

# Brownfields Job Training

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

June 29, 2022

<u>Agency:</u> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	<u>Bureau:</u> Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization
<u>Application Deadline:</u> August 2, 2022	<u>Max Award:</u> \$500,000

## Description

This funding opportunity will support Brownfields Job Training programs that recruit, train, and retain a local, skilled workforce by prioritizing unemployed and underemployed residents to obtain the skills and credentials needed for pathways into full-time employment in the environmental field. Through the Brownfields Job Training Program, graduates develop skill sets that improve their ability to secure full-time, sustainable employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field, including sustainable cleanup and reuse, and chemical safety.

## Eligible Recipients

1. Local governments
2. Land Clearance Authority or other quasi-governmental entity that operates under the supervision and control of local government
3. Government entity created by State Legislature
4. Regional Council
5. Redevelopment Agency that is chartered or otherwise sanctioned by a State
6. State
7. Indian Tribe
8. Nonprofit organizations

## Matching Grant Requirements

Not required. However, additional funds/resources proposed by the applicant will be evaluated under the "Leveraging" criterion of the application evaluation.

## Eligible Projects

Grant funds must be used for direct programmatic costs associated with implementing a Brownfields Job Training program.

Brownfields Job Training Program requirements:

- Must target unemployed and under-employed individuals that are residents living in or near an area adversely impacted by the presence of brownfield sites
- Must provide OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 40-Hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response to all trainees

In addition to brownfields hazardous waste training, grant recipients may use funds for:

- “Green Remediation” technologies
- Stormwater management training
- Emergency response training
- Enhanced environmental health and safety related to site remediation
- Energy efficiency and alternative energy technologies
- Personnel costs for instructors to conduct training, fringe benefits, and/or tasks associated with programmatic reporting requirements
- Costs for screening and placement of students
- Costs for training materials and work gear associated with the training curriculum
- Outreach activities directed toward engaging prospective employers to be involved in the job training program and to hire graduates

*A list of illustrative examples of eligible uses of funds and ineligible uses of grant funds is available on Page 3 of the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).*

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## **New or Existing Program**

Existing program formerly known as the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program. Received a funding increase from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

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## **Tips for Being Competitive**

EPA expects that funding awarded will support communities with environmental, economic, and brownfield challenges, in alignment with the Biden Administration’s Justice40 priorities which promises to deliver at least 40 percent of the overall benefits from key federal investments to disadvantaged communities.

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## **Labor Requirements**

In the grant application, proposers will include a Labor Market Demand assessment. The assessment will include a description of the local labor market and/or employer survey. The applicant should discuss how the training program proposed will reflect the labor market demand and what certifications will meet the labor market demands.

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## **Examples of Prior Award Recipients**

In 2019, EPA awarded \$200,000 to the Lorain County Board of Commissioners through an Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant. The Lorain County Board of Commissioners plans to train 66 students and place at least 36 graduates in environmental jobs. The training program includes 162 hours of instruction in 40-hour HAZWOPER, general safety management, respirator protection, OSHA standards for general industry, and First Aid/CPR-Emergency Responder. Participants who complete the training will earn two federal certifications. The Lorain County Board of Commissioners is targeting the Cities of Lorain and Elyria, which have the highest unemployment and poverty rates in the county, the largest percentage of minority residents, and the lowest median household incomes. Key partners include Lorain County Commissioners, Lorain County Workforce Development Agency, Lorain County Joint Vocational School's Adult Career Center Lorain County Community College, Lorain County Chamber of Commerce, Hull & Associates, Inc, and Partners.

**Agency Contact** EPA Headquarters Contact: Channing Shepherd, Phone (202) 566-1238, Email [shepherd.channing@epa.gov](mailto:shepherd.channing@epa.gov)

Applicants may also contact their EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators.

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**Upcoming Webinars and Information Sessions** EPA held an outreach webinar for prospective applicants on June 15, 2022. A recording and webinar slides are available on the [EPA FY2023 Brownfields Job Training Grants program page](#).

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**Types of Partners Required** All successful applicants have a variety of partners that are actively involved in the project and commit to supporting the project in specific ways. EPA expects these types of partners:

1. Environmental. Organizations supporting environmental cleanup work.
2. Job-Readiness. Organizations providing life skills and other job-readiness tools that are not eligible for funding under this RFA to students.
3. Community. Local organizations providing outreach and community voice to the project.
4. Employers. Organizations with market insight and commitments to hire graduates.

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**Total Allocation** \$12 million

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**Anticipated Award Date** Not stated

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**Link to Grant Opportunity**

- [Grant Opportunity on Grants.gov](#)
- [FY2023 Brownfields Job Training Grants Program Page](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)