Brownfields 2013 Job Training Grant Fact Sheet
Tacoma, WA

EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant Program

In 2010, the Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR) led an effort to more closely collaborate with other programs within EPA on workforce development and job training. Program offices now participating in the expanded initiative include the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR), Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI), Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST), Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office (FFRRO), Center for Program Analysis (CPA), Innovation, Partnerships, and Communication Office (IPCO), Office of Wastewater Management (OWM), Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP), and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). This initiative was created to develop a job training cooperative agreement opportunity that includes expanded training in other environmental media outside the traditional scope of brownfields hazardous waste remediation. As a result of this effort, the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants Program now allows applicants to deliver other training in the environmental field, in addition to the core traditional brownfields hazardous waste and petroleum training historically provided.

Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant funds are provided to nonprofit organizations and other eligible entities to recruit, train, and place predominantly low-income and minority, unemployed and underemployed residents from solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities. Residents learn the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in the environmental field, including a focus on assessment and cleanup activities. Since 1998, EPA has funded 206 job training grants totaling over $45 million through the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants Program. As of March 2013, approximately 11,473 individuals have completed training, of which approximately 8,198 have obtained employment in the environmental field with an average starting hourly wage of $14.12. This equates to a cumulative placement rate of approximately 71% since the program was created.

Job Training Grant

$200,000

EPA selected the City of Tacoma for an Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant. The City of Tacoma plans to train 54 students, place 39 graduates in environmental jobs, and track graduates for one year. The core training program includes 206 hours of instruction in 40-hr HAZWOPER; OSHA construction safety; confined space entry; mold assessment and remediation; forklift-construction reach and warehouse; chemical awareness; leaking underground storage tank corrective action (e.g., site assessment or remediation) awareness, including procedures for tank removal when necessary to perform corrective action; stormwater management; and alternate treatment technologies. Four supplemental training courses will be offered to graduates, including Occupational Safety and Health Administration disaster site worker; certified erosion and sediment control lead; asbestos worker; and lead renovation, repair, and painting. A total of seven state and federal certifications will be offered through the core training program, with four additional certifications available through supplemental training. The city is targeting veterans, unemployed and underemployed individuals, and residents of Tacoma who have been disproportionately impacted by environmental threats, including leaking underground storage tanks. Key partners include the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, WorkForce Central, Metropolitan Development Council, Tacoma REACH Center, and Clover Park Technical College.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 10 Brownfields Team
(206) 553-7299
EPA Region 10 Brownfields Web site
(http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/ sites/bf)

Grant Recipient: City of Tacoma, WA
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The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

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