37 years. Specializing in asbestos, lead and mold remediation in commercial, industrial and residential settings; no project is too small or too large.

Our years of experience and commitment to superior customer service has provided us the opportunity to serve our clients spanning several decades. We value the partnerships we have built along the way and look forward to many more years of providing customers from Wichita and throughout the State of Kansas with environmental and specialty contractor services.

If awarded, the funding will allow the WA to recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents of solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities with the skills needed to obtain full-time, sustainable employment, facilitating activities related to assessment, cleanup, or preparation of contaminated sites, including brownfields, for reuse, while simultaneously building a local workforce with the skills needed to perform remediation work that is supportive of environmental protection and environmental health and safety. The WA is committed to furthering environmental justice by ensuring that all residents living in communities historically affected by economic disinvestment, health disparities, and disproportionate and adverse exposures to environmental contamination, which may include low-income, minority, Tribal and indigenous communities, have an opportunity to reap the benefits of revitalization and environmental cleanup.

RCI looks forward to partnering with the WA in developing job training programs that will meet or exceed the requirements set forth by local, state and federal regulations. Along with initial training programs, ongoing education is crucial for the various disciplines we currently provide. This will be a key component for continued employment and future advancement within the company. We look forward to having a pool of trained and certified individuals to interview and/or hire as they complete the required training requirements which will in turn enhance the long term viability of our company.

Attachment 2: Partnership Letters

- 10-Hour Site Safety Training
- Asbestos Abatement Worker
- Asbestos Building Inspector/Management Planner
- Asbestos Handler
- Asbestos Inspection
- Asbestos O&M Class III
- Confined Space Entry
- Confined Space Entry and Non-Entry Rescue
- Confined Space Entry Tier 11 Rescue
- CPR/First Aid
- CPR/First Aid/AED
- DOT Hazardous Materials
- Environmental Awareness/Sustainable Practices/Community Issues/Environmental Justice concepts and local issues and impacts
- Environmental Sampling
- Environmental Sampling/Monitoring
- Environmental Stewardship
- EPA Lead Renovation
- EPA Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting - Initial Certification - Lead Renovator Training
- Fall Protection Competent Person
- Hazardous Waste Management and Shipping
- Hazardous Waste Management and RCRA
- Lead and Asbestos
- Lead Renovation
- Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting
- Lead-Based Paint Inspection
- Lead-Based Paint Inspector/Risk Assessor
- Mold Remediation
- OSHA 10
- OSHA 8-hour Confined Space Entry
- OSHA Construction Industry Health and Safety Program
- OSHA Construction/General Industry Outreach
- OSHA Disaster Site Worker
- OSHA Lead in Construction
- RCRA Hazardous Waste Management
- Sample Planning
- Sampling, Monitoring, and Reporting
- Walking and Work Surfaces

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. We look forward to your favorable review of this partnership proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Tyler Conway, President

Attachment 2: Partnership Letters



1815 S. Eisenhower
Wichita, KS 67209
P (316)262-0171
F (316) 262-6997
Terracon.com

August 13, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency – PA FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant Review Team
Matt Wosje
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 5105T
Washington, D.C 20460

Re: EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02

Dear Review Team:

We are writing to express support and commitment to partnership in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant program (EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02) as proposed by the Workforce Alliance of South-Central Kansas (WA).

Company Profile

Wherever you are on your project journey, Terracon's employee-owners are ready to meet you where you are and help you reach your goal. Since our founding in 1965, Terracon has grown into a thriving, employee-owned, multidiscipline engineering consulting firm delivering facilities, environmental, geotechnical, and materials services. Our more than 7,000 curious minds include engineers, scientists, architects, facilities experts, and field professionals focus on solving engineering and technical challenges from more than 180 locations nationwide.

Terracon will work with the eligible Interns and WA to tailor the training program for the specific project or future needs. Training programs may include:

- 40-Hour HAZWOPER
- Asbestos Inspection
- Chemical Safety Awareness
- Environmental Awareness
- Hazardous Waste Management and RCRA
- Intro to Soils and Groundwater
- Lead and Asbestos
- Spill Response and Cleanup

Terracon anticipates up to 4 new hires over the next 2 years that could be involved in these training programs. This will be dependent on the economy. Training programs for other services can be developed with WA as future needs dictate.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. We look forward to your favorable review of this partnership proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Terracon Consultants, Inc.


Anthony R. Mellini, Jr., P.G.
Senior Associate/
Environmental Department Manager


Becky Horace, MPA
Senior Associate/
Grants Manager - Brownfield Program

Attachment 2: Partnership Letters



August 15, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency - PA FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant Review Team

Matt Wosje
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 5105T
Washington, D.C. 20460.

Re: EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02

Dear Review Team:

As Executive Director of the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP), I am writing to express support and commitment to a partnership in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant program (EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02) as proposed by the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas (WA). The WA is a valued community partner and has collaborated with the Regional Economic Area Partnership on a number of projects that have generated significant community impact. Based on their successful track record of administering and implementing employment and skills training grants, the WA is well positioned for success on this EPA Brownfields Grant.

REAP connects 30+ communities across 10 counties in South Central Kansas, convening partners for collaboration on regional issues, developing and supporting regional initiatives and strategies, and advocating for the region. REAP's long-term focus is providing opportunities and access to the region's communities.

If awarded, the funding from this grant will allow the WA to recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents with the skills needed to obtain full-time, sustainable employment, facilitating activities related to assessment, cleanup, or preparation of construction sites, including brownfields, while simultaneously building a local workforce with the skills needed to perform remediation work that is supportive of environmental protection and environmental health and safety.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. We look forward to your favorable review of this partnership proposal.

Sincerely,


Dr. Marcy Aycock
Executive Director, REAP

Attachment 2: Partnership Letters

SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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FOURTH DISTRICT

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100 NORTH BROADWAY • SUITE 660 • WICHITA, KANSAS 67202-2212 • TELEPHONE (316) 660-9300 • FAX (316) 660-9330

August 14, 2024

Matt Wosje
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 5105T
Washington, D.C. 20460.

Re: EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02

Dear Grant Review Team

I am writing to express support and commitment to a partnership in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant program (EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-02) as proposed by the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas (WA). Sedgwick County and the WA have collaborated on multiple employment and skills training projects over the years that helped to grow the economy in South Central Kansas.

If awarded funding for this grant, the WA will recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents with the skills needed to obtain full-time, sustainable employment, facilitating activities related to assessment, cleanup, or preparation of construction sites, including brownfields, while simultaneously building a local workforce with the skills needed to perform remediation work that is supportive of environmental protection and environmental health and safety. It is recognized that the WA is committed to furthering environmental justice by ensuring that all residents living in communities historically affected by economic disinvestment, health disparities, and disproportionate and adverse exposures to environmental contamination, have an opportunity to reap the benefits of economic revitalization and environmental cleanup.

The employment projects WA and Sedgwick County collaborated on have focused on Justice Involved Individuals, at risk youth and supporting laid off workers return to the workforce. Sedgwick County also utilizes the services of the WA as an employer to help recruit, screen and assess job applicants. These experiences will be used to meet the goals of this grant and create long lasting community impact.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [REDACTED] We look forward to your favorable review of this partnership proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ryan Baty, Chairman
Commissioner – Fourth District