EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. The Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002, as amended by the Brownfields Utilization, Investment and Local Development Act of 2018, was passed to help states and communities around the country clean up and revitalize brownfield sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through five competitive grant programs: Multipurpose Grants, Assessment Grants, Revolving Loan Fund Grants, Cleanup Grants, and Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant funds are provided to nonprofit organizations and other eligible entities to recruit and train unemployed and underemployed residents from solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities and place them in environmental jobs. To date, EPA has funded 305 job training grants totaling over $63 million through the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program. As of October 2019, more than 18,300 individuals have completed training, and of those, almost 13,700 have obtained employment in the environmental field, an average starting wage of over $14 an hour. This equates to a cumulative placement rate of approximately 75% since the program was created in 1998.

Job Training Grant

$195,959.00

EPA has selected the Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps for an Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant. The Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps plans to train 100 students and place at least 64 graduates in environmental jobs. The training program includes 300 hours of classroom instruction. Core courses include 40-hour HAZWOPER, beginning wastewater operator, phytoremediation, national incident management system, chemical awareness, solid waste management, debris collection, and recycling, high-pressure tank cleaning operations, certified renovator, hydrology and geology, water quality sampling and monitoring, field technician operations, bloodborne pathogens/emergency response, entry-level solar installer, asbestos abatement, flagger, confined space, and commercial driver's license. Participants who complete the training will earn two state and nine federal certifications. The Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps is targeting veterans, local tribal residents, and unemployed or underemployed young adults in the City of Racine's Qualified Opportunity Zone. Key partners include Jacobs, Arch Electric, Paul J. Sklar PG, the City of Racine Department of Public Works, Ramboll, Symbiont, the First Choice Pre-Apprenticeship Program, the Racine County Economic Development Corporation, Racine Vocational Ministry Inc., Racine County Workforce Solutions, and Gateway 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 5 Brownfields Team
(312) 886-4747
EPA Region 5 Brownfields Web site
(http://www.epa.gov/region5brownfields/)

Grant Recipient: Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps, WI
(262) 880-4811

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.