

JT Listening Session 1 Q&A

On January 14, 2025, EPA's Office of Brownfields & Land Revitalization held a listening session to receive public feedback on the Brownfields Job Training program and grant competition. Below is a transcript of questions submitted by participants and EPA's response. Responses below may include additional information than what was provided during the webinar.

Q. If we can submit written comments, where do we send them?

A. Please send your written comments by January 30th, 2025, to Brownfields@epa.gov.

Q. I have 28 years of experience as an environmental engineer and consultant. I have extensive experience working on Brownfield sites. In addition, I am a certified Trainer in HAZXOPER as well as OSHA. How may I make myself known to entities in the Michigan area that I am available to help them?

A. We have a map of all of our current and past Brownfields Job Training Grantees available at https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants-technical-assistance-resources#Grantees_Map.

Q. How recently from last time awarded can you apply again?

A. You can apply as early as two years after you were last awarded a Brownfields Job Training cooperative agreement. For example, if you were awarded a cooperative agreement in FY 2024, the soonest you would be able to apply again would be FY 2026. Please note, as stated in the FY 2025 Brownfields Job Training Guidelines, current EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant recipients must demonstrate that the recipient has received payment from EPA (also known as "drawn down"), and drawn down funds have been disbursed, for at least 50.00% of the funding for each Brownfields Job Training cooperative agreement by (a date shortly after the Guidelines are released), in order to apply for funding under this solicitation.

Q. Will this PowerPoint be available to us later?

A. The English and Spanish versions of this PowerPoint are currently available at <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/fy-2025-brownfields-job-training-listening-sessions>

Q. If the expertise is not present in the community, are there experts that our workforce organizations can work with to deliver the actual training?

A. EPA recommends talking with your Regional Technical Assistance to Brownfields Community Provider, which can be found here at <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/interested-applying-brownfields-job-training-funding#TAB>, and/or your Regional Brownfields Job Training Coordinator listed at <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-program-contacts>, and/or submitting a technical assistance request to EPA at <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/forms/brownfields-job-training-program-technical-assistance-inquiry-form>.

- Q. In order for most underserved communities to educate the culture of underserved mindsets to prepare for the educational training and process, do you offer applying nonprofits outreach dollars?
- A. Yes, nonprofits, that don't engage in lobbying activities, are eligible entities for this funding and outreach is an eligible activity/use of grant funds.
- Q. Is it yet known if or how this program might change with the incoming presidential administration?
- A. At this time, we have not received guidance or direction on which, if any, changes will be made to the Job Training program as a result of the administration change.
- Q. What is the approximate payment rate to retain a Brownfield Job Training Grant trainer?
- A. Each grant award is anticipated to result in a minimum job placement rate of 70%. The number of individuals completing training will vary by recipient depending on the comprehensiveness of a curriculum and where the recipient is located (urban versus rural locations where a larger number of individuals may be more easily recruited than locations where recruitment may be more challenging as a result of smaller populations). While EPA does not set requirements on the minimum number of individuals entering and completing training, EPA encourages applicants to maximize the grant funding to train as many individuals as possible while delivering high-quality training to an appropriate number of jobseekers based on the demand in the local labor market.
- Q. How can EPA collect and share information about what jobs and in what sectors graduates of the brownfields job training program are working? This would be very helpful to know.
- A. EPA does not currently request grantees report on what jobs and to what employer or job sector graduates go to. EPA will consider implementing and sharing this information in the future.
- Q. Hello. I'm assisting a local non-profit with trying to establish some type of workforce/job training for unhoused/homeless members in our local community, to give them a pathway to re-enter the workforce. Would this grant support a project like this?
- A. As long as you are an eligible entity, a non-profit not engaging in lobbying activities, yes, you would be eligible and this grant would support the project you are looking for.
- Q. Are there examples of prior grant recipients and how they used it?
- A. Yes, we have some example applications from past successful applicants posted on our website, available at <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicants-selected-fy-2025-brownfields-job-training-grants>. These examples highlight strong proposals that align with OBLR's mission to support workforce development in brownfield remediation and environmental restoration. By reviewing these successful applications, prospective applicants can gain valuable insight into what makes a compelling proposal, including effective objectives, clear outcomes, and a strong connection to EPA's priorities. Please

contact the applicant for additional information. If you encounter accessibility issues with an application, please contact the Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization at brownfields@epa.gov.

- Q. Is it possible to start up a Brownfields Job Training Program and train 17 and 18 year old individuals?
- A. Yes, grant recipients may provide training to individuals under the age of 18, but the individuals should be at least 17 years old to enter a brownfields job training program. Please note that the Fair Labor Standards Act prohibits youth under the age of 18 from being employed in hazardous occupations. If providing training to individuals under the age of 18, it is important for grant recipients to follow child labor laws, as discussed by DOL at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/YouthRules/young-workers/non-ag-16-17>.
- Q. Can entities that have or are applying for Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Cleanup Grants, and RLF Supplemental Funding also apply for Brownfields Job Training Grantee?
- A. Yes, entities that have applied for or received Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Cleanup Grants, or RLF Supplemental Funding (collectively referred to as MARC grants) are eligible to apply for Brownfields Job Training Grants. These entities have the option to either implement their own job training programs or collaborate with partner organizations to deliver effective brownfields job training.

Additionally, entities that have successfully received MARC grants are well-positioned to serve as grant administrators. Their experience in applying for and managing federal grant programs equips them with the necessary skills to oversee these initiatives effectively. Additionally, organizations with MARC grants benefit from established connections with hiring partners, access to environmental work opportunities, and valuable insights into the local community, making them excellent collaborators for project partnerships.