



Brownfields Job Training

Professional Learning Community

May 20, 2026

Please mute your lines when you're not speaking.

We welcome open discussion and invite participants to unmute or raise their hand at any time during this call if you have a question or something to share.

We encourage participation through the Teams Chat.

Out of respect for everyone's time, we ask that lengthy discussions be held in the open Question & Answer session or taken offline with a followup meeting.

Meeting Logistics



Disclaimer

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under a contract with Tetra Tech and Adapta. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does the EPA endorse trade names or recommend the use of commercial products mentioned in this document.

Agenda

1. Introductions (2 min)
2. Announcements (5 min)
3. Learning Topic: Serving Rural & Tribal Communities (25 min)
4. Open Question & Answer – Any Topic (Optional – 25 min)



Brownfields Job Training Support

The U.S. EPA Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program can provide coordinated technical assistance to help plan, prepare, and strengthen local Brownfields Job Training (BFJT) programs. The three complementary support channels described below can help guide an organization from pre-application through program design and capacity building. For more information on the U.S. EPA Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program, visit: www.epa.gov/brownfields

EPA Regional Coordinators

Explain rules, requirements, compliance, and official guidance, including:

- Confirm eligibility or application requirements.
- Clarify grant conditions, deadlines, threshold items, or allowable costs.
- Address reporting and compliance issues.
- Understand regional funding priorities or opportunities.



Regional Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Providers

Share perspectives on brownfields, job training connections and application support, including:

- Guidance on navigating the application process.
- Review of draft applications.
- Review training course descriptions.
- General questions about brownfields in your region.
- Connections to regional resources or partners.



BFJT Technical Assistance

Build capacity for program design, implementation and best practices, including:

- Curriculum planning.
- Employer engagement and partnership development.
- Tracking outcomes, data collection, and performance metrics.
- Program Sustainability planning.
- Access to tools, templates.
- Individualized 1-on-1 consultations for tailored support.

Note: Assistance related to implementation support is not available to applying entities during an open Notice of Funding Opportunity.

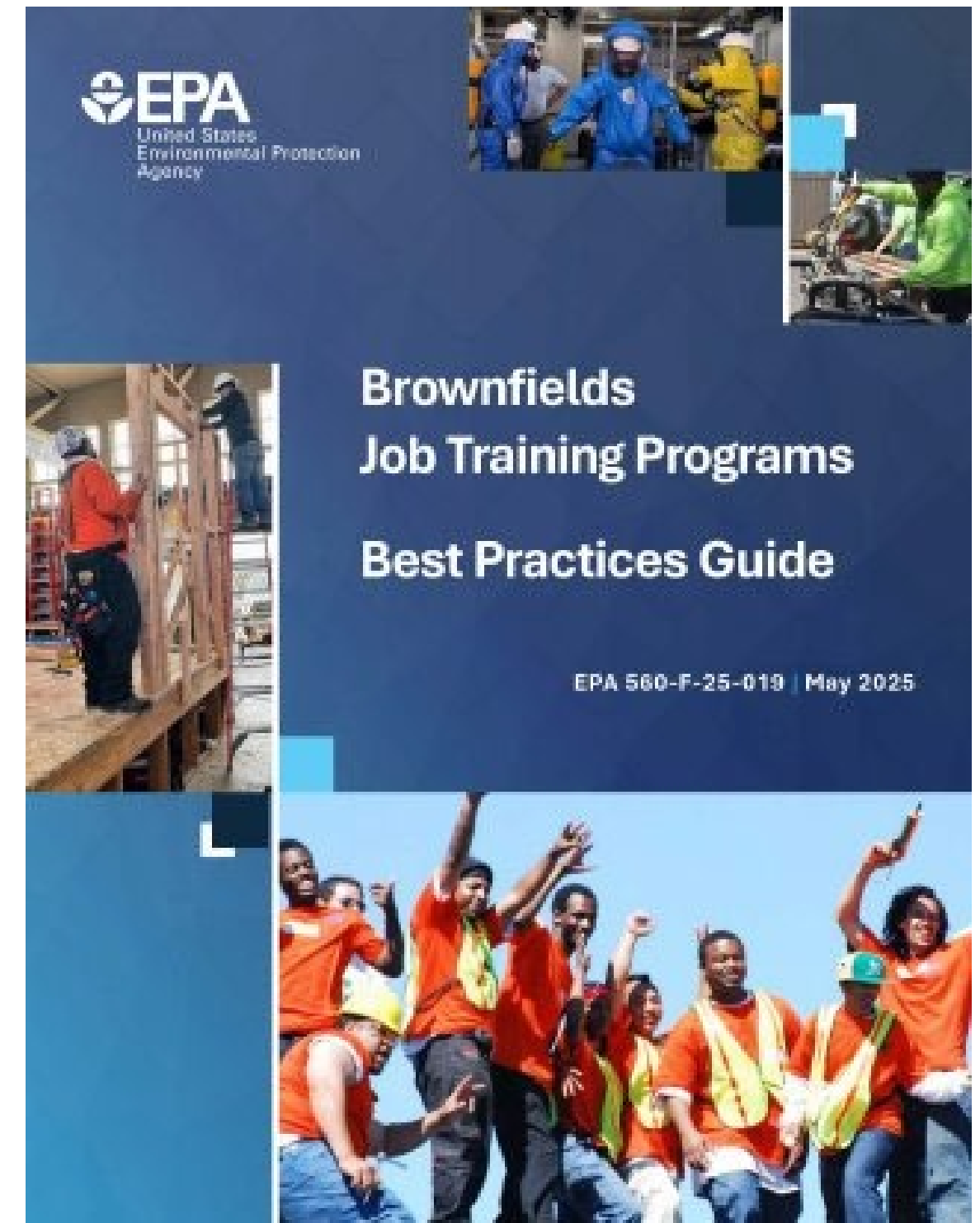


TETRA TECH



Additional Resources

- Find the latest Brownfields job training news and resources at: www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants
 - View the **Best Practices Guide** at: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-best-practices-guide>
 - Check out the new **Participant Tracking Workbook** at: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grant-program-participant-tracking-workbook>
 - View our **Webinar Recordings** at: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants-webinars>
 - Catch up on past **Professional Learning Community Call Recordings** at: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants-professional-learning-community>



Connect with Us!

- To **receive program updates**, send your contact information to: brownfieldsjobtraining@adaapta.com
- **Submit an inquiry** for technical assistance at www.epa.gov/brownfields/forms/brownfields-job-training-program-technical-assistance-inquiry-form
- Find your **EPA Regional Coordinator** at: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-program-contacts>
- Find your **Technical Assistance to Brownfields Program** at: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/technical-assistance>



Inquiry Form

Announcements



Upcoming FY2027 Grant Opportunity

- Grant awards anticipated: \$300,000 for 3 years
- Total funding anticipated: \$5,000,000 – \$6,000,000
- Anticipated threshold criteria:
 - Applicants awarded Brownfields Job Training Grant in FY26 are not eligible to apply
 - Current grantees must have drawn down at least 50% of funding for each cooperative agreement by 7/1/26 to apply
- More information anticipated late Spring/ early Summer 2026



**View More Details
Here!**

Organizational Readiness

Register or ensure active status in SAM.gov



Register or ensure active status in Grants.gov



Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier from SAM.gov



Designate an Authorized Organization Representative in Grants.gov



***Note: Registration can take several weeks; early preparation is essential.

2026 All -Grantee Meeting

- October 7 - 8, 2026 in New Orleans, Louisiana
- Who:
 - Current Brownfields Job Training grantees
 - Prospective eligible applicants
 - Up to 2 representatives per organization
- Cost:
 - No registration fee
 - Travel and lodging costs are the responsibility of participants
 - Allowable grant expense if in approved work plan
 - If not included, contact your EPA Project Officer
- Lodging:
 - Room block available at government per diem rates
 - Available nights: October 6–7, 2026



**Register & Book
Lodging Here!**

Call for Ideas for the 2027 National Brownfields Training Conference is Still Open!

- **Save the Date: May 25 - 28, 2027 | Salt Lake City, Utah**
 - Elevate your work on a national stage
 - Connect with 2,000+ brownfields professionals (and potential employers!)
- **Call for Ideas:**
 - Submit proposals for dynamic, interactive sessions
 - Share program successes, lessons learned, and innovations
 - Showcase new or emerging program models
 - **Deadline: May 31, 2026**



**Learn More &
Submit Ideas Here!**

Recent TAB Webinar: Recording Available

 **WEBINAR**

Blueprint for Success: Crafting Compelling Brownfields Job Training Grant Applications

May, 5th 2:30pm ET on Zoom



Learning Topic: *Serving Rural & Tribal Communities*



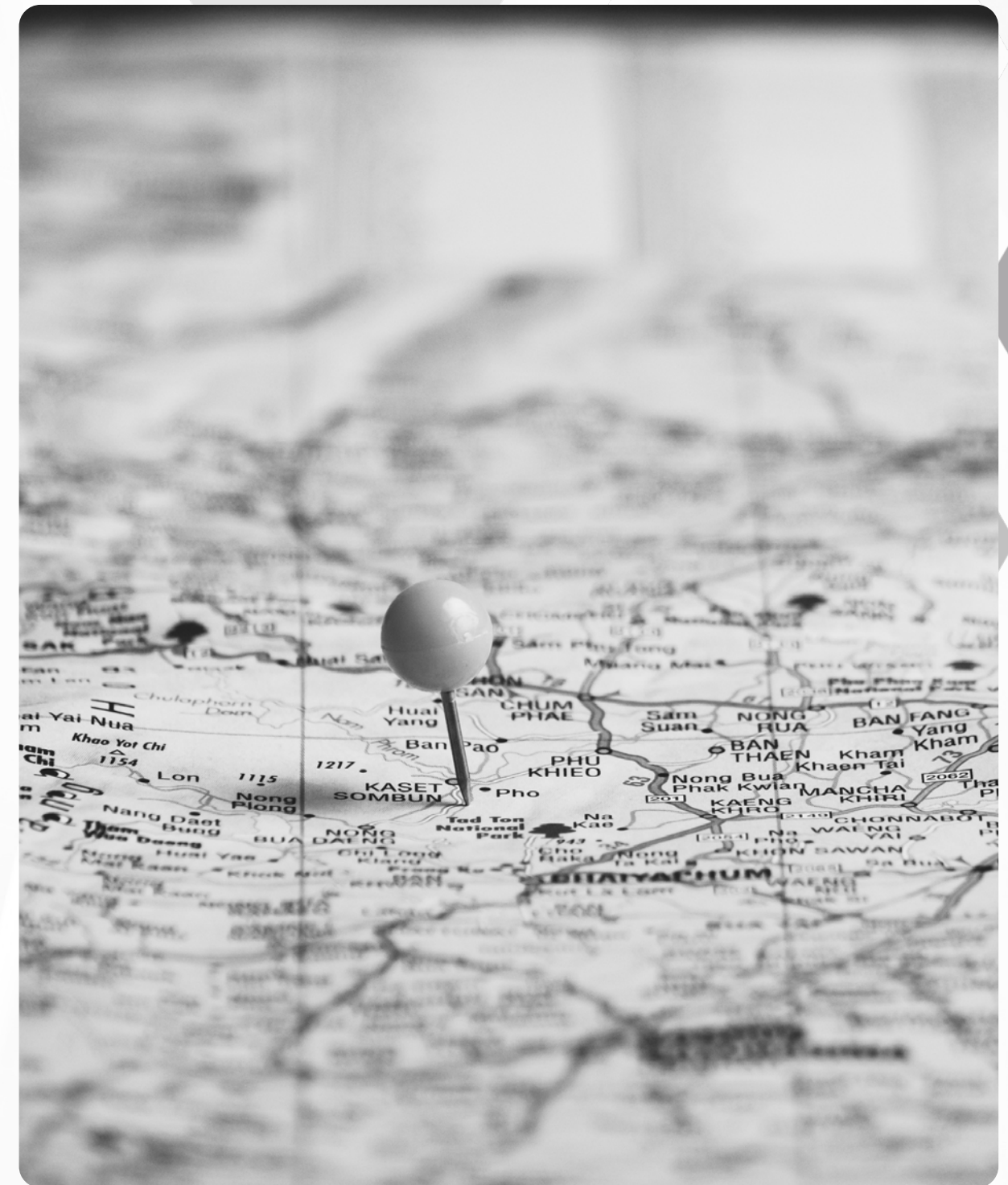
Geography Changes Access

- Participants spread across large geographic areas
- No single training location is convenient for all
- Travel time is consistent barrier
- Transportation and broadband constraints limit access



Smaller, More Constrained Labor Markets

- Fewer training providers and workforce partners available locally
- Recruitment often spans multiple communities or counties
- Fewer local employers in brownfields-related fields and few job openings
- Limited ability for participants to commute long distances for work



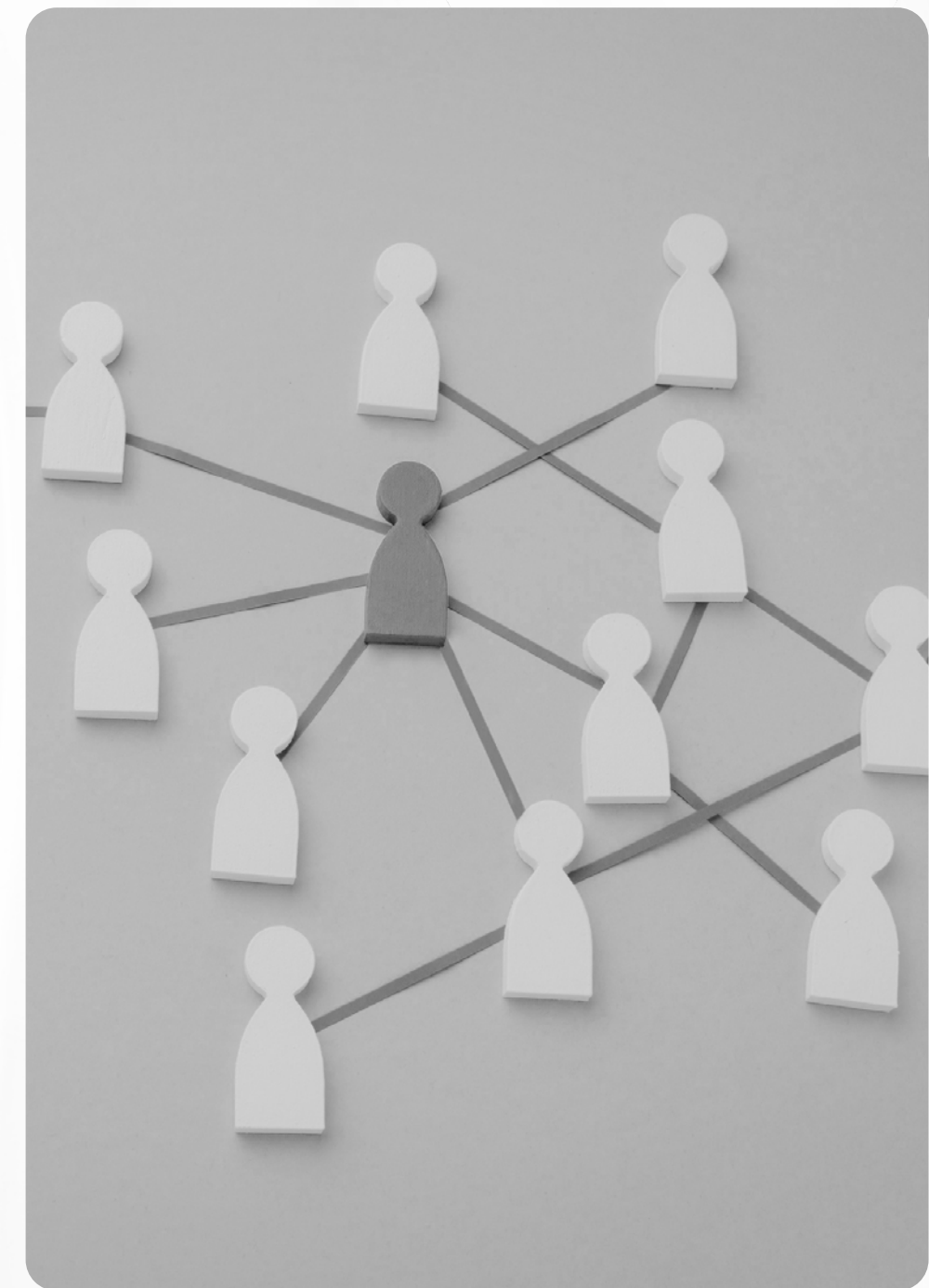
Workforce Systems Less Dense But More Relational

- Employer networks are smaller; rely on sustained, local relationships
- Placement depends on ongoing engagement with limited number of employers
- Organizations often serve multiple roles (training, support services, employment connections)
- Fewer organizations overall means less redundancy
- Participation influenced by:
 - trusted local institutions
 - local credibility and reputation
 - who is involved in program design and decision-making



Key Strategy: Design for Geography, Not Against It

- Form coalitions with aligned partners and build on existing training programs to strengthen pathways and avoid duplication (e.g., community college)
- Use satellite training sites closer to where people live
- Deploy mobile training hubs that bring training equipment and instructors into communities
- Use a hub-and-spoke model: central hub coordinates the program and local partners deliver training
- Rotate cohorts across communities; training moves instead of participants
- Hybrid model: short, intensive in-person training blocks to reduce travel burden



Partner with a Local Community College



Key Strategy: Build Through Small Number of Trusted, Embedded Partners

- In less dense systems, a small number of embedded organizations often function as core delivery infrastructure
- Effectiveness depends on:
 - local credibility
 - pre-existing relationships
 - deep community embeddedness
 - support from community 'influencers'



Key Strategy: Deeply Ground Program Design in Labor Market Reality

- Labor markets defined by few employers, each with limited job opportunities
 - So, training needs to prepare participants with transferable rather than specialized skills to give them the greatest chance at placement
- Labor market assessments will be less varied and more focused on this small number of employers
 - So, relationships with these employers becomes essential to program implementation and placement
 - Requires consideration of commuting time



Key Strategy: Budget for Real Conditions

- Smaller cohorts may be required
- Training schedules and pedagogy may not be typical of most programs
- Travel support is often necessary
- Staff time per participant is higher
- Training is more distributed across geography



Guest Speakers

JANET KERLEY
Santa Fe Community
College
Director of EHS Training

TAMMY BELONE
Eight Northern Indian
Pueblos Council
Director of Environment