



Brownfields 2021 Job Training Grant Fact Sheet **Vermont Rural Water Association**

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 communities affected by environmental pollution, economic disinvestment, and brownfields and place them in environmental jobs. Since the program was created in 1998, EPA has funded 335 job training grants totaling over \$72 million through the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program. A total of 18,541 individuals have been trained and 13,751 individuals have been placed in full-time careers related to land remediation and environmental health and safety. The average starting wage for these jobs is more than \$14 an hour. This equates to a cumulative placement rate of approximately 74%.

Job Training Grant

\$21,584.00

EPA has selected the Vermont Rural Water Association for an Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant. The Vermont Rural Water Association plans to train 15 students as part of a Wastewater Operator Apprenticeship Program. The training program includes 288 hours of instruction, including 40-hour HAZWOPER, OSHA 10-Hour Industry, Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants, Basic Wastewater and other wastewater classes, OSHA Trenching and Excavation, and Confined Space Entry. Students who complete the training will earn up to four state and four federal certifications. The Vermont Rural Water Association is targeting apprentices working at drinking water and wastewater facilities across the State of Vermont to not only increase the number of qualified wastewater operators across the state, but also to increase diversity in the water resources field. Key partners include Vermont Department of Labor Workforce Development Programs and Vermont Works for Women.

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 1 Brownfields Team
(617) 918-1696
EPA Region 1 Brownfields Web site
(<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-connecticut-maine-massachusetts-new-hampshire-rhode#pane-1>)

Grant Recipient: Vermont Rural Water Association, VT
(802) 660-4988 ext 305

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.