Brownfields Job Training

Professional Learning Community (PLC)

February 18, 2026

Disclaimer

Agenda

1. Introductions & Resource Updates (5 min)
2. Learning Topic: Data Literacy (30 min)
3. Open Q&A - Any Topic (Optional - 25 min)

Introductions

TETRA TECH

www.tetratech.com

adaapta

www.adaapta.com

Steve Michener
Project Manager

Sherry Weedman
*Sr. Enviro. Health Scientist/
Program Manager*

Eric Eisiminger
Project Manager

Danielle Getsinger
CEO

Krisandra Provencher
*Project Manager &
Community Engagement
Specialist*

Mike Senew
Senior Advisor

Bertina Carter
*Workforce Development
Specialist*

brownfieldsjobtraining@adaapta.com

Technical Assistance Services

- **Application Support** (not in an open NOFO period) – Guidance on eligibility and proposal and submission best practices
- **Program Design Support** – Curriculum development, recruitment, retention, and graduate tracking
- **Partnership & Employer Engagement** – Assistance forming strategic local partnerships and hiring pathways
- **Data & Performance Support** – Help with reporting, metrics, and evaluation
- **Sustainability Planning** – Long-term program strategy and resource optimization
- **Resources & Tools** – Provide existing tools or create custom tools to meet needs
- **One-on-One Consultations** – Tailored guidance for program design, implementation, or troubleshooting

Congratulations 2026 Grantees!

- PathStone Corporation
- Auberle
- Coalfield Development Corporation
- Urban League of Greater Atlanta*
- OAI, Inc.c
- Green Door Initiative
- Recycle Force
- Summit and Medina Workforce Area Council of Governments*
- Limitless Vistas, Inc.
- City of Austin Economic Development Department*c
- Southern University at Shreveport
- Ventura County*
- Hunters Point Family

- City of Carson*
- Nevadaworks*
- City of Richmond
- Anchor of Hope International Ministries*c
- San Diego State University Research Foundation*
- Cypress Mandela
- San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps*
- PWT United Inc.*
- Port of Oakland*
- Sierra Institute for Community and Environment*
- Alaska Forum, Inc.
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians*

*First-time Brownfields Job Training Grant recipients.

c Coalition

Learn more here!

Upcoming National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (NPETE) training:

May 11- 16: Great Environmental Safety Training Institute (GreatEST) – Waste Site Cleanup Train-the-Trainer

- 5.5 days of required training for public and private responders and workers including:
  - Initial off-site training required by OSHA HAZWOPER standard at 1910.120(e) applicable to cleanup operations for general site workers and general site workers delivering training to adult learners
  - Confined Space Non-Entry Rescue
  - Hazard Awareness and Communication
- Held at Scott CC, Bettendorf, IA
- Travel cost reimbursements and scholarships available
- **Registration open now**: https://nationalpete.org/events/
- Interested trainers can contact: Hilary Kesseler, NPETE at hkesseler@nationalpete.org
- **Completed application packages are due March 13, 2026**

New Resource: Participant Tracking Tool

- Tool is designed to help BFJT grantees prepare data for quarterly progress reports, as required by the T&Cs of their grant
- Compiles performance metrics, such as # of participants entering training cohort, # of participants completing training cohort, and # of participants obtaining employment
- Short tutorial video is available that explains how to use the tracking workbook
- **Access the tool and view the tutorial at:**

https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grant-program-participant-tracking-workbook

Connect with Us!

- If you or an associate would like to receive notice of upcoming meetings and events, send your contact information to: brownfieldsjobtraining@adaapta.com

- Submit an inquiry or request for technical assistance at www.epa.gov/brownfields/forms/brownfields-job-training-program-technical-assistance-inquiry-form
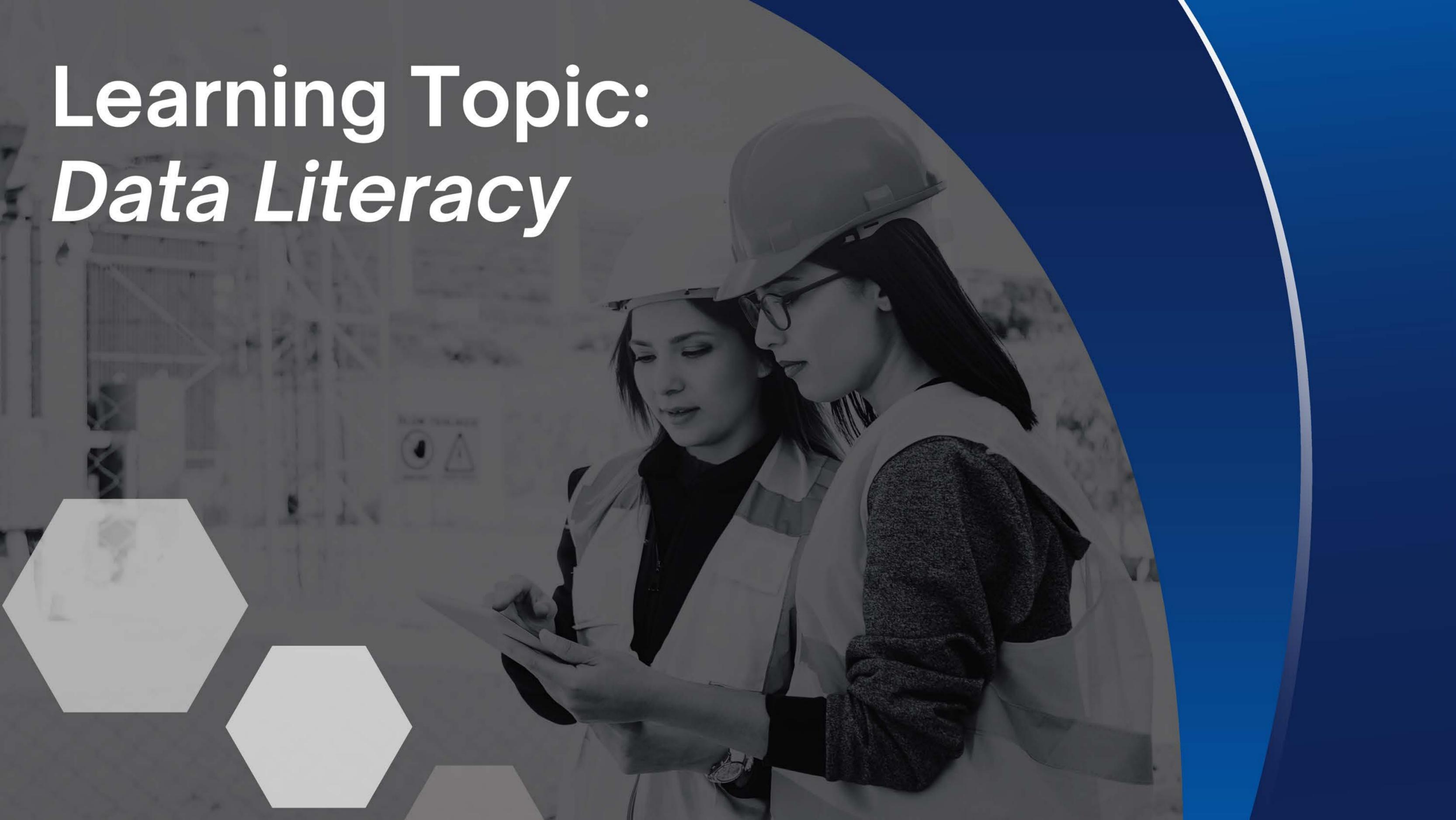

Brownfields Job Training Program Technical Assistance Inquiry Form

Form to collect requests for technical assistance.

US EPA / Feb 2

Learning Topic:
Data Literacy

What is Data Literacy?

- Data literacy enables applicants to collect, interpret, and use verifiable data to support both grant applications and program decisions.
- Key skills:
  - Understanding demographic, environmental, and health data.
  - Evaluating source credibility.
  - Translating data into clear, defensible evidence for the Community Need section.
  - Informing program design decisions based on actual community conditions.

Why Verifiable Data Matters

- Ensures Community Need section is trustworthy and reviewable.
- Supports data-informed program design, e.g.:
  - Identifying target neighborhoods for recruitment.
  - Determining priority skills and training topics based on environmental hazards or remediation needs.
- Enables prioritization of interventions based on documented community needs rather than assumptions.

Key Sources of Verifiable Data

Source	What it Provides
U.S. Census Bureau	Population demographics, income, housing conditions
CDC / National Center for Health Statistics	Health outcomes, chronic disease prevalence
EPA Envirofacts & TRI	Contaminant releases, brownfield site remediation data
State / Local Environmental Agencies	Water/soil quality, brownfield inventories
City Planning / GIS Departments	Land use, infrastructure, zoning
County Public Health Reports	Health disparities, exposure, vulnerability
School District / Local Agencies	Education, access to services, vulnerable populations

Note: Data must be publicly documented, citeable, and verifiable. No AI-generated or proprietary "estimates."

Using Data to Inform Program Decisions

- **Recruitment & Targeting:** Use demographic and environmental data to identify neighborhoods and populations most impacted by brownfields.
- **Curriculum & Training Design:** Align training modules with actual remediation skills needed in local context (based on site contamination type, remediation status, or employer needs).
- **Resource Allocation:** Direct program support where community need is highest (e.g., transportation, wraparound services, or participant support).
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Track enrollment, graduation, and placement trends by neighborhood or demographic factors to adjust program strategies in real time.

Creating, Managing, & Analyzing Your Own Data

- Track participant outcomes (job placement rates, wages, retention) to demonstrate real impact to funders and stakeholders
- Secure funding by providing evidence of measurable results
- Improve training by identifying what leads to the best results
- Reduce dropout rates by tracking participant progression to identify at-risk trainees early and address systemic barriers
- Strengthen employer partnerships by documenting skills gained and certifications earned, enabling better job matching and demonstrating graduate readiness
- Make informed decisions based on real-world conditions, adapting your program to actual community needs, labor market demands, and participant challenges

Key Takeaways

- Data literacy equips BFJT applicants to write stronger Community Need narratives and implement effective programs.
- Public, verifiable data ensures credible grant applications and evidence-based decision-making.
- **Your narrative and your program should both reflect the story that the data tells about your community's needs and opportunities.**

Guest Speaker

Mileidy Soto Torres
Pathstone Corporation,
Puerto Rico

*Senior Director, Training &
Employment*

PathStone
Connecting You to Opportunities

Strengthening Data Literacy for Brownfields Job Training Programs

Using Publicly Available Data to Understand Community Needs & Inform Program Design

PR / DE / ME / NJ / NY / OH / PA / VA / VT

msoto@pathstone.org

We Create Opportunities

Our Primary Areas of Service

- Workforce Development

- Health and Education

- Community Service and Crime Prevention

- Emergency and Support Services

- Resident Services

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Connecting You to Opportunities

Who we serve...

Low-Income Individuals	Recipients of SNAP and TANF	Farmworkers and Families	Seniors	High School Dropouts
At Risk Youth	Incarcerated Individuals	Justice Involved Youth and Adults	Individuals Interested in Environmental Careers/Justice	Unemployed and Underemployed Individuals
People living with HIV/AIDS	Individuals and Communities affected by Gun Violence/Trauma	Employers	Growers	Non-profit Organizations and Government Agencies

What we do for our Participants…

o Assessment of Educational Needs, Skills, Barriers, etc.
o Creation of Individualized and Family Plan
o Career Exploration
o Career Services (Soft Skills)
o Occupational Skills Training, Licenses and Certifications
o Job Upgrades
o Entrepreneurial Training
o Post-Secondary Education/Training
o Preparation and Coordination for Job Interviews
o Job Placement Assistance
o Education and Employment Retention
o Emergency and Support Services
o Interventions targeting Trauma and Violence
o Health, Safety and Supportive Housing Services

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Connecting You to Opportunities

Session Objectives...

- Understand why data literacy matters for BFJT programs

- Identify reliable, publicly available data sources

- Analyze demographic, environmental, and public health data

- Translate findings into program design decisions

- Learn practical strategies from real-world examples

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Why Data Literacy Matters...

- Document Community Challenges
- Prioritize Interventions
- Make Evidence-based decisions
- Strengthen application competitiveness
- Align training with labor market needs
- Demonstrate accountability and impact

Data → Insight → Program Design → Community Impact

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Types of Data you Need

1. Demographic Data

- Population characteristics

- Income & poverty

- Education levels

- Unemployment

2. Environmental & Public Health Data

- Brownfields & contaminated sites

- Air quality

- Lead exposure

- Asthma, cancer, chronic disease indicators

3. Workforce & Economic Data

- In-demand occupations

- Wage data

- Industry trends

- Employer needs

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Where to Find Reliable Data

- **Federal sources:** EPA, Census, BLS, CDC

- **State/local agencies:** environmental, labor, health

- **Workforce boards:** labor market reports

- **Regional planning organizations**

- **Community needs assessments**

- **Academic & nonprofit research centers**

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Analyzing Data

Demographic Data:

Look for:

- High unemployment
- Low educational attainment
- High poverty rates
- Limited English proficiency

Workforce & Economic Data

Look for:

- Growth in remediation, construction, or environmental services
- Employer demand
- Skills gaps

Environmental Data

Look for:

- Clusters of brownfields
- Proximity to industrial corridors
- Elevated asthma or cancer rates
- Lead exposure risks

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Turning Data Into Program Design

Use data to develop & determine:

- Training tracks
- Recruitment strategies
- Partnerships
- Supportive services
- Geographic focus
- Outcome targets

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Example: Data-Informed Program Design

Scenario:

- High unemployment in census tracts near brownfields
- Elevated asthma rates
- Strong demand for remediation technicians

Program Response:

- Offer HAZWOPER, asbestos, and lead abatement training
- Recruit residents from impacted tracts
- Partner with local remediation employers

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Key Takeaways

- **Data strengthens both applications and implementation**

- **Publicly available data is abundant and accessible**

- **Data helps justify need, design, and impact**

- **Strong data literacy = stronger programs**

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