

## **JT Listening Session 2 Q&A**

On January 15, 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. Is there a way to get yesterday's recording?

A. Yes, that recording and this recording will be available here:

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

Q. I have a small nonprofit in Region 6. I would like to start a Brownfield job training program for the community. What's the best way to find partners to work with?

A. Yes, there are a number of resources:

- We had a Professional Learning Community Call (which we have monthly) that talks about building partnerships, that will be a great video to review, it is on this webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants-professional-learning-community>.
- We will also have a future webinar that will talk about building partnerships. That will be available at <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants-webinars>.
- Using the Brownfields Grant Fact Sheet Tool is a great way to find entities conducting Brownfields activities, many of which would make great partners, the tool is available here at <https://java.epa.gov/acrespub/gfs/>.
- Reach out to your Regional Brownfields Job Training Coordinator, which can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-program-contacts> as well as your Regional Technical to Brownfields Provider, which can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/interested-applying-brownfields-job-training-funding#TAB>.
- Another great way is by connecting with past/current grantees, we have a map of this and you can find their factsheets available at [https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants-technical-assistance-resources#Grantees\\_Map](https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants-technical-assistance-resources#Grantees_Map).

Q. How can I get assistance writing my Brownfields Job Training Grant proposal?

A. We recently had a webinar on tips on writing a competitive EPA Job Training Proposal, available here: [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/audio/2024-09/webinar\\_tips-on-writing-a-competitive-epa-job-training-proposal-june-12-2024.mp3](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/audio/2024-09/webinar_tips-on-writing-a-competitive-epa-job-training-proposal-june-12-2024.mp3). We also had a Professional Learning Community Call about this, available here:

[https://youtu.be/Xj\\_Nxyz55Mg](https://youtu.be/Xj_Nxyz55Mg). Lastly, we have Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) providers that will review and provide comments on your draft applications at no cost to the applicant. You can find your TAB provider for application review here: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/interested-applying-brownfields-job-training-funding#TAB>.

Q. Does EPA have a listing of past Brownfields Job Training awardees?

A. Yes, EPA has a map with information on current and past Brownfields Job Training Grant Recipients available here: [https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants-technical-assistance-resources#Grantees\\_Map](https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants-technical-assistance-resources#Grantees_Map).

Q. I feel like I'm getting conflicting messages. So, I am with the city of Austin. I currently have an Assessment and an RLF Grant and I have contracts for contractors to perform environmental work for me for both of those. I have been told to work with individuals and/or organizations conducting brownfields activities in my community. I have also been told by the EPA that when I'm writing a contract for my contractors, I cannot give preference to companies that have hired individuals who have gone through a Brownfields Job Training Program. Can you help me understand the conflicting messages?

A. There are 2 aspects to what you are talking about here:

1. Partnerships: Your entity with Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Cleanup Grants, and/or RLF grants are great partners because they know how to administer an EPA Grant, you know the environmental work, and you are working with contractors who are doing the hiring.
2. For procurement of contractors relating to hiring graduates from a Brownfields Job Training program, we do have recently approved language that you can use in your Request for Applications for when you are procuring a contractor. The language is, "*Portions of this project are being funded by a \$XM U.S. EPA Brownfields (grant type) Grant. The Owner will more favorably evaluate contractors who hire staff that have gone through a local/state/federal workforce development program that teaches (Y) techniques/skills.*"

Q. What is the best way to estimate outputs such as how many participants or students will be in our program, how many students we anticipate graduating from the program, and the number of how many will be placed in environmental jobs?

A. We understand this can be a bit difficult to estimate. The best course of action would be to talk with other grantees, join our Professional Learning Community Calls and hear what other existing grantees do, and/or submit a technical assistance request using our inquiry form: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/forms/brownfields-job-training-program-technical-assistance-inquiry-form>.

Q. How do I find employers in my area?

A. There are several ways you can find employers in your area:

- Contacting your Regional Job Training Coordinator is a great first step in trying to find employers: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-program-contacts>.

- You can also contact your Regional Technical Assistance to Brownfields provider: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/interested-applying-brownfields-job-training-funding#TAB> for their help in identifying employers.
- You can use the Brownfields Grant Fact Sheet Tool: <https://java.epa.gov/acrespub/gfs/> to find organizations that have received brownfields grants to conduct brownfields activities.
- You can also reach out to your State environmental program and see if they know of any environmental firms that are hiring: <https://java.epa.gov/acrespub/stvrp/>.