# PLC Session 305 - July 17, 2024

# Supercharging FY25 Job Training Applications



#### Contents:

- 1. Welcome to Today's Professional Learning Community (PLC) Call
- 2. Brownfield Job Training News
- 3. Frequently Asked Questions
- 4. Supercharging FY25 Job Training Applications
- 5. Landmines That Negatively Influence Application Approval
- 6. Online Meetings and Webinars
- In Person Events
- 8. JT Related Technical Assistance
- Funding Opportunities
- 10. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators and TAB Technical Assistance Consultants
- 11. Join us for The Next PLC Wednesday, September 18th
- 12. The Annual All Grantee Meeting is Scheduled for Wednesday, August 21st



#### 1. Welcome to Today's Professional Learning Community (PLC)

Welcome to the fifth monthly Professional Learning Community Call of this cycle. With proposals due in less than 30 days, The Professional Learning Community is focusing on the FY25 Request for Applications (RFA). Today we will discuss last minute tips that can supercharge a proposal and landmines that may reduce the chances of submitting a fundable JT application.

If you are on the PLC participant list, you receive reminders and links to scheduled events. If you did not receive reminders to today's PLC, please send your contact information to: <u>JT-TAB@KSU.edu</u>. If you would like to be removed from the PLC list, please return this email with "remove" in the subject box.

Statements made by KSU JT-TAB during this webinar or in post session notes do not constitute official EPA advice, interpretations, or positions.

#### 2. Brownfield Job Training News

EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators are still available to review the Threshold portion of JT applications

Regional EPA Job Training Coordinators are not able to discuss individual grant applications while the RFA is still open (until August 15th). They are, however, permitted to clarify and answer questions presented in the guidelines. Additionally, Regional Job Training Coordinators are permitted to check the Threshold portion of applications to ensure applicants meet the Threshold Criteria required for continued review. Contact information for EPA Regional Coordinators can be found at the KSU JT-TAB homepage <a href="https://www.ksutab.org/job-training">https://www.ksutab.org/job-training</a> and in section 10 of these notes.

#### TAB Job Training Consultants are available to review draft grant applications

EPA has funded five regional TAB service organizations to provide technical assistance to communities and tribes engaged in the EPA brownfields redevelopment effort. Unlike EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators, Regional TAB Job Training Consultants are available to review draft grant applications before they are submitted to grants.gov. To request a review, please notify your Regional TAB Point of Contact (POC) that you will be sending a draft application for review. Allow three to five days for a response and do not send applications later than August 7th. Contact information for Regional TAB POCs can be found along with EPA Regional Coordinators at the KSU homepage and later in these notes.



#### TAB Job Training Consultants are available to review draft grant applications

EPA has funded five regional TAB service organizations to provide technical assistance to communities and tribes engaged in the EPA brownfields redevelopment effort. Unlike EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators, Regional TAB Job Training Consultants are available to review draft grant applications before they are submitted to grants.gov. To request a review, please notify your Regional TAB Point of Contact (POC) that you will be sending a draft application for review. Allow three to five days for a response and do not send applications later than August 7th. Contact information for Regional TAB POCs can be found along with EPA Regional Coordinators at the KSU homepage and later in these notes.

Page 2 KSU JT-TAB

# After the FY25 RFA closes, JT-TAB will refocus attention on strategies used by successful JT programs as they begin their next training cohort

With FY25 Brownfields JT applications due August 15<sup>th</sup>, KSU JT-TAB will address topics related to the implementation of JT programs. New grantees will learn from experienced project managers strategies that have made their programs successful. Experienced grantees may also pick up some new ideas along the way. Prospective applicants will find the sessions useful as they prepare applications for the next RFA competition. The first event this summer will be the KSU JT-TAB Virtual All-Grantee Meeting. All-Grantee Meetings are open to new, current and prospective JT grantees. There is no charge to attend.

# The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) EJ and Natural Disasters Webinar July 29, 2024 2:30-4:00 p.m. Eastern

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Worker Training Program is hosting a EJ and Natural Disasters webinar aimed to provide resources and tools for communities to better prepare for, respond to, and recovery from disasters. For a description, registration and information flyer, Go to: <a href="https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2460#Webinars">https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2460#Webinars</a>

See section 6 and 7 for additional details regarding virtual and in-person JT related events.

KSU JT-TAB Virtual All-Grantee Meeting Exploring Training Resources Wednesday, August 21, 2024 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. Eastern

# Open to current, new, and prospective job training grantees Registration Required

This year's KSU JT-TAB virtual All-Grantee Meeting – "Exploring Training Resources" will explore current and cutting-edge resources available to JT grantees as they implement their training programs.

Topics with opportunities for questions and discussion include the following.

- Defining Environmental Technology
- National Pete Resources
- NIEHS Clearinghouse Resources
- Environmental Justice Clearinghouse
- Brownfields National Tab Resources
- Artificial Intelligence Part 1: The Emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Job Training Programs
- Artificial Intelligence Part 2: Career Exploration Using Virtual Reality Headsets
- After-Hours Open Discussion Exploring Other Resources

To register for this event, go to the KSU JT-TAB Homepage. <a href="https://www.ksutab.org/job-training">https://www.ksutab.org/job-training</a>

Page 3 KSU JT-TAB

#### 2025 National Brownfields Training Conference August 5-8, 2025 Chicago, IL

The National Brownfields Conference (held every 2 years) attracts over 2,000 stakeholders from government, industry, and the community to share knowledge and best practices on the remediation and redevelopment of contaminated properties. The conference features a range of sessions, workshops, and networking events that cover topics including workforce development, community engagement, sustainability, and environmental justice with the goal of promoting the cleanup and revitalization of contaminated sites across the United States. Learn more about the conference and how to get involved at <a href="https://gobrownfields.org/">https://gobrownfields.org/</a>.

#### 3. Frequently Asked Questions

Each session we like to share questions of interest or have been raised by PLC participants.

#### Question:

Regarding our travel budget, Are JT programs required to attend either the Annual All-Grantee Meeting or the National Brownfields Training Conference.?

#### Response:

In recent years, the Annual All-Grantee Meeting has been held virtually with in-person meetings every other year in Alexandria, VA. The National Brownfields Conference is held every 2 years (next year in Chicago, IL).



Annual All-Grantee Meetings give participants an opportunity to work with their EPA Regional Coordinators and network with other JT grantees. The National Conference provides an opportunity to network with organizations active in Brownfields remediation in addition to visiting potential employers. Attendance at these events is not mandatory. However, EPA suggests that organizations interested in participating should include them in the JT application.

#### Question:

We have another workforce related grant. How do I ensure our efforts will not be considered as a duplication of Federal support?

#### Response:

If you are receiving other Federal grants, review the work plans and scope of those grants. To ensure you are not duplicating efforts, make sure you are not addressing the same target communities or providing duplicative training. Questions regarding Threshold Criteria can be brought up with EPA Regional Coordinators.

Page 4 KSU JT-TAB

### Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community — PLC - 305 Supercharging FY25 Job Training Applications

#### Question:

Can you clarify the incentives for employers to hire our graduates?

#### Response:

Employer incentives vary by program and location. Some states have special tax incentives for employing JT graduates. Inquire whether your city or county have adopted local hiring or first source hiring policies to leverage public works expenditures by increasing employment opportunities for residents. Additionally, large development projects may involve Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) which establish standard work rules, wages, and benefits including local hiring agreements. Perhaps the biggest incentive for hiring JT graduates is a source of vetted, screened, trained and certified employees. Remember, graduates come with about \$5,000 of training and certifications.



#### Question:

What does a commitment letter from a local employer entail? Are we asking them for a commitment to hire our graduates, or for support in other ways?

#### Response:

Commitment letters vary widely depending on the employers and the nature of their work. In some cases, employers may be ready to commit to interviewing your graduates with the intention of hiring "x" number of workers. Smaller employers may not be able to provide a firm commitment to hire at this time. In those cases, commitment letters might involve interviewing graduates for possible employment depending on projected workloads. Employers should be asked to support JT as a guest speaker or attend program events. Employers are often willing to offer in-kind support, equipment, internships. facilities and monetary contributions to cover special events. Remember, employers who work with JT programs have an opportunity to see the best graduates before graduation. Additionally

#### Question:

The attachment section in the RFA is limited to 15 pages. What if our program has more than 15 leveraged partners?

#### Response:

Letters of support can only be submitted one per page on company letterhead. The RFP states the following "Letters of support may only impact scoring of criterion that directly cite support letters and references. Support letters and references will not impact scoring for other ranking criteria." This will limit the number of support letters necessary to demonstrate the quality of proposals. In other words, if a leveraged partner is cited in the narrative, a support letter should be referenced in the Attachments section of the application.

Page 5 KSU JT-TAB

#### 4. Supercharging FY25 Job Training Applications

At this point in JT application development, it is important to focus on Ranking Criteria in the Narrative section of the RFA identifying mistakes that diminish the quality of the application. On June 12th, KSU JT-TAB presented a webinar and companion manual titled JT201 - Tips on Writing a Competitive EPA Job Training Application. Prospective FY25 applicants are urged to review the companion manual to see if issues presented apply. The JT201 companion manual is available on the KSU JT-TAB homepage. Today we are going to discuss additional activities that can improve the quality and fundability of JT proposals including the following:

- Engage the Mayor's office and city government as leveraging partners
- Establish an Advisory Board as part of proposal development
- Brief elected representatives on the intention to develop an JT program
- Involve governmental and nonprofit organizations
- Participate in public meetings
- Locate and contact active brownfields project managers
- Engage employers in proposal development
- When possible, bring contractors and consultants onboard before the application is written
- Research special programs that can contribute to Other Factors

#### Engage the Mayor's office and city government as leveraging partners

In all likelihood, outreach to the mayor's office and his or her representatives will involve briefing administrative assistants and staffers familiar with economic and environmental issues. The objective is to network and learn about city operations. Administrative assistants are most familiar with community and governmental activities. They can save an enormous amount of effort by providing contact information of key individuals important to Brownfields JT. Here are a few of the agencies and offices important to training and placement program graduates. Networking City Hall is well worth the time and effort to supercharge program development.

(Note that the names and organization of these offices vary from community to community).

- Department of the Environment and Natural Resources local environmental assessments
- Office of Brownfields introduction to local cleanup projects
- Fire and Emergency Response potential leveraged support
- Office of Neighborhood Development community activities and networking
- City Planning Department access to city development plans
- Office of Health and Human Services drug testing and student support
- Department of Commerce current grants and "Other Factors"
- Department of Transportation student bus passes and transportation assistance
- Labor and employment services recruitment, screening, employment and placement services
- Department of Municipal Services employment opportunities
- City Manager's Office access to active grants and funded projects
- Purchasing and contracts access to potential employers

Conversations with municipal staff can provide introductions to employers, community organizations, potential leveraging partners, and possible funding opportunities. As relationships develop, consider recruiting governmental representatives for the JT Advisory Board.

Page 6 KSU JT-TAB

#### Establish an Advisory Board as part of proposal development

Advisory Boards should be established as the proposal is developed and included in the application. Members should be active participants attending regularly scheduled meetings. Advisory Boards need to include individuals influencing all aspects of the JT program including the following.

- Representatives from contributing governmental agencies
- Representatives from target community organizations (nonprofit and faith based)
- Community residents and influencers
- Potential employers
- Leveraging partners
- Social service providers
- Training providers
- Workforce Investment Board

#### Brief elected representatives on the intention to develop a JT program

Beginning with the local councilman, then the State Representative and Federal Congressman, announcing intentions to submit an application for Federal funding is a political curtesy. This action will not increase chances of obtaining EPA funding but will bring attention to the program. Representative staff can provide introductions to organizations and individuals that may become important contributors to the program. Do not overlook community organizers and political influencers. When possible, ask the City Council representative to announce intentions to establish an environmental job training program in his district at the next City Council meeting. Always document the contacts and relationships that have been made. Definitely include public announcements in the proposal narrative.

#### Involve governmental supported and nonprofit organizations

JT staff should never forget agencies and organizations located in or near the target community. Sometimes these agencies are supported by federal or local government, but often they are faith based or publicly supported nonprofits. Relationships need to be established with local faith based and community groups. These relationships may be more informal than those with governmental agencies but are no less important. Community representation needs to be included on the Advisory Board and in the proposal narrative as part of the application. Enlist assistance from local law enforcement, police stations and community centers in the target community. Nonprofits in the community are often able to provide leveraged services to JT participants. "WIBs" sometimes called Job Centers or One Stops can provide numerous leveraged services including applicant recruitment, screening, testing student support, training materials and placement assistance. Every JT program should establish a relationship with the local "WIB".

#### Participate in public meetings

While not required, JT applicants are encouraged to participate in public meetings. To supercharge JT applications, prospective grantees may want to consider informing the community about the EPA job training grant. Public announcements at City Council, discussions regarding the possibility of developing a local JT program at church meetings or informational sessions at community events should be documented and included in the narrative proposal.

Page 7 KSU JT-TAB

#### Locate and contact active brownfields project managers

The best approach to identifying local cleanup projects is working with governmental Brownfield project officers located in the office responsible for environmental protection or Brownfields. It is important that coordination continues between the Multipurpose, Assessment and Cleanup Grantees. These relationships provide insight into active and proposed brownfields projects, employment opportunities and introductions to contractors. When possible, recruit individuals involved with brownfield projects to be on the advisory committee.

#### **Engage employers in proposal development**

Engaging potential employers in application development brings many benefits to the quality of JT proposals. In addition to considering program graduates for employment, recruiting employers as guest speakers, instructors and advisors vastly improves the quality of the overall JT experience. When employers bond with JT students, both parties begin to gain confidence in an employer-employee relationship. Employers need to be on JT Advisory Boards and included in the proposal narrative.

#### When possible, bring contractors and consultants onboard before the application is written

JT programs must comply with Federal purchasing rules and regulations when selecting consultants and contractors on purchases of goods or services exceeding \$10,000. Consultants and contractors must participate in a competitive bidding process involving at least three bids. If JT applicants wish to include the credentials, experience and reputation of a consultant or contractor, they need to conduct a competitive procurement before they are included in the grant proposal. Once the selection has been made, they can help with items such as curriculum and training costs. It is not necessary to wait until Federal funding has been awarded to employ contractors and consultants. If they have not undergone a competitive procurement process, potential vendors can only serve in an advisory role and cannot be included in the proposal narrative as a service provider. To become part of the grant, contractors and consultants will need to be selected as part of a competitive bidding process.

#### Be sure to note Other Factors and special consideration in the Narrative

EPA may consider Other Factors when making final funding decisions. Applicants should identify as many "Other Factors" apply to their JT program. Page 24 of the RFP addresses Other Factor determinations. Many JT programs serve veterans, and every applicant should check to determine if the target area they are serving has a population of 10,000 or less. Final determinations regarding application acceptance while not included as Other Factors, may include the following issues.

- Fair distribution of funds between urban and non-urban areas
- A balanced distribution of funds among EPA's 10 Regions and among states and territories
- Fair distribution of funds between new applicants and previous job training grant recipients

Page 8 KSU JT-TAB

#### 5. Landmines That Negatively Influence Application Approval

On June 12<sup>th</sup>. KSU-JT-TAB presented a webinar titled *Tips on Writing a Comprehensive EPA Job Training Application JT201*. The webinar and companion manual details tips for writing a successful JT application and examples of mistakes applicants have made that have resulted in a rejection of applications. A link to that webinar and report can be found on the KSU JT-TAB homepage <a href="https://www.ksutab.org/job-training">https://www.ksutab.org/job-training</a>. Here are a few examples of critical omissions applicants should consider before submitting their application. A detailed list is available in the companion manual.

- The application was not submitted properly as outlined in Grants.gov
- No mention of Brownfields were made in the application.
- Applicant failed to link labor market assessment to curriculum.
- Courses in core curriculum were not eligible for funding
- Budget numbers did not add up.
- Student retention, placement goals and tracking were not addressed.
- Did not mention leveraging.
- There were no letters of support from key partners including potential employers, community or governmental organizations.

#### 6. Online Meetings and Webinars

Training And Office Hours on Updated EJScreen 2.3 July 24<sup>th</sup>

11:00 A.M. CST

The Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) supports the agency's mission by providing leadership on EPA's environmental justice and external civil rights priorities. This summer, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will update EJScreen, the agency's environmental justice screening and mapping tool. The updated version, EJScreen 2.3, makes important improvements to better meet the needs of users, including new environmental indicators and map layers, interface improvements, and updated demographic and environmental data. This new version of EJScreen will make interface changes aimed at helping users better understand the data and modernizing aspects of the tool. Registration not required.

Click Here to Join

Office Hours Session August 21<sup>st</sup> 11:00 A.M. CST

OEJECR will be holding an office hours session to talk with EPA EJScreen experts about many topics including how to use and apply the tool, technical issues, and address any other questions. To join the office hours session, <u>Click here to join</u>.

Registration is not required for training or office hours. More information can be found at: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen-office-hours-training">https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen-office-hours-training</a>

Page 9 KSU JT-TAB

#### Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community — PLC - 305 Supercharging FY25 Job Training Applications

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) EJ and Natural Disasters Webinar July 29
2:30-4:00 p.m. EST

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Worker Training Program is hosting a EJ and Natural Disasters webinar aimed to provide resources and tools for communities to better prepare for, respond to, and recovery from disasters. For a description, registration and information flyer, Go to: https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2460#Webinars

Visit the NIEHS Webinar home page for links to recordings of past webinars. <a href="https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2627">https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2627</a>

Mid-Atlantic TAB, Grant Season, and More August 14, 12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m. ET

Meet the Mid-Atlantic TAB team and learn about expanded services provided to EPA Region 3. We will also cover what you can do now to prepare for grant season before the new guidelines are posted in September. Learn what aspects of the grant process TAB can do for you.

Register Here

Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR)

National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Calls Next Call:

August 20th, 2024 (2:00 – 4:00 p.m. EST)

Expanding the Conversation



EPA invites EJ advocates to participate in its National EJ Community Engagement calls. The purpose of these calls is to inform communities about EPA's environmental justice work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with environmental justice advocates. Register Here to attend the next National EJ Community Engagement call:

https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\_XlgAdMDiSnuzJAlQGTZ6rA

For more information and meeting materials from previous sessions, Go to: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls</a>

EJ 2024 KSU JT-TAB Virtual All-Grantee Meeting Exploring Training Resources Wednesday, August 21, 2024 12:00 – 5:15 p.m. EST

Register for the 2024 KSU JT-TAB Virtual All-Grantee Meeting

From the KSU Job Training Home Page:

https://www.ksutab.org/job-training

Or directly at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvce2hqj4jH93BIVyzhq7f1y8zRzUt5nCe#/registration

Page 10 KSU JT-TAB

## Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community — PLC - 305 Supercharging FY25 Job Training Applications

The Virtual All-Grantee Meeting provides participants with opportunities to:

- Understand and explore training resources available to EPA Brownfield Job Training grantees and their programs
- Be introduced to new and innovative training strategies and resources
- Network with peer members of the BJT community

The Virtual All-Grantee Meeting is open to new and existing grantees, and to individuals interested in establishing a job training program in their community, **but you must register**.

#### **Tentative Agenda**

#### Session 1 – Defining Environmental Technology

A discussion of the national report on occupational career information in environmental technology. The report and companion Defining Environmental Technology chart were funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Presenter: Steve Fenton, KSU – JT-TAB

#### Session 2 - National PETE Resources

A discussion of two Train-the-Trainer opportunities available to EPA Brownfields Job Training grantees through the National Partnership for Environmental Education (NPETE). These include the GreatEST Institute and the Disaster Site Worker courses. Both programs are available at no cost. Additionally, Kirk will discuss the Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST), an excellent networking opportunity.

Presenter: Kirk Laflin, Executive Director, PETE

#### Session 3 – NIEHS Clearinghouse Resources

A discussion of the numerous resources housed at and available from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' (NIEHS) Clearinghouse.

*Presenter:* Deborah Weinstock, Director, NIEHS Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training

#### **Session 4 – Environmental Justice Clearinghouse**

A demonstration of resources available at the Environmental Justice (EJ) Clearinghouse. Presenter: Stacey Lobatos, Programming and Learning Specialist, EPA Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights

#### Session 5 – Brownfields National TAB Resources

A discussion of resources available through the regional Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) offices.

Presenter: Blase Leven, Director, KSU TAB

# Session 6 – Artificial Intelligence - Part 1: The Emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Job Training Programs

An overview of how AI is becoming an important part of environmental, health and safety training with demonstrations.

Presenter: Zach Schnell, Environmental Instructor, Pamlico Community College, NC

Session 7 – Artificial Intelligence - Part 2: Career Exploration Using Virtual Reality Headsets
A discussion of how environmental training program participants are able to practice in different types
of careers using virtual reality headsets.

Presenter: Mileidy Soto, Director, Training & Employment, PathStone Corporation, Puerto Rico

After-Hours Open Discussion - Exploring Other Resources (Optional)

Page 11 KSU JT-TAB

#### 7. In Person Events

#### 17th Annual Georgia Environmental Conference August 21-23, 2024 Jekyll Island. GA

Conference attendee registration includes: an early session (Wednesday morning), your choice of courses in nine topical breakout sessions, three plenary sessions, two continental breakfasts, two lunches, and two evening receptions, plus an unprecedented networking opportunity with 800 environmental professionals from Georgia and throughout the Southeast. *Join us August 21-23 on Jekyll Island!* 

https://georgiaenet.com

#### 2025 National Brownfields Training Conference August 5-8, 2025 Chicago, IL

The National Brownfields Training Conference is the largest event in the nation focused on environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. Held every two years, the National Brownfields Conference attracts over 2,000 stakeholders from government, industry, and the community to share knowledge and best practices on the remediation and redevelopment of contaminated properties. The conference features a range of sessions, workshops, and networking events that cover topics such as financing, liability, community engagement, sustainability, and environmental justice with the goal of promoting the cleanup and revitalization of contaminated sites across the United States. Whether you're a newcomer or a seasoned professional, Brownfields 2025 offers something for you!

Learn more about the conference and how to get involved at <a href="https://gobrownfields.org/">https://gobrownfields.org/</a>

#### 8. JT Related Technical Assistance

#### KSU JT-TAB provides examples of successful job training applications

Download examples of five successful FY23 JT applications

https://www.ksutab.org/resources?combine=Example+Job+Training&field\_state\_target\_id=All&field\_target\_id=All&field\_category\_target\_id=2

#### Job Training Application Assistance from Mid-Atlantic TAB

Looking for additional assistance with your Job Training Grant application? Mid-Atlantic TAB will accept draft applications for review through August 6, and you can schedule one-on-one consultations by emailing <a href="wvutab@mail.wvu.edu">wvutab@mail.wvu.edu</a>.

#### National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training

The National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training is a national resource for hazardous waste worker curricula, technical reports, and weekly news on hazardous materials, waste operations, and emergency response. Funded by the NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP), the National Clearinghouse provides technical assistance to WTP staff, grant recipients, and the general public. Go to: <a href="https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/">https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/</a>

Page 12 KSU JT-TAB

#### 9. Funding Opportunities

# Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) EPA Community Change Grants are NOW OPEN

EPA's new Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants) is now OPEN with approximately \$2 billion dollars in Inflation Reduction Act funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities.

#### Inflation Reduction Act Environmental and Climate Justice Program

The Environmental and Climate Justice Program (ECJ Program), created by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) under Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 138, provides funding for financial and technical assistance to carry out environmental and climate justice activities to benefit underserved and overburdened communities. EPA has created the <a href="EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities map">EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities map</a> layer to assist potential applicants seeking to identify whether a community is disadvantaged for the purposes of implementing programs under the IRA.

Congress has appropriated \$2.8 billion for financial assistance, and \$200 million for technical assistance, to implement this new program at the EPA. EPA must award grants and technical assistance under the ECJ Program by September 30, 2026.

<u>Learn more about the Notice of Funding Opportunity for Community Change Grants Program</u> (Community Change Grants)



Page 13 KSU JT-TAB

#### 9. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators

Regional Coordinators are the first place to go regarding questions about JT grants, extensions, budgets, or work plans. Many Regions maintain a Listserv for past, current, and potential recipients.

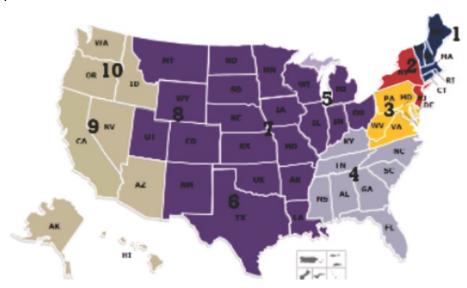


EPA Region 1	EPA Region 2
CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	NJ, NY, PR, VI
William "Bill" Lariviere	Schenine Mitchell
Phone: (617) 918-1231	Phone: (212) 637-3283
e-mail: lariviere.william@epa.gov	e-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov
EPA Region 3	EPA Region 4
DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV	AL, FL, ĞA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN
Nancy Shannon	Olga Perry
Phone: (215) 814-3175	Phone: (404) 562-8534
e-mail: Shannon.Nancy@epa.gov	e-mail: perry.olga@epa.gov
EPA Region 5	EPA Region 6
IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI	AR, LA, NM, OK, TX
Linda Morgan	Emily Jimenez
Phone: (312) 886-4747	Phone: (214) 665-2176
e-mail: morgan.linda@epa.gov	e-mail: <u>jimenez.emily@epa.gov</u>
EPA Region 7	EPA Region 8
IA, KS, MO, NE	CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY
Alma Moreno Lahm	Christine Michaud-Tilly
Phone: (913) 551-7380	Phone: (303) 312-6706
e-mail: moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov	e-mail: MichaudTilly.Christine@epa.gov
EPA Region 9	EPA Region 10
AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU	AK, ID, OR, WA
Amanda Pease	Angel Ip
Phone: (415) 972-3068	Phone: (206) 553-1673
e-mail: pease.amanda@epa.gov	e-mail: <u>ip.angel@epa.gov</u>
Jasmine Williams	
e-mail: Williams.Jasmine.A@epa.gov	

Page 14 KSU JT-TAB

#### **Contact TAB Technical Assistance Consultants**

Regional TAB Job Training Coordinators are in a position to discuss and review your grant throughout the competition.



**Region 1** (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT) University of Connecticut Randi Mendes: randi.mendes@uconn.edu

Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, and VI) New Jersey Institute of Technology

Sean Vroom: <a href="mailto:svroom@njit.edu">svroom@njit.edu</a>

Region 3 (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, and WV) West Virginia University

Carrie Stanton: <a href="mailto:carrie.staton@mail.wvu.edu">carrie.staton@mail.wvu.edu</a>

Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, and TN) International

City/County Management Association

Chris Harrell: <a href="mailto:charrell@icma.org">chris Harrell: charrell@icma.org</a>, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)

Region 5 (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, and WI) Kansas State University

Blase Leven: <u>jt-tab@ksu.edu</u>

Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, and TX) Kansas State University

Blase Leven: <u>jt-tab@ksu.edu</u>

Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, and NE) Kansas State University

Blase Leven: <u>jt-tab@ksu.edu</u>

Region 8 (UT, MT, WY, CO, ND and SD) Kansas State University

Blase Leven: <u>it-tab@ksu.edu</u>

Region 9 (AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, and GU) Center for Creative Land Recycling

Claire Weston: <a href="mailto:claire.weston@cclr.org">claire.weston@cclr.org</a>

Region 10 (AK, ID, OR, and WA) Center for Creative Land Recycling

Claire Weston: <a href="mailto:claire.weston@cclr.org">claire.weston@cclr.org</a>

Page 15 KSU JT-TAB

#### Contact KSU JT-TAB National Consultants

National job training technical assistance questions can be directed to our <u>JT-TAB@ksu.edu</u> email team. Individual JT consultants may also be contacted directly at the following addresses:

Mike Senew msenew@ksu.edu
Steve Fenton stevenfenton@ksu.edu
Nolan Curtis nolan.curtis@ksu.edu

# 11. The Annual All Grantee Meeting is Scheduled for Wednesday, August 21st Join us for the next PLC Wednesday, September 18th

Join an open conversation with EPA Brownfields Job Training grant recipients, alumni, and interested stakeholders.

PLC meetings are held monthly on the third Wednesday at 2:00 pm Eastern.

PLC ZOOM calls provide aspiring, new, and current job training (JT) grantees an opportunity to network and learn the latest strategies for developing and implementing successful JT programs. If you are on the previous PLC participant list, no need to register.

If you know of another individual who would like to attend the PLC, pass this email along and have them respond with their contact information to

#### JT-TAB@ksu.edu

Likewise, if you would like to be removed from the PLC list, please return this email with "REMOVE" in the subject line.

#### To join the KSU Professional Learning Community

#### From Zoom:

Go To: Meeting ID: 856 2617 9544

Passcode: 225041

#### From your browser:

Go To: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85626179544?pwd=pmAeWjiESqIUbbgKERwlt0VIP7cpxF.1

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement (TR-84027001 & 84066501) to (Kansas State University). 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.



Page 16 KSU JT-TAB