

Cover Page for Notice of Funding Opportunity Modification

FEDERAL AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE: FY27 BROWNFIELDS JOB TRAINING (JT) GRANTS

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: CERCLA § 104(k)(7)

ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE: Initial

ASSISTANCE LISTING: 66.815

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: EPA-OLEM-OBLR-26-01

ACTION: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), Amendment No. 1

DATE: September 22, 2026

SUMMARY: This Notice removes the requirement to submit the Grants.gov Lobbying Form as part of the application packages. Applicants will not be penalized for not submitting this form with their application.

Accordingly, the form has been removed from the list of forms in Section 4.A on page 18.

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Applications Due: **Wednesday, September 23, 2026**



Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization

FY27 BROWNFIELDS JOB TRAINING (JT) GRANTS

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-OLEM-OBLR-26-01



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1. Basic Information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR)

FY27 BROWNFIELDS JOB TRAINING (JT) GRANTS

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/fy-2027-brownfields-job-training-grants>

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants>

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants-technical-assistance-resources>

A. Executive Summary

This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits applications from eligible entities to deliver Brownfields Job Training programs that recruit, train, and place local, unemployed, and underemployed¹ residents with the skills needed to secure full-time employment in the environmental field.

Brownfields Job Training Grants fund training programs that strengthen local workforces by preparing program graduates for environmental jobs that support cleanup and revitalization efforts in their own communities.

Training may include a range of brownfield-related environmental skills such as the assessment and cleanup of solid and hazardous waste; chemical risk management; stormwater management relating to site cleanup; planning and site preparation for low-impact development activities; site preparation for green infrastructure installation; and vulnerability assessment and contamination mitigation planning.

Please carefully review [Section 4.E.](#) of these guidelines, Section IV of [EPA NOFO Clauses](#), and the Frequently Asked Questions, which can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/frequently-asked-questions-about-brownfields-job-training-jt-grants>. A checklist of required application forms and documents is in [Section 4.A.](#)

For the purposes of these guidelines, the term “grant” refers to the cooperative agreement that EPA will award to a successful applicant. In this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), “Project” refers to the applicant’s proposed Brownfields Job Training effort to be funded under this competition. Unless otherwise noted, “training program” is used synonymously with “project.”

B. Key Information

Opportunity Number:

EPA-OLEM-26-01

Assistance Listing:

66.815

Announcement Type:

Initial

Funding Available:

\$5,000,000-\$6,000,000

Number of Awards:

Up to 20

¹ Underemployment is the condition in which people in a labor force are employed less than full-time or at jobs inconsistent with respect to their experience, training, or economic needs.

C. Key Dates

August 6, 2026	National Outreach Webinar
September 23, 2026 11:59 pm ET	Application Submission Deadline
December 2026	Anticipated Notification of Selection
May 2027	Anticipated Award Notification

D. Funding Details

It is anticipated that up to **20 awards** will be made under this announcement. The amount of funding is expected to be **\$5,000,000 – \$6,000,000**, depending on Agency funding levels, the quality of applications received, agency priorities, and other applicable considerations. Individual awards funded under this opportunity are expected to be for up to \$300,000, and have **up to a 3-year** project period.

EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this competition, consistent with Agency policy, if additional funding becomes available. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than six (6) months from the date of the original selection decision. EPA reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards under this announcement or make fewer awards than anticipated.

In appropriate circumstances, EPA reserves the right to partially fund applications by funding discrete portions, types of training, or phases of proposed projects. To maintain the integrity of the competition and selection process, EPA, if it decides to partially fund an application, will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the application, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award. For more information about how EPA may terminate awards made under this NOFO in part or its entirety, see Section VIII.I. of [EPA's NOFO Clauses](#).

Awards may be fully or incrementally funded, as appropriate, based on funding availability, satisfactory performance, and other applicable considerations.

Eligible individual applicants or coalitions, as described below, may request up to \$300,000, with a project period of three years or less.

Cooperative agreements provide for substantial involvement between the EPA Project Officer and the selected applicant(s) in the performance of the work supported. Although the EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, the anticipated substantial federal involvement for these projects may include:

- close monitoring of the successful applicant's performance to verify the results proposed by the applicant;
- collaboration during performance of the scope of work;
- in accordance with [2 CFR 200.317](#) and [2 CFR 200.318](#), review of proposed procurement;
- approving qualifications of key personnel (the EPA will not select employees or contractors employed by the award recipient); and
- review and comment on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement (the final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient).

The EPA does not have the authority to select employees or contractors employed by the recipient. The final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient.

Eligible individual applicants or coalitions, as described below, may request up to \$300,000, with a project period of three years or less.

Brownfields Job Training Coalition

Applicants may propose forming a coalition to carry out their Brownfields Job Training Program.

Applying as a Brownfields Job Training Coalition may be beneficial to allow the Brownfields Job Training Provider to recruit, train, and place students in environmental jobs, especially in rural communities where the geographic area is larger. City and county governments may also benefit from forming a coalition, as this approach can expand the jurisdiction of the target area. By doing so, they can create a more integrated strategy for job training and placement, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of their initiatives.

A Job Training Coalition is comprised of one eligible “lead” entity that partners with one or more eligible non-lead entities (i.e., non-lead members). The lead entity (i.e., the lead member) submits an application on behalf of the coalition members, who may receive subawards. Carefully review Section IV.E.

“Coalitions, Contracts, and Subawards” of [EPA’s Notice of Funding Opportunity Clauses](#), [EPA Subaward Policy](#), and [Subaward Frequent Questions](#) for managing subawards. The Job Training Coalition may request up to \$300,000 to recruit, train, and place unemployed and underemployed residents of solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities. The non-lead coalition members may not be an agency or instrumentality of, or be affiliated with, the lead member (for example, a county and the redevelopment authority of the same county); except for coalitions in which the state is the lead and one of the members is a regional council or regional commission that is created by a state legislature through a charter or another official action.

A non-lead member of a coalition may not have an open Brownfields Job Training cooperative agreement with EPA. **Coalition members may not be members of other FY27 Job Training Coalition Grant applications, nor may coalition members submit a Brownfields Job Training Grant application as an individual applicant.** A coalition member wishing to apply as part of a different Brownfields Job Training Coalition or as an individual applicant must withdraw from the coalition. Also, the coalition members must be separate legal entities. For example, the following groups/organizations *may not* be members of the same coalition:

- Different departments within the same unit of government;
- A unit of government and an affiliated nonprofit organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that the city controls; or
- Affiliated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations (e.g., nonprofit organizations that have the same board of directors or staff). This does not preclude separately incorporated chapters of a national nonprofit organization from being non-lead members of coalitions in different geographic areas. For example, an organization is a national nonprofit with local chapters that are separately incorporated and have their own board of directors and staff. Local chapter “A” conducts programming in the state of “Y.” Local chapter “B” conducts programming in the state of “Z.” Both chapters may be non-lead members of different FY27 Job Training Grant applications.

If selected, the lead member will be the point of contact for the other coalition members. The lead member will be the grant recipient and must administer the grant and be accountable to EPA for

effectively carrying out the scope of work and the proper financial management of the grant.²

Please note that once the lead member submits the application, it becomes the applicant, and the coalition members may not substitute another eligible entity as the lead member after the deadline for submitting applications has passed. Additionally, the non-lead coalition members may not be substituted after the deadline for submitting applications has passed. If the application is selected for funding, the lead member must partner with the other coalition members that were named in the application unless EPA approves a post-award change to these arrangements pursuant to 2 CFR § 200.308(f).

Recipients are required to establish a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that documents the coalition's process for managing and implementing the job training program. The MOA should outline a clear process for successful execution of the project's goals, including a detailed description of each member's role and responsibilities within the coalition in a manner that supports the project outputs and outcomes, as well as internal agreements within the coalition regarding fund distribution and the mechanisms for carrying out the Brownfields Job Training Program. The MOA must be in place before any awarded funds are expended or drawn down.

E. Agency Contact Information

Further information, if needed, may be obtained from the EPA contact(s) indicated below.

Technical Contact:	Emily Eisenhauer , Eisenhauer.Emily@epa.gov
Eligibility Contact:	See Regional Contacts below
Electronic Submissions Contact:	Grants.gov, 1-800-518-4726, support@grants.gov
Regional Contact(s):	EPA Region 1 Will Lariviere, Lariviere.William@epa.gov EPA Region 2 Ricardo Berrios-Perez, BerriosPerez.Ricardo@epa.gov EPA Region 3 Dawn Farver, Farver.Dawn@epa.gov EPA Region 4 Olga Perry, Perry.Olga@epa.gov EPA Region 5 Torre Ippolito, Ippolito.Torre@epa.gov EPA Region 6 Emily Jimenez, Jimenez.Emily@epa.gov EPA Region 7 Idallis Shaffer, Shaffer.Idallis@epa.gov EPA Region 8 Joaquin Ross Tellechea, RossTellechea.Joaquin@epa.gov EPA Region 9 Daniel Moher, Moher.Daniel@epa.gov and Jacqueline Aybar, Aybar.Jacqueline@epa.gov EPA Region 10 Robert Miller, Miller.Robert01@epa.gov and Aytaj Gasimova, Gasimova.Aytaj@epa.gov

² If the application is successful, the lead applicant is the Recipient, as defined in 2 CFR § 200.1, that is accountable to EPA for performance of the assistance agreement. A lead applicant who provides subawards to coalition members is also a Pass-through entity, as defined in 2 CFR § 200.1, and must comply with the Subrecipient Monitoring and Management requirements in 2 CFR § 200 (including 2 CFR § 200.332), [EPA's Subaward Policy](#), and EPA's General T&Cs.

2. Eligibility

A. Eligible Applicants

Only these types of organizations may apply. Organization types are consistent with definitions at Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) § 101 and [2 CFR 200.1](#):

- General Purpose Unit of Local Government. Local government means a county, borough, municipality, city, town, township, parish, local public authority (including any public housing agency under the United States Housing Act of 1937), special district, school district, intrastate district, council of governments (whether or not incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), and any other agency or instrumentality of a multi-, regional, or intra-State or local government.
- Land Clearance Authority or other quasi-governmental entity that operates under the supervision and control of, or as an agent of, a general purpose unit of local government.
- Government entity created by State Legislature.
- Regional Council or group of General Purpose Units of Local Government.
- Redevelopment Agency that is chartered or otherwise sanctioned by a State.
- [State](#).³
- [Federally recognized Indian Tribe](#)⁴ other than in Alaska. (The exclusion of Tribes in Alaska, with the exception of the Metlakatla Indian Community as noted below, from grant eligibility is statutory at CERCLA § 104(k)(1)(G).)
- Intertribal Consortia, except consortia comprised of ineligible Alaskan tribes, are eligible for funding in accordance with EPA's policy for funding intertribal consortia published in the Federal Register on November 4, 2002, at 67 Fed. Reg. 67181. This policy may also be obtained from your EPA Regional Job Training Coordinator listed above.
- Alaskan Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation (as those terms are defined in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 and following)), and the Metlakatla Indian Community. For more information, please refer to the FY27 [JT FAQs](#).
- Nonprofit organization described in section 501(c)(3) of title 26 (the Internal Revenue Code (IRC)) and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that title.
- Limited liability corporation in which all managing members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation under 501(a) of the IRC or limited liability corporations whose sole members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation under 501(a) of the IRC.
- Limited partnership in which all general partners are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation under 501(a) of the IRC or limited liability corporations whose sole members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation under 501(a) of the IRC.

³ As defined in CERCLA § 101(27), the definition of *State* for purposes of the Brownfields Program "include[s] the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and any other territory or possession over which the United States has jurisdiction."

⁴ There are currently 575 federally recognized Tribes, and there are many names that these sovereign nations use to describe their culture, history, and geography, including Tribe, Village, Nation, Band, and Pueblo. For the purpose of these guidelines, the EPA Brownfields Program uses "Tribe" and "Tribal Nation" as all-encompassing terms.

- Qualified community development entity as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the IRC.
- Other [Nonprofit organizations](#). EPA uses the definition of *Nonprofit organization* in 2 CFR § 200.1, which means any organization that is operated mainly for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest; is not organized primarily for profit; uses net proceeds to maintain, improve, or expand the operation of the organization; and is not an Institution of Higher Education (IHE). Eligible nonprofit organizations under this announcement may be, but are not required to be, exempt from taxation under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code. Workforce Investment Boards and organized Labor Unions that meet these criteria may be eligible nonprofit organizations. Public and nonprofit private institutions of higher education (including community colleges and similar 2-year institutions) are eligible to apply.

Note, individuals, for-profit organizations, and nonprofit organizations that are **not** tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) are ineligible to receive a Brownfields Job Training Grant. Organizations exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the IRC may be eligible for a Brownfields Job Training Grant if they also qualify as an eligible entity type listed above and demonstrate that they do not lobby the Federal government.⁵

B. Threshold Criteria

Applications must meet the following threshold criteria to be considered eligible to receive a Brownfields Job Training Grant. Threshold criteria are pass/fail and are based on certain requests for information identified below. Only those applications that pass all the threshold criteria will be evaluated against the review criteria in [Section 6.B.](#) of this announcement.

Applicants with questions about threshold criteria should contact the appropriate point of contact in Section 1.E. Agency Contact Information well in advance of the application deadline. Please note, to maintain the integrity of the competition process, EPA staff cannot meet with individual applicants to discuss draft applications, provide informal comments on draft applications, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to Narrative Criteria Responses. EPA's limitations on staff involvement with grant applicants are described in [EPA's Policy for Competition of Assistance Agreements](#). The following seven requirements will be reviewed by EPA and do not require a separate response or attachment to the Narrative Criteria Responses.

1. Applicants may request up to \$300,000, with a project period of three years or less. Applications that request more than \$300,000 and/or have a project period greater than three years will be deemed ineligible.
2. Applicants who were awarded an EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant (EPA-I-OLEM-OBRL-25-01) in FY26 are not eligible to apply under this competition under any circumstance, even if the applicant proposes to serve a different city or target area. Applicants who received a Brownfields Job Training Grant in, or before, FY25, and who did not receive funding in FY26 as described previously, are eligible to apply for funding under this competition.
3. Applicants with an open Brownfields Job Training Grant must have received payment from EPA

⁵ The Lobbying Disclosure Act (2 U.S.C. 1601 et. seq.) provides requirements for the disclosure of lobbying activities to influence the Federal Government.

(also known as “drawn down”), and drawn down funds have been disbursed, for at least 50.00% of the funding for each Brownfields Job Training cooperative agreement by August 1, 2026, in order to apply for funding under this opportunity. EPA will verify applicants meet this threshold according to EPA’s financial systems.

4. Applications cannot include non-lead coalition members that a) are members of other FY27 Job Training Coalition Grant applications, b) have submitted a Brownfields Job Training Grant application as an individual applicant under this competition, and/or c) have an open⁶ Brownfields Job Training cooperative agreement with EPA. Applications that include non-lead coalition members that meet one or more of these conditions may be deemed ineligible if removal of those members and their commitments are integrally related to the proposal and it cannot feasibly be evaluated without them.
5. Applicants may not submit multiple applications (i.e., submit applications for different projects) under this funding opportunity.
Applicants that submit more than one application will have their last application submitted accepted. EPA will accept the most recent application submitted and deem the remaining application(s) ineligible.
6. If an application is submitted that includes any ineligible tasks or activities, that portion of the application will be ineligible for funding and may, depending on the extent to which it affects the application, render the entire application ineligible for funding.
7. Applications must meet all Application Administrative Requirements with the submission instructions and requirements set forth in [Section 4](#) of this announcement, or they will be rejected.

Responses to each item below are required and must be included as Threshold Criteria Responses that are included, as an attachment, in the application submitted to EPA. Threshold Criteria Attachments do not have a page limit. See [Section 4.A.](#) for a complete list of required documents that must be submitted.

1. Applicant Eligibility

Applicants and non-lead coalition members (if applicable) must be eligible entities as discussed in [Section 2.A.](#)

- (i) Provide information that demonstrates how you (i.e., your organization) and each non-lead coalition member, if applicable, are an eligible entity for this grant.
 - For entities that are cities, counties, Tribes, or states, affirm that the organization is eligible for funding.
 - For government entities other than cities, counties, Tribes, or states, attach documentation of your eligibility (e.g., resolutions, statutes, etc.).
 - For nonprofit organizations, or organizations comprised of nonprofit organizations, provide documentation as an attachment to the Narrative Criteria Responses demonstrating tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue

⁶ For the purposes of this requirement, the term “open” refers to a grant period of performance that has not ended.

Code, another provision of the Internal Revenue Code, or recognition as a nonprofit organization under applicable state or tribal law.

- For qualified community development entities, provide documentation as an attachment to the Narrative Criteria Responses certifying the organization's status.
 - Intertribal consortia must attach documentation that they meet the requirements in 40 CFR § 35.504(a) and (c). All members of the Intertribal consortium must authorize the submission of an application to provide nationwide technical assistance.
- (ii) Indicate if your organization (and non-lead coalition members, if applicable) is exempt from Federal taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- If yes, indicate if your organization lobbies within the meaning of the Lobbying Disclosure Act 2 U.S.C. 1601 et. seq.
 - If yes, but your organization does not lobby the Federal Government, attach a legal opinion that states that the organization does not engage in lobbying activities within the meaning of the Lobbying Disclosure Act 2 U.S.C. 1601 et. seq.

2. Coalition Agreement (Only applicable to Job Training Coalition applications)

Each non-lead coalition member must submit a signed letter to the grant applicant (the lead coalition member) **in which they agree** to be part of the coalition. An active Memorandum of Agreement that includes a description and role of each coalition member may serve in place of the individual coalition members' letters. Include the document(s), as an attachment, in your application. **If a non-lead coalition member's documentation is not included with the application, it will render that non-lead member ineligible from participating in the coalition and potentially render the entire application ineligible if there is only one non-lead member.** Alternatively, if this application does not include non-lead coalition members, state 'n/a' or 'not applicable.'

3. Target Area

Applications must identify only one target area the proposed project will serve (as defined in [Section 3.A.1.](#)), such as county(ies), Tribal lands, a number of neighboring towns or cities, a district, a corridor, a shared planning area, or a census tract, or multiple census tracts. Applications cannot serve multiple target areas. However, EPA will consider applications that propose to serve large, contiguous areas, especially in rural communities, that may include a number of towns in a county(ies), and/or Tribal lands, as well as applications seeking to serve sister-cities (i.e., a partnership between U.S. cities located in different states).

An example of an application that proposes to serve multiple target areas in a rural location, which is not allowed, would be if the applicant listed an area in the northeast part of a state **and** an area in the southwest part of the state.

4. Required HAZWOPER Training

Your application must document that OSHA 29 CFR § 1910.120 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training will be included in your training curriculum and all graduates will hold a current 40-hour HAZWOPER certificate compliant with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120(e)/1926.65, via initial 40-hour training or verification of prior 40-hour

plus required 8-hour annual refresher per 1910.120(e)(8)/1926.65(e)(8). Applications that do not include 40-hour HAZWOPER in their training curriculum will be rejected. Indicate the page of the Narrative Criteria Responses this information is located.

5. Proposed Project Does Not Duplicate Other Federally Funded Environmental Job Training Program Activities

If the applicant is a recipient of other Federally funded environmental job training programs serving their target community, such as those funded through EPA's Superfund Job Training Initiative, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Department of Labor, and/or other Federal agencies, the applicant must demonstrate a) that the proposed training program does not duplicate their other Federally funded program activities or b) demonstrate how services under this proposed training will complement, but not duplicate, the existing Federal environmental job training activities (e.g., different target audience, such as a different age group, differing types of certification training). Applicants that are the recipients of such programs that do not demonstrate a) or b) above will be deemed ineligible.

Applicants should indicate the page of the Narrative Criteria Responses where this information can be found. Alternatively, if the applicant is not a recipient of other Federally funded environmental job training programs, state 'n/a' or 'not applicable.' In addition to reviewing information submitted by the applicant, EPA will conduct an internal screening to ensure non-duplication.

C. Cost Sharing

Consistent with CERCLA § 104(k)(7), cost sharing and matching funds are not required under this competition. As provided in 2 CFR § 200.1, voluntary committed cost sharing is when an applicant voluntarily proposes to legally commit to providing costs or contributions to support the project when a cost share is not required. Please note only Federal funds should be listed on the SF-424, SF-424A, and Budget Detail. **Voluntary cost share will not be accepted under this competition.**

3. Program Description

A. Purpose, Priorities, and Activities

1. Purpose

The objective of the Brownfields Job Training Program is to recruit, train, and place unemployed and underemployed residents of solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities. This funding is intended to equip individuals with the skills needed to obtain full-time, sustainable employment. This program promotes the facilitation of activities related to assessment, cleanup, or preparation of contaminated sites, including brownfields, for reuse, while simultaneously building a local workforce with the skills needed to perform remediation work that is supportive of environmental protection and environmental health and safety. A critical part of EPA's Brownfields Job Training program is to further sustainable community revitalization by ensuring that all residents living in communities historically affected by economic disinvestment, health disparities, and disproportionate and adverse exposures to

environmental contamination, which may include low-income, sensitive populations⁷, Tribal, and Indigenous communities, have an opportunity to reap the benefits of revitalization and environmental cleanup. Brownfields Job Training Grants provide funding to attract, train, and retain a skilled local workforce by prioritizing unemployed and underemployed residents of communities impacted by a variety of waste facilities, blighted properties, and contaminated sites.

As described in [Section 6](#) of this announcement, applications will be evaluated based on the extent to which the applicant demonstrates: serving a target area of high-need; designing a training program that is employer-informed, demand-driven, and directly linked to ongoing environmental employment opportunities taking place in the target area; and partnering with and securing hiring commitments from local employers and other stakeholders in the target area.

To date, EPA has funded 431 job training grants totaling approximately \$107.8 million through the Brownfields Job Training Program, previously known as the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) Program. As of July 1, 2026, excluding pilot program years, approximately 23,500 individuals completed training, and over 17,300 of those graduates obtained employment in the environmental field. This results in a placement rate of 74%, with starting wages of approximately \$16.70 per hour. Over the last five (5) years, the average starting wage was approximately \$22.29 per hour.

2. Eligible Uses of Grant Funds

Brownfields Job Training Grant funds can be used for brownfields assessment and cleanup training, as well as training in the areas of community involvement and site preparation for sustainable and equitable reuse and redevelopment. Applicants may choose to deliver a variety of other brownfields-related environmental training activities as listed in the examples below. Applicants should tailor curricula to the labor market needs of their targeted community. The only required training is OSHA 29 CFR § 1910.120 40-hour HAZWOPER, which includes an in-person personal protective equipment (PPE) component. Applicants proposing an online OSHA 29 CFR § 1910.120 40-hour HAZWOPER course are responsible for ensuring their computer-based training course meets all OSHA requirements and is supplemented with the required in-person training. Beyond this, the applicant should design a curriculum of eligible courses that meets the training needs identified by a local labor market assessment and employer survey.

Eligible participants for Brownfields Job Training must be 18 years of age or older at the time of graduation to be placed into an environmental-related job, as the Fair Labor Standards Act prohibits youth under the age of 18 from being employed in hazardous occupations. Additionally, a Brownfields Job Training participant must be a U.S. Citizen and/or a Green Card holder permanently residing in the United States and/or its territories.

⁷ Sensitive populations are those populations that are likely to experience elevated health risks from pollution, including populations based on age (young children and the elderly), pregnant women, and serious disease burden (such as, high rates of cancer, asthma, chronic respiratory disease, coronary heart disease, low birth weights, etc.), as well as low-income populations. See CERCLA § 104(k)(6)(C)(x).

Grant funds must be used for direct programmatic costs associated with implementing a Brownfields Job Training program. Examples of eligible uses of grant funds are listed below. Please note that this list is intended to be illustrative. Applicants must indicate the specific types of training they propose to deliver in their training program description.

- Personnel costs, including fringe benefits, for instructors to conduct training and other tasks associated with programmatic training.
- Personnel costs for employer engagement activities, including building new employer relationships, working with employers to inform curriculum, involving employers in the training program, securing hiring commitments for graduates, and supporting trainee success in employment following the program.
- Personnel costs for caseworkers or other specialists who work with participants to identify barriers they face to employment, connect them to resources, and support their success in the program and in retaining employment, with support provided for up to one year following the completion of the training program.
- Personnel and data infrastructure costs to support programmatic reporting requirements, performance-management, and program-evaluation.
- Administrative costs (direct costs for grant administration and indirect costs) may not exceed 5% of the total requested EPA funds. EPA considers costs for performance and financial reporting to be allowable programmatic costs that are not subject to the 5% limitation. Costs must be classified as direct or indirect consistently as required by 2 CFR §§ 200.403(d) and 200.412, and applicants may not classify the same cost in both categories.
- Development and refinement of existing curricula for training.
- On-the-job training insurance for trainees.
- Mentorship associated with on-the-job training, such as peer mentors where an experienced employee is paired with a new trainee.
- Costs for recruiting, screening, and placement of individuals in the training program.
- Costs for training materials and work gear associated with the training curriculum.
- Costs associated with health exams (e.g., pulmonary function tests), drug testing, or licensing fees directly related to the training and/or the placement of graduates in environmental work.
- Costs used to cover rental fees associated with training facilities or minor alteration of existing facilities. (Construction costs are not allowable.)
- Costs associated with eligible participant support costs, including for:

- Transportation for trainees for site visits during training or to transport trainees to and from class in the form of stipends or other allowable direct costs (e.g., transportation vouchers or vehicle rental).
- Reasonable stipends to compensate trainees for participating in training. Note that stipends may only be paid for actual time spent in training classes or on-the-job training activities and must not duplicate training support provided through other Federal, state, tribal, or local programs.
- Reasonable childcare subsidies. Note that childcare subsidies must not duplicate childcare support provided through other Federal, state, tribal, or local programs.

In their training program descriptions, applicants should describe the process they will follow for determining the amounts of allowable stipends, procedures for accounting for participant support cost payments (including receipts), and documenting that the costs are allowable and do not duplicate other support for the trainee. Additional information on participant support costs is available in [EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs](#).

On a limited basis, a Job Training Provider may propose hiring the trainees as W-2 employees when trainees will be participating in eligible on-the-job training (OJT) for the majority of the training period. OJT must consist of eligible training courses. Applicants should include the trainees being hired as employees in the budget personnel and fringe line items. Job Training Grant funds used to hire trainees as employees, plus any other type of participant support costs, may not exceed 40% of the total amount of the total award. EPA reserves the right to reject any request to pay trainees as employees.

3. Eligible Trainings With Brownfields Job Training Grant Funds

Examples of eligible trainings with Brownfields Job Training grant funds are listed below. For more examples and expanded descriptions, please see [FAQ F.7](#). Please note that this list is intended to be illustrative. **All training must relate to facilitating the inventory of brownfield sites, site assessments, remediation of brownfield sites, community involvement, or site preparation.** Applicants must indicate the specific types of training they propose to deliver in their training program description.

- Training in the assessment, inventory, analysis, and remediation of sites or facilities at which hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, and petroleum products are located, transported, or disposed, including training for jobs in environmental sampling, demolition, underground storage tank removal, groundwater extraction, site remediation, and equitable development associated with brownfields.
- Training in sustainable deconstruction in preparation of a brownfield site cleanup or redevelopment.
- Training participants in the use of techniques and methods for the cleanup of hazardous substances, petroleum, and pollutants.
- Training in confined space entry.

- Training in first-aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and how to mitigate safety risks from bloodborne pathogens in a site remediation setting.
- Training in the requirements and implementation of the All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI) Final Rule, as required in CERCLA § 101(35)(B), and due diligence.⁸
- Training in radiation safety and the cleanup of uranium mine tailings.
- Training in Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) commercial driver's license (CDL)⁹, forklift, and machine operations associated **with the transportation of hazardous waste**.
- Training in strategies for environmental mitigation, adaptation, or resiliency as it relates to preparation of brownfield sites for cleanup and subsequent reuse.
- Training in vapor intrusion testing and mitigation.
- Training in site surveying, mapping, blueprint reading, computer-aided design and drafting (CADD), and geographic information systems (GIS).
- Training in "green remediation" technologies, such as phytoremediation, bioremediation, or remediation using soil amendments; advanced sampling instrument operator training; or training in the reuse of biosolids and other industry residuals.
- Training in stormwater management, as it relates to the assessment and cleanup of brownfield sites; green infrastructure installation, management, and maintenance; or low impact development (LID) training for the purpose of preparing a brownfield site for sustainable reuse.
- Training in emergency planning, preparedness, and for emergencies leading to contamination on brownfields sites.
- Training in enhanced environmental health and safety related to site remediation.

4. Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds

Examples of ineligible uses of grant funds are listed below. Please note that this list is not exhaustive. For more examples of ineligible uses of grant funds, please see [FAQ F.14](#). Training that does not directly relate to facilitating the inventory of brownfield sites, site assessments, remediation of brownfield sites, community involvement, or site preparation is not eligible.

Grant funds may not be used for the following activities:

- Training in general construction skills and trades (e.g., carpentry, plumbing, electricity, etc., relating to constructing buildings).

⁸ Due diligence is the process for evaluating a property for the potential presence of environmental contamination, and for assessing potential liability for any contamination present at the property.

⁹ Commercial Driver's License must be incidental to an overall training course related to hazardous waste transportation. It must not be required or used for any other purpose.

- Training in natural resource extraction or related processes, such as hydraulic fracturing, oil refinery, or mining operations.
- Training that seeks to test a product or is intended to expand a business, or training that is intended to only serve staff of an existing business who are already employed with that business.
- Training in equipment repairs.
- Conducting actual site assessments or cleanups, except within the context of on-the-job training.
- Costs for training individuals who are not citizens, excluding Green Card holders, of the United States, the territories, U.S. possessions, or lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residency.
- General or life skills, education activities, such as remedial classes in math and reading; job readiness training, such as developing resumes and acquiring interview skills; GED costs; website development; vehicle or medical insurance.
- Scholarship funds to support students' enrollment in college courses.
- Providing food or light refreshments to employees, instructors, and trainees - except at graduation ceremonies.
- A penalty or fine.
- Costs that are unallowable (e.g., lobbying and alcoholic beverages) under the Cost Principles discussed in 2 CFR §§ 200 and 1500, as applicable.
- Grant application preparation costs.
- Matching any other federal funds (unless there is specific statutory authority for the match). Note, CERCLA § 104(k)(7) does not provide the requisite authority. Grant funds may be used to match state or local funds, if authorized by the relevant state statute or local ordinance.
- A cost of compliance with any federal law, excluding the cost of compliance with laws applicable to environmental cleanup.
- Administrative costs, including all indirect costs and direct costs for grant administration in excess of five (5) percent of the total amount of EPA grant funding, with the exception of financial and performance reporting costs (which are considered allowable programmatic costs and not subject to the 5% limitation).

5. Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes

Applicants are required to describe how funding will help EPA achieve outputs and outcomes in their Narrative Criteria Responses in [Section 4.D](#). Outputs and outcomes specific to each project will be identified as deliverables in the negotiated workplan if the application is selected for award. Recipients will be expected to report progress toward the attainment of expected project outputs and outcomes during the project performance period. Outputs and outcomes are defined as follows:

Outputs are an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product related to an environmental goal or objective that will be produced or provided over time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during the project period. The expected outputs for the grants awarded under these guidelines may include but are not limited to:

- Number of individuals recruited, trained, certified, and placed in environmental careers in communities impacted by solid and hazardous waste sites and facilities. Each grant award is anticipated to result in a minimum job placement rate of 70%. The number of individuals completing training will vary by recipient depending on the comprehensiveness of a curriculum and where the recipient is located (urban versus rural locations where a larger number of individuals may be more easily recruited than locations where recruitment may be more challenging as a result of smaller populations). While EPA does not set requirements for the minimum number of individuals entering and completing training, EPA encourages applicants to maximize the grant funding to train as many individuals as possible while delivering high-quality training to an appropriate number of jobseekers based on the demand in the local labor market. See [FAQ F.3.](#), which discusses the average number of individuals trained, and [F.4.](#), which discusses the average number of training cycles per year.
- Number of students working in an environmental career one (1) year after the conclusion of the training program.
- Number of classroom style trainings, practical trainings, and curricula modules.
- Number of appropriate certifications and credentials in environmental sampling and site cleanup methods.
- Number of individuals that receive certifications in OSHA 29 CFR § 1910.120 40-hour HAZWOPER training.
- Number of relationships established with employers that are interested in hiring job training graduates.

Outcomes are the result, effect, or consequence that will occur from carrying out the activities under the grant. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic; must be qualitative or quantitative; and may not necessarily be achievable during the project period. EPA anticipates the outcomes from the projects awarded under this announcement may be an increase in the capacity to:

- Help residents of communities take advantage of jobs created by the assessment and cleanup of brownfields and the assessment, cleanup, and management of solid and hazardous waste sites and facilities while addressing sustainable community revitalization concerns.

- Support individuals with significant barriers to employment in gaining competitive job skills and achieving high quality employment to support meaningful economic mobility.
- Provide training that leads to sustainable employment in the environmental field.
- Improve community involvement in environmental projects and stimulate the development of constructive partnerships.
- Reduce exposures to hazardous substances and other contaminants and improve the health of workers, occupants, and residents.
- Foster self-sufficiency and enhance the skills and availability of labor for environmental remediation in particularly impacted communities, including those that are impacted by a variety of waste facilities, blighted properties, contaminated sites, and other environmental issues.
- Enable residents to participate in the promotion of environmental health and occupational safety, both on the job and in their communities.

6. Leveraging

Leveraging is generally when an applicant commits to contributing its own additional funds or resources, either from its own assets or from third-party sources, such as private organizations or other federal grants, to support or complement the project they are seeking funding. This contribution goes above and beyond the financial support provided by the EPA grant funds awarded and is intended to amplify the project's impact. Leveraging demonstrates the applicant's ability to secure and utilize supplementary resources to achieve greater outcomes.

Leveraged resources are not the same as voluntary committed cost sharing under 2 CFR § 200.1. Leveraged resources are non-federal funds, services, or in-kind support that complement the project but are not a legally binding commitment and are not part of the EPA assistance agreement budget. They may occur during the period of performance or after the grant ends. Applicants that wish to include leveraged resources should describe them and their sources in the Narrative Criteria Responses. Applicants must not include leveraged resources in the project budget - they are not part of the budget, and the costs do not have to be eligible or allowable. By contrast, voluntary committed cost sharing, which is not permitted under this funding opportunity, is a binding pledge that becomes part of the award budget and must meet all eligibility and allowability requirements.

- **Leveraging that will materialize during the grant:** An example of leveraging that typically materializes during a Brownfields Grant Period of performance includes an applicant's leveraged resources that are needed to support or complement the grant.¹⁰ If applicants propose to provide leveraged funds/resources, EPA expects them to make the effort to secure the leveraged resources described in their Narrative Criteria Responses. If the proposed leveraging does not materialize during grant performance, then EPA may reconsider the legitimacy of the award and/or take other appropriate action as authorized by CERCLA § 104(k)(8)(C) and 2 CFR §§ 200.339 and 1500. The grant workplan must include a statement indicating that the applicant is expected to produce the proposed leveraging consistent with the terms of the announcement and the applicant's Narrative Criteria Responses.

¹⁰ If an applicant proposes to contribute resources to carry out the grant, EPA will evaluate responses to review criterion 6. Leveraging.

- **Leveraging that will materialize after the grant has ended:** Examples of leveraging that typically materialize after the Brownfields Grant has ended include resources for continued training after the Brownfields Job Training Program cooperative agreement is closed.

B. Program Goals and Objectives

The activities to be funded under this funding announcement support Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American of [EPA's "Powering the Great American Comeback" initiative](#).

The goal of the Brownfields Job Training Program is to recruit, train, and place unemployed and underemployed residents of solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities in environmental jobs. This funding is intended to equip individuals with the skills needed to obtain full-time, sustainable employment. This program promotes the facilitation of activities related to assessment, cleanup, or preparation of contaminated sites, including brownfields, for reuse, while simultaneously building a local workforce with the skills needed to perform remediation work that is supportive of environmental protection and environmental health and safety.

C. Statutory Authority

The statutory authority for assistance agreements expected to be awarded by EPA under this announcement is CERCLA § 104(k)(7).

D. Funding Type

It is anticipated that cooperative agreements will be funded under this funding opportunity. Cooperative agreements provide for substantial involvement between the EPA Project Officer and the selected applicant(s) in the performance of the work supported. Although the EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, the anticipated substantial federal involvement for these projects may include:

- close monitoring of the successful applicant's performance to verify the results proposed by the applicant;
- collaboration during performance of the scope of work;
- in accordance with [2 CFR § 200.325](#), review of proposed procurements;
- approving qualifications of key personnel (the EPA will not select employees or contractors employed by the award recipient); and
- review and comment on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement (the final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient).

The EPA does not have the authority to select employees or contractors employed by the recipient. The final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient.

4. Application Contents and Format

A. Application Forms (Submission Checklist)

The following forms and documents are required under this announcement:

Mandatory Documents:

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
3. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
4. EPA Form 4700-4 Preaward Compliance Review Report. Guidance on how to complete this form is available at www.epa.gov/grants/tips-completing-epa-form-4700-4.
5. Project Narrative Attachment Form: use this to submit the following as one file, if possible:
 - Application Information Sheet (3-page limit, single-spaced; see [Section 4.B.](#))
 - Narrative Criteria Responses (14-page limit, single-spaced; see [Section 4.D.](#))
 - Narrative Attachments (20-page limit; see [Section 4.C.](#))
 - Milestone Schedule
 - Partnership Letters identified in your Narrative Criteria Responses
 - Threshold Criteria Responses (as an attachment(s), no page limit):
 - A statement of applicant eligibility if a city, county, state, or Tribe (see [Section 2.B.1.](#))
 - Documentation of applicant eligibility if other than a city, county, state, or Tribe; e.g., resolutions, statutes, Intertribal Consortium documentation, or documentation of 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status or qualified community development entity (see [Section 2.B.1.](#))
 - A statement of the applicant's 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status and, if applicable, legal opinion regarding lobbying activities (see [Section 2.B.1.](#))
 - Coalition Agreement or a signed letter of commitment from each coalition member, if applying as a coalition, stating intent to be a part of the coalition (see [Section 2.B.2.](#))
 - A description of the target area the applicant is proposing to serve (see [Section 2.B.3.](#))
 - An affirmative statement that OSHA 29 CFR § 1910.120 40-hour HAZWOPER training will be included in your training curriculum, and all graduates of the program will be 40-hour certified (see [Section 2.B.4.](#))
 - Proposed project does not duplicate other federally funded environmental job training program activities (see [Section 2.B.5.](#))

Optional Documents:

6. Other Attachments Form – Negotiated/Proposed Indirect Cost Rate Agreement – To be submitted using the Project Narrative Attachment Form by applicants proposing to charge indirect costs to the EPA grant. Please note that applicants may budget for indirect costs pending approval of their Indirect Cost Rate Agreement by the cognizant Federal agency or an exception granted by EPA under section 6.3 or 6.4 of [EPA's Indirect Cost Policy for Recipients of EPA Assistance Agreements](#). However, recipients may not draw down indirect costs until their rate is approved or EPA grants an exception.

Applicants are advised that readability is of paramount importance and should take precedence in application format, including selecting a legible font type and size for use in the application.

The application must stand on its own merits based on the relevant Narrative Criteria Responses in [Section 4.A.D.](#)

Application Administrative Requirements:

All application materials, including Partnership Letters, must be submitted in English. Photos, maps, and graphics **will not be considered**. The Narrative Criteria Responses and Application Information Sheet must be typed on letter- sized (8¹/₂ x 11 inch) paper, be single-spaced, and should **use Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri font, sized no smaller than 12-point font**. Attachments are limited to those identified below and are limited to one scanned image per page. Extraneous materials, including attachments not listed, will not be considered. The Application Submission Checklist above outlines the documents to include in the application. **Images included in the Narrative Criteria Responses or as an attachment will not be accepted**. Application materials and attachments exceeding the page limits described below will not be reviewed. Applicants are responsible for submitting a complete application, as described below, by the due date.

B. Application Information Sheet

The Application Information Sheet **should address the information below** and **shall not exceed three (3) pages, single-spaced**. Do **not** include a summary or overview of your Narrative Criteria Responses/project. Any pages submitted over the page limit or information beyond what is requested below will not be considered. EPA does not consider information in the Application Information Sheet to be responses to the review criteria. Provide the Application Information Sheet on the applicant's official letterhead. You will not be penalized if you provide this information to EPA in a different format from that identified below.

- i. Applicant Identification: Provide the name and full address of the entity applying for funds. This is the agency or organization that will be receiving the grant and will be accountable to EPA for proper expenditure of funds.
- ii. Grant Type: Indicate "Brownfields Job Training Grant" or "Brownfields Job Training Coalition."
- iii. Project Period and Funding Request:
 - Indicate the length of the proposed project period (must not exceed three (3) years).
 - Indicate the amount of federal funds requested (must not exceed \$300,000 in EPA Brownfields Job Training Grants funds).
- iv. Coalition Members: If applicable, list each non-lead coalition member (i.e., the entity/organization's name).
- v. Website URL and Social Media Accounts: Provide the website URL of your training program. If selected for funding, EPA will include the organization's website URL and links to the social media accounts on the [Brownfields Grant Factsheet Tool](#).
- vi. Population/Target Area Data:
 - Provide the general population of the area you are proposing to serve and the population of your defined target community. Tribes must provide the number of Tribal/non-Tribal members affected. Your jurisdiction's population can be found at www.census.gov.
 - List the target area discussed in the Narrative Criteria Responses.
 - Applicants other than Tribal Nations, if the target area is smaller than a city/town, list the eleven-digit census tract number(s) within the target area. (Please see the FY27 [JT FAQs](#) for guidance on how to find a census tract.)

- Provide the anticipated address, or census tract, where the training facility will be located.

vii. Contacts:

- Project Director: Provide the name, phone number, email address, and mailing address of the project director assigned to the proposed project. This person should be the main point of contact for the project and should be the person responsible for the project's day-to-day operations. This person may be contacted if further information is needed.
- Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Official: Provide the name, phone number, email address, and mailing address of the applicant's Chief Executive (e.g., mayor of a city, executive director of a nonprofit, etc.). For example, if your organization is a municipal form of government, provide this information for the Mayor or County Commissioner. Otherwise, provide this information for your organization's Executive Director or President. This person may be contacted if further information is needed.

viii. Releasing Copies of Applications: In concert with EPA's commitment to conducting business in an open and transparent manner, copies of applications submitted under this solicitation may be made publicly available on [EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization](#) website or other public website for a period of time after the selected applications are announced. EPA recommends that applications not include confidential business information (CBI) or trade secrets. Applications must not include information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy (e.g., an individual's salary, personal email addresses, etc.).

All CBI claims must be asserted at the time the application is submitted to EPA. Applicants must clearly indicate CBI claims by including them on the application or attaching a cover sheet, stamped or typed legend, or another appropriate notice. CBI claims should employ language such as "trade secret," "proprietary," or "confidential" as per 40 CFR § 2.203(b).

Confidential portions of otherwise non-confidential documents should be clearly identified and may be submitted separately to facilitate identification and handling by EPA. If confidential treatment is only requested until a certain date or until the occurrence of a certain event, the notice should identify the date or event. Information covered by a CBI claim will be treated in accordance with, and disclosed only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in [40 CFR § 2, Subpart B](#). If no CBI accompanies the information when it is received by EPA, it may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to the submitter. See 40 CFR 2.203(a)(2), 41 Fed. Reg. 36,907.

ix. Other Factors: Applicants claiming one or more of the other factors, please identify with an **X** for any of the items below and provide a summary in the Narrative Criteria Responses on the applicable other factor(s). Please identify which of the below items apply to your community/proposed project by noting the corresponding Narrative Criteria Responses page number. If none of the Other Factors apply to your community/proposed project, please check that box.

Sample Format for Providing Information on the Other Factors		Page #
☐	Applicants that propose to serve a community population of 15,000 or less.	
☐	Whether the applicant is new (i.e., has not received an EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant since 2017).	
☐	Whether the applicant is a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory, or is an organization that will primarily serve tribal or territorial residents.	
☐	Applications that seek to serve veterans.	
☐	Whether the target area is located within a community in which a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2017 or later) or is closing.	
☐	None of the above apply.	

C. Narrative Criteria Responses Attachments

The following documents should be included as attachments to your application. Items i. and ii. of the listed attachments must not exceed a total of twenty (20) pages.

- i. **Milestones Schedule:** This should indicate start times and completion dates of significant tasks under your program (e.g., outreach, procurement of a contractor, recruitment, frequency of classes to be offered and length, instruction, placement, and tracking).
- ii. **Partnership Letters:** Partnership Letters may only impact scoring of the subcriteria that directly cite and request letters and references (partnerships and leveraging). Letters and references will not impact scoring for other criteria. Letters must be submitted with your application. **Letters received separately or after the application submission due date will not be considered.**

D. Narrative Criteria Responses

The Narrative Criteria Responses (including citations) shall not exceed 14 single-spaced pages. Any pages submitted over the page limit will not be evaluated.

The Narrative Criteria Responses must include clear, concise, factual responses to all criteria below. Do not include discussions of broad principles that are not specific to the proposed work or project covered by your application. The Narrative Criteria Responses must provide sufficient detail to allow for an evaluation of the merits of the application. If a criterion does not apply, clearly state this. Any criterion left unaddressed may result in zero points given for that criterion. Responses to the criteria should include the criteria number and title but need not restate the entire text of the criteria. Do not provide photos or extraneous materials.

If the application is selected for funding, the information in your Narrative Criteria Responses will be incorporated into the workplan and will become the scope of your grant, subject to any adjustments to clarify issues with carrying out the project's scope of work made during the post-selection negotiation process. The workplan is a legally binding document. Therefore, applicants should carefully consider and accurately respond to the criteria below, including the identification of the target area (which will

become the boundary in which work can be performed), the overall design of the training program, the use of grant funds, and leveraged resources committed to the project that will materialize during the period of performance. EPA may not permit material changes to the workplan.

The section below includes sample format tables that applicants may use to present all or a portion of their response. Applicants who do not use the sample format tables will not be penalized when EPA evaluates their applications.

[Section 6.B.](#), Review Criteria, outlines the point allocations and qualitative scoring descriptors for each Narrative Criterion Response. EPA will score your Narrative Criteria Responses directly against those subcriteria and quality levels, awarding more points when the applicant clearly addresses each scored element with specific, feasible, and measurable plans. The applicant will score fewer points for vague or unsupported statements. The review criteria explicitly describe what quality of response will garner higher scores; the applicant should organize their Narrative Criteria Responses to mirror the scoring subcriteria and use those descriptors as a checklist to calibrate the depth and specificity of their response.

1. Community Need

a. Community Description

- (i) Identify and describe your target area, such as a county or counties, a number of neighboring towns or cities, Tribal lands, a district, a corridor, a shared planning area, or a census tract that is impacted by the presence of one or more brownfield sites. EPA will consider applications that propose to serve small and large contiguous geographical areas. Large geographical area examples include rural communities that include a number of towns and/or Tribal lands, as well as applicants able to serve sister-cities (i.e., a partnership between U.S. cities located in different states). Provide an explanation of how/why the targeted area was selected for the training.
- (ii) Provide a detailed description of your community and identify if and how it is a community that is impacted by a variety of waste facilities, blighted properties, contaminated sites, and other environmental issues. Identify and describe the environmental, public health, and employment/workforce challenges in your community and the degree to which the challenges impact the community. Provide other relevant demographic information that demonstrates how your proposed project will benefit communities in the target area and the specific groups of individuals you aim to serve in the target area, including population, unemployment rate, poverty rate, per capita income, and/or other relevant statistics.
- (iii) Provide census-based demographic statistics for your target area and compare the data to the larger local, state, and national demographics, as described in the sample format below. The demographic statistics provided should demonstrate that the project will benefit communities in the target area. Responses should clearly identify the sources of information used. Applicants may, but are not required to, use the sample format below to organize demographic data. Applicants may use additional rows or text to include other data or information, including data related to disproportionate environmental or human health harms and risks, which provide a compelling explanation for why you selected the target area.

- (iv) Provide information on how your project will help benefit and facilitate the identification and reduction of threats to human health and the environment that may be associated with exposure to hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, and the health or welfare of the target area population, including any affected sensitive populations and other high-need individuals. Examples of high-need individuals are: unemployed or severely underemployed individuals, dislocated workers, formerly incarcerated persons, veterans, individuals with little to no advanced education past high school level, opportunity youth,¹¹ single custodial parents, members of Federally Recognized Tribes, and residents of communities disproportionately impacted by environmental or human health harms or risks (including disproportionately impacted low-income, sensitive populations Tribal, and indigenous communities). EPA expects Brownfields Job Training participants to be high-need local residents of the defined target area. The applicant's program should prioritize recruiting unemployed and underemployed adult residents of the target area who live near or within communities impacted by brownfields and a variety of waste facilities, blighted properties, contaminated sites, and other environmental issues, with particular emphasis on low-income, Tribal, and Indigenous communities and other sensitive populations - including veterans, formerly incarcerated persons, and individuals with little to no education beyond high school.

Applicants proposing to serve populations facing significant barriers to employment should articulate how they will work with training participants to address those barriers and support their success in both the training program and in achieving and retaining steady employment beyond completion of the training program through strategies such as supportive services to address barriers to employment and mentorship, and other proven strategies.

¹¹ Opportunity Youth is defined as young people who are between the ages of 16 to 24 years old and are disconnected from school and work. *Eligible participants for Brownfields Job Training must be 18 years of age or older at the time of graduation to be placed into an environmental-related job, as the Fair Labor Standards Act prohibits youth under the age of 18 from being employed in hazardous occupations.*

Sample Format for Demographic Information

	Target Community (e.g., Census Tract)	City/Town/County or Tribal Reservation	Statewide	National
Population:				331,097,593 ¹
Unemployment:				3.7% ²
Poverty Rate:				11.5% ³
Median Household Income:				\$75,149 ⁴
Other: <i>Include other relevant data, including potential environmental or human health harms and risks, in additional rows.</i>				
¹ Data are from the 2022 American Community Survey data profile and are available at https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2022.DP05 . ² Data are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (The Employment Situation – February 2024) and are available at http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf . ³ Data are from the 2022 American Community survey data profile and are available on data.census.gov at https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-80.html . ⁴ Data are from the 2022 American Community Survey data profile and are available on data.census.gov at https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1901 .				

b. Labor Market Demand

- (i) Provide a description of the local labor market assessment **and** employer survey you, as the applicant, conducted. Detail the methods and the steps taken to assess the local labor market demand and indicate the time period associated with your assessment. For example, methods may include an employer advisory group, surveys, published reports, one-on-one meetings, relationships with the employers you are partnering with, etc.
- (ii) Provide the results of your labor market demand and discuss how the results identified demand for an environmental workforce in the proposed target area and/or region.
- (iii) Discuss what industry-recognized certifications you are proposing to incorporate into your curriculum that will meet the labor market demands, as identified by the labor market assessment conducted and the employers you are partnering with.

2. Training Program Description

a. Curriculum and Delivery

Provide a detailed description of the proposed curriculum and the certifications graduates will earn. Describe how the training is structured to meet the needs of the students, employers, and the community.

Describe how you will deliver your training as explained in [Section 3.A](#). Describe how the training program will ensure that all graduates will have their 40-hour HAZWOPER certificate compliant with CFR 1910.120(e)/1926.65, via initial 40-hour course or by verifying prior 40-hour course and completing the 8-hour refresher when due.

Demonstrate that proposed training does not duplicate other Federally funded

environmental job training programs or demonstrate how services under this proposed training will complement, but not duplicate, the existing federal environmental job training activities.

b. Training Course Descriptions and Costs

Provide a detailed description for **each** training course for which you are proposing to use Brownfield Job Training Grant funds.

Applicants should provide the costs for each training course and indicate what percentage of the grant budget will be allocated for each training course as detailed below. For example training courses, see [Section 3.A.4.](#) and FY27 [JT FAQs](#). Note, if the cost and percentage of the grant that will be allocated for each training course are included in the Training Program Table, as described below, it does not need to be included again. When considering the cost of each course, please estimate and include the number of students you anticipate enrolling in each course.

For the Training Program Table, provide the course name, the level of training to be provided (awareness, intermediate, or advanced), the type of certification(s) to be earned (state, federal, industry, other, or if none and it is a leveraged training, state that here), the number of hours it will take to complete each course, the course schedule, how many students are anticipated to attend, and the training provider (if known). Please also list the same information for any leveraged trainings and ensure that the cost of the course is \$0 or state that the course is leveraged. In addition to the narrative training program description, applicants may, but are not required to, use the sample table format provided below. Add or remove rows from the suggested training program table format, as necessary, to accurately and fully detail your training program. Do not include training that is ineligible for EPA grant funding, such as training in general construction and carpentry, or life skills training.

Include the cost of each course, how many times that given course will be offered, and the percentage of your entire grant budget that is allocated for the total cost of each training course. For example, if you are requesting a total of \$300,000 in funding from EPA, and offering a course that costs \$2,500 per cohort of students to a total of three cohorts, then the total cost of that course is \$7,500, or 2.5% of your total budget.

Ensure that the costs for training listed in this section correspond with the dollar amount listed in your budget table below.

c. Sustainable Practices

Describe how the execution of your training program will incorporate sustainable practices, such as the recycling and reuse of training materials, purchasing, or leasing more sustainable equipment, supplies, and services, or other practices that directly reduce water, materials, energy, or air impacts.

Sample Training Program Table Format

Course Name	Level of Training	Type of Certification	# of Hours	Start Date – End Date	# of Times Course will be Offered	Anticipated # of students	Training Provider (if known)	Cost of Course	Percent of Grant Budget
Totals:									

3. Budget

To respond to this criterion, provide a complete budget chart within the Narrative Criteria Responses; **the budget chart counts toward the Narrative Criteria Responses page limit and cannot be submitted as an attachment.** In addition, provide a budget description in narrative format. Only Federal funds should be listed in the budget. Do not include any non-Federal funds.

Applicants may include costs to support placement and tracking of graduates. Applicants may, but are not required to, use the table format below to identify specific tasks for which EPA funding will be used. Tasks shown in the sample table format are examples and can be edited as needed to be tailored to the applicant’s program. Add columns for additional tasks if necessary. EPA provides general guidance on how to characterize costs for budgeting purposes in the [General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial EPA Financial Assistance](#).

a. EPA-Funded Tasks/Activities

Specify the costs by budget category, personnel, travel, equipment, contractual, other, etc., associated with each project task (outreach, recruitment and retention; instruction/training; program management; and placement and tracking) and how the costs are appropriate for the goals of the proposed training program. For example, for budget category personnel, the following should be included:

- the total cost of that budget category;
- how many personnel are involved;
- the number of hours and their rate of pay;
- the work they will be doing under each project task; and
- how the work being done is appropriate for the goals of the proposed training program.

b. Cost Estimates

Provide the basis for each cost estimate, in relation to the projected outputs, where possible (e.g., student safety equipment for 100 students at a cost of \$50 each for a total of \$5,000).

Describe your approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that grant funds will be expended in a timely and effective manner.

If proposing participant support costs, describe the process you will follow for determining

the amounts of allowable stipends, procedures for accounting for participant support cost payments (including receipts), and documenting that the costs are allowable and do not duplicate other support for the trainee.

c. Cost-Effectiveness and Task Alignment

Demonstrate that proposed cost estimates are cost-effective (costs are commensurate with benefits) to implement the training program and clearly correlate with proposed tasks.

Note:

- **Transportation stipends, monetary stipends, and childcare subsidies are considered participant support costs that are separate and do not count toward instruction/training costs.** The total amount of stipends, including participant support costs to hire the trainees as W2 employees, **may not exceed 40% of the total award.**
- Do not include activities or costs that are ineligible uses of EPA funds.
- Administrative costs (direct costs for grant administration and indirect costs), as described in [Section 3.A.2.](#), may not exceed 5% of the total requested EPA funds. EPA considers costs for performance and financial reporting to be allowable programmatic costs that are not subject to the 5% limitation. Costs must be classified as direct or indirect consistently as required by 2 CFR §§ 200.403(d) and 200.412 and applicants may not classify the same cost in both categories. Projects that exceed 5% in administrative costs will be evaluated less favorably.

Sample Budget Table

	Budget Category	Project Tasks				Total
		Outreach, Recruitment, and Retention	Instruction/ Training	Program Management	Placement and Tracking	
Direct Costs	Personnel					
	Fringe benefits					
	Travel ¹					
	Contractual					
	Supplies					
	Other (Please be specific for Participant Support Costs such as stipends)					
Total Direct Costs ²						
Indirect Costs ²						
Total Budget (Total Direct Costs+ Indirect Costs)						

¹ Travel to brownfields-related training conferences is an acceptable use of these grant funds.

² Administrative costs (direct and/or indirect) for the Brownfields Job Training Grant applicant itself cannot exceed 5% of the total EPA-requested funds. All indirect costs are considered administrative and are therefore subject to the 5% administrative cap.

4. Program Structure, Anticipated Outputs, and Outcomes

a. Outputs and Outcomes

- (i) Provide detailed information on 1) how many participants you expect to enroll, 2) the number of students anticipated to graduate from the proposed training program, 3) the average anticipated wages for trainees obtaining employment, and 4) the targeted placement rate of graduates in environmental employment. A sample template is provided to assist applicants. Discuss how you will evaluate progress toward achieving the expected project outputs. Clearly explain how your proposed timeline will help achieve the deliverables of the project, as reflected in the attached milestones schedule.
- (ii) Provide detailed information on post-program outcomes and how they address the challenges you presented in the Community Need section. Discuss how you will evaluate progress toward achieving the long-term project outcomes. Clearly explain how your proposed timeline will help achieve the deliverables of the project, as reflected in the attached milestones schedule.

Sample Outputs

Overall # of Participants Enrolled in Program	# of Graduates Completing Program	# of Graduates Placed in Environmental Positions	Average Anticipated Wage for Trainees Obtaining Employment	# of Graduates Not Placed but Pursuing Further Education

b. Recruitment, Screening, and Retention

- (i) Explain how you will market your program to prospective students and high-need local residents of the defined target area. The applicant's program should prioritize recruiting unemployed and underemployed adult residents of the target area who live near or within communities impacted by brownfields and a variety of waste facilities, blighted properties, contaminated sites, and other environmental issues, with particular emphasis on low-income, Tribal, and Indigenous communities and other sensitive populations - including veterans, formerly incarcerated persons, and individuals with little to no education beyond high school. Describe strategies for working with trusted community leaders and community-based organizations for recruiting and retaining individuals from communities that are impacted by a variety of waste facilities, blighted properties, contaminated sites, and other environmental issues.
- (ii) Describe the screening approaches that will be used by your program to ensure that prospective students will be successful in participating in the proposed program and discuss why these approaches are appropriate for your target community (e.g., age requirements, ability to lift a certain weight, reading and math proficiency, and drug and medical tests).
- (iii) Describe your approach to retaining students in the training program (e.g., supportive

services, case management, stipends) and discuss how these strategies address barriers faced by the target population.

Describe how this grant will be utilized to help alleviate the burden of fees to participants (e.g., licensing, certification, and medical examination fees). Describe how the accessibility of your training facilities does not overburden the target community and how the accessibility of your training facilities will help retain participants (e.g., proximity to public transportation, parking accessibility, access for individuals with disabilities). Note that any fees you collect will be considered “program income” under 2 CFR § 200 and must be used for the Brownfields Job Training program activities described in your approved grant award.

c. Program Support for Job Placement

- (i) Discuss the job search support and resources available for participants of your job training program, including the extent to which your organization will assist with initial job placement.
- (ii) Discuss how your organization (and if applicable, your coalition members) will track and provide employment support for program graduates and for how long (should be a minimum of one (1) year).

d. Program Continuity

Describe your plan for sustaining and continuing your environmental job training program once EPA Grant funds are exhausted. This may include, for example, interest from your local public workforce agency or your partner employers to collaborate to continue offering the training.

5. Partnerships

Carefully review Section IV.E. “Coalitions, Contracts, and Subawards” of the [EPA NOFO Clauses](#) before naming an entity that will receive EPA funds provided under this NOFO as a “partner.”

All financial transactions with for-profit partners such as consultants or commercial training providers must comply with the competitive procurement requirements in 2 CFR §§ 200 and 1500 and 40 CFR § 33 Subpart C, as applicable. Subawards must comply with EPA’s Subaward Policy which generally precludes using subawards to acquire services from for-profit organizations. EPA provides detailed guidance on these competitive procurement requirements and subawards in the [Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements](#), [EPA Subaward Policy](#), and [Subaward Frequent Questions](#).

Note that naming a commercial firm or an individual consultant or instructor as a “partner” does not justify a sole source procurement contract in excess of the micro-purchase threshold stated in 2 CFR § 200.320(a)(1). However, nonprofit organizations such as labor unions and public institutions of higher education, such as community colleges, are eligible for non-competitive subawards.

If the applicant does not plan to collaborate or partner with other entities, the narrative criteria response should clearly demonstrate how all core functions (community outreach and recruitment, training delivery, supportive services, employer engagement, placement, and

retention) will be effectively performed in-house, supported by evidence of employer demand and documented hiring commitments. Given the central role of partnerships in the success of this program, applicants proposing no collaboration should understand that such approaches are unlikely to be competitive.

Applicants may, but are not required to, use the sample format below to summarize their responses to each subcriterion.

Partner commitments listed in the table should match commitments made in the Partnership Letters, Memorandum of Agreement, and/or Coalition agreement.

Sample Format for Partnerships

Partner and Contact	Partner Type (environmental, job readiness, community, employer)	Partner Organization Mission	Partner Commitments (only include commitments stated in the attached Partnership Letters)

a. Collaboration with Environmental Entities

Provide information on any specific commitments made by organizations that are performing environmental work, including, but not limited to, non-lead coalition members and Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grant recipients in your community, and how these commitments will contribute to the success of the proposed project. Applicants should have clear strategies to connect graduates of Brownfields Job Training programs with environmental employment that involves preventing, assessing, managing, and cleaning up contaminated sites or working in environmental areas in the graduates' respective communities.

Explain how past and/or future efforts to collaborate with organizations (including with non-lead coalition members, if applicable) completing local environmental projects in your target community will enhance and foster future employment for job training graduates.

Discuss your organization's relationship with your local economic development or other city or county departments (which may include your coalition members) and if these relationships resulted in or will result in the placement of graduates with local contractors in your community.

Attach Partnership Letters indicating partner organizations' specific, actionable commitments made to your proposed program. For applications referencing specific commitments from a coalition member that has not provided a Partnership Letter, the commitment must be in the Memorandum of Agreement or Coalition Agreement.

b. Collaboration with Job-Readiness/Life Skills Support Organizations

Provide information on any specific commitments from organizations (which may include your non-lead coalition members) that provide job-readiness skills (e.g., life skills training,

pre-employment training, GED preparation, academic enhancement, substance abuse counseling, etc.) that are not eligible for funding under this funding announcement.

Discuss partners' (e.g., non-lead coalition members, local community groups, Workforce Development Boards, One Stop Centers, and academic institutions located in or near the affected community) commitments made to support your program. Explain how your program and partners' expertise ensure trainees have the pre-employment skills needed to secure full-time work.

Attach Partnership Letters indicating partner organizations' specific, actionable commitments made to your proposed program. For applications referencing specific commitments from a coalition member that has not provided a Partnership Letter, the commitment must be in the Memorandum of Agreement or Coalition Agreement.

c. Collaboration with Community Organizations

- (i) Discuss your relationships with community leaders and community-based organizations to support the success of the students in this program. This may include partnerships such as those focused on recruiting students from communities that are impacted by a variety of waste facilities, blighted properties, contaminated sites, and other environmental issues or partnerships with community-based organizations that offer supportive services for students. Examples of community-based organizations include faith-based organizations, local community groups and block clubs, high schools, social service providers, etc.

Describe any efforts you made to notify and involve the local community, and/or hold any public comment sessions during the development of your application. Provide detailed information on how these collaborations will continue throughout the program.

- (ii) Attach Partnership Letters indicating partner organizations' specific, actionable commitments made to your proposed program. For applications referencing specific commitments from a coalition member that has not provided a Partnership Letter, the commitment must be in the Memorandum of Agreement or Coalition Agreement.

d. Collaboration with Employers

- (i) Discuss the involvement of the employer community (e.g., non-lead coalition members, local businesses, environmental contractors, labor unions, site owners) in developing the proposed job training program (for example, identify meeting dates, curriculum development, advisory council participation, registered apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships tied to registered apprenticeships, internships, on-the-job training, and mentoring, etc.).

Describe any employers or unions specific commitments (which may include your non-lead coalition members) to enhancing student learning. For example, employer guest speakers, field trips, mentoring, and/or on-the-job training opportunities.

- (ii) Describe any employers or unions specific commitments (which may include your non-lead coalition members) made to enhance a graduate's chance of being hired, including, but not limited to, commitments to interview students and/or hire graduates.

- (iii) Attach Partnership Letters from past and prospective employers indicating partner organizations' specific, actionable commitments made to your proposed program. For applications referencing specific commitments from a coalition member that has not provided a Partnership Letter, the commitment must be in the Memorandum of Agreement or Coalition Agreement.

6. Leveraging

Discuss how you will leverage additional funds/resources (outside of those described in Partnerships, Section 4.D.5.) beyond the grant funds awarded by EPA to support the proposed project activities and how these funds/resources will be used to contribute to the performance and success of the proposed project.

Describe the leveraged commitments (outside of those described in Partnerships, Section 4.D.5.) for monetary services/resources to the proposed job training program (e.g., staff time, life skills training, pre-employment training, student stipends, supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), transportation and bus tokens, GED preparation, childcare, academic enhancement, substance abuse counseling, etc.) already committed to your program and for what training tasks they may be used. For each source of funding, list whether it is an anticipated source of funding or a confirmed source of funding. If such commitments are not yet made, describe the likelihood that these commitments will materialize during the project. Applicants may, but are not required to, use the optional table format below to illustrate which tasks leveraged funds will be used for and how much leveraged funding you plan to use for each task. Please modify task categories and add rows as necessary.

Attach documentation (e.g., a letter) indicating leveraged commitments (outside of those stated in Partnerships, Section 4.D.5.) **made to your proposed training program.** If you are stating your organization's leveraged commitments, attached documentation is not needed. Specific leveraged commitments from a coalition member may be included in the Memorandum of Agreement or Coalition Agreement that is attached to your application.

Selected applicants are expected to abide by their proposed leveraging commitments during grant performance and the failure to do so may affect the legitimacy of the award.

Leveraged Funding Table (Optional)

Project Funding	Status of Funds: Anticipated/ Confirmed	Project Tasks				Total
		Outreach, Recruitment and Retention	Instruction/ Training	Program Management	Placement and Tracking	
[Funding Source 1]						
[Funding Source 2]						
[Funding Source 3]						
Total Non-EPA Funds Leveraged:						

7. Programmatic Capability

This section of your application demonstrates that your organization (“the applicant”) (and if applicable, your coalition members) has programmatic capability (i.e., experience, knowledge, and resources, or ability to obtain them) and a reasonable approach necessary to ensure successful completion of all required aspects of this proposed program.

a. Grant Management System

Discuss the management system you have in place to direct activities under the grant. Include a brief description of your project manager and staff and a discussion of the qualifications and experience. Discuss the means you have to retain project leadership or recruit qualified staff should employee turnover occur. Describe the system(s) you have in place to acquire additional expertise and resources required to perform the proposed project. If you intend to contract for the necessary expertise, describe the system you have in place to acquire that expertise.

b. Organizational Experience

Explain your organization’s (and if applicable, your coalition members’) experience in working with the community you propose to serve. Discuss any experience your organization (and if applicable, your coalition members) has in the employment and training field at large. Discuss any previous experience your organization (and if applicable, your coalition members) has had in environmental training as it relates to your proposed curriculum.

If you do not have an instructor on staff and are considering contracting or using a subaward to an eligible subrecipient (e.g., a community college), describe the criteria you will use to select the contractor (including consultant) and/or subrecipient.

c. Past Performance and Accomplishments

If you received an EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant (or an Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant (EWDJT)) within the last ten (10) years, please respond to **item 1.** below.

If you have not received an EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant (or an Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant), but have received other federal or non-federal financial assistance agreements within the last ten (10) years, including EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning, Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, or Cleanup Grants, please respond to **item 2.** below.

If you have not received any type of federal or non-federal financial assistance agreements within the last ten (10) years or if you have recently received a financial assistance agreement (including a Brownfields Grant), but have not had an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the award requirements, please indicate this in response to **item 3.** below. **Failure to respond may result in zero points for this criterion.**

1. Current or Past EPA Brownfields Job Training or EWDJT Grant Recipients that were awarded a Job Training Grant within the last ten (10) years. (Please be advised the date you were awarded the grant must be 2017 or later to qualify for this category.)

- (i) Identify each of the EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant(s) (or EWDJT Grant(s)) you currently have or have received in the past. Demonstrate how you successfully managed the grant(s), and successfully performed all phases of work under the previous or existing grant(s) by providing the information requested below.
Funds Expenditure: Provide the balance of grant funds not drawn down (i.e., funds remaining). If you have an open EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant, indicate your plan to expend remaining funds on eligible activities and need for additional funding.
- (ii) Compliance with grant requirements:
- Discuss your compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms and conditions of the grant(s).
 - Discuss whether you have made, or are making, progress toward achieving the expected results of the grant in a timely manner. If not, discuss what corrective measures you took, or are taking, and how the corrective measures were effective, documented, and communicated.
 - Discuss your timely quarterly and annual reporting, as well as ongoing Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) reporting.
 - Discuss whether the data are accurately reflected in ACRES at the time of this application submission, and if not, explain why.

Accomplishments – Provide information on:

- Number of individuals you committed to train and place **in your prior selected application(s)**.
- Number of individuals that were actually trained and placed under each grant.
- Placement rate. (Placement rate is defined as the number participants obtaining full-time employment in an environmental job divided by the number of participants completing training.)
- Whether the original anticipated training and placement goals were met, and, if not, the steps that were taken to improve the program.

Sample Accomplishments Data (Optional)

Grant #	Project Period	Funds Expended	# of Participants Committed to Train	# of Participants Actually Trained	# of Participants Committed to Place	# of Participants Actually Placed	% Actually Placed in Full-Time Employment	Data Updated in ACRES (Yes/No)
JT-99999998	10/01/11 – 9/30/14	\$183,264	75	80	70	70	88%	Yes
JT-99999999	10/01/03 – 9/30/05	\$200,000	75	78	70	72	92%	Yes

– OR –

2. Has Not Received an EPA Brownfields Job Training or EWDJT Grant; Recipient of Other Federal or Non-Federal Financial Assistance Agreements that were awarded within the last 10 years. (Please be advised the date you were awarded the grant or assistance agreement must be 2017 or later to qualify for this category.)
 - (i) Identify current and/or prior federally and non-federally funded financial assistance agreements (no more than three) you received, including EPA Brownfields Grant(s), that are most similar in scope and relevance in terms of structure and/or deliverables to the proposed project. If you worked with EPA on delivering a Superfund Job Training Initiative (JTI) project, please also note this. Demonstrate your history of successfully managing these agreements and performing all phases of work under each agreement by providing the following information.
 - (ii) Describe the awarding agency/organization, amount of funding awarded, and purpose of the current/most recent assistance agreement(s) you have received. Discuss your compliance with the workplan, including schedule, and terms and conditions of the grant.
 - Discuss whether you have made, or are making, progress toward achieving the expected results of the grant in a timely manner. If not, discuss what corrective measures you took, or are taking, and how the corrective measures were effective, documented, and communicated.
 - Discuss your success in meeting and complying with reporting requirements, including quarterly reporting, technical reports, final reports, and data entry into ACRES, as applicable.

– OR –

3. Never Received Any Type of Federal or Non-Federal Financial Assistance Agreements.

Affirm that your organization has never received any type of federal or non-federal financial assistance agreement (grant or cooperative agreement). Or discuss how your organization has recently received a financial assistance agreement, but has not had an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the award requirements. *(Applicants that indicate that they do not have a history of performing financial assistance agreements will receive a “neutral” 8-point score for this factor. However, failure to respond to this sub-criterion may result in zero points.)*

E. Applicants Using Contractors

Applicants must compete contracts for services and products, including consultant contracts, and conduct cost and price analyses, to the extent required by the [procurement provisions](#) of the regulations at 2 CFR Part 200.

Do not name a procurement contractor (including a consultant) as a “partner” or otherwise in your application unless the contractor has been selected in compliance with competitive procurement requirements. If an applicant selected for award has named a specific subrecipient, contractor, or consultant in the application, it does not relieve the applicant of its obligations to comply with subaward and/or competitive procurement requirements.

The EPA will not consider the qualifications, experience, and expertise of named subrecipients and/or named contractor(s) during the application evaluation process unless the applicant provides documentation that it has complied with these requirements.

For additional guidance, applicants should review [EPA's Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements](#), [EPA's Subaward Policy](#), and [EPA's Subaward Policy Frequent Questions](#). The EPA expects recipients of funding to comply with competitive procurement contracting requirements in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 1500, as well as the requirements in 2 CFR Part 200.321 and 40 CFR Part 33 Subpart C.

F. Release Copies of Applications

Copies of applications submitted under this NOFO may be made publicly available on <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/past-funding-opportunities#JT> for approximately 8 months after selections are made. See [Section 4.B.viii.](#) for more information.

G. Coalition Coverage

A coalition is formed when two or more eligible applicants coordinate to submit a single application. Coalitions must identify which single eligible organization will be the recipient of the grant and which eligible organization(s) will receive subawards from the recipient (the “pass-through entity”). The pass-through entity that administers the grant and subawards will be accountable to the EPA for proper expenditure of the funds and reporting and will be the point of contact for the coalition. Subawards must be consistent with the definition of that term in [2 CFR § 200.1](#) and comply with the [EPA's Subaward Policy](#).

5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

A. Submission Dates and Times

September 23, 2026 11:59 pm ET Application Submission Deadline

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives the application. If you submit the same application more than once, we will accept the last on-time submission.

B. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. SAM.gov will provide a UEI for your organization, which is required to apply for grants using Grants.gov. To register, go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and click Get Started. From the same page, you can also click on the [Entity Registration Checklist](#) for the information you will need to register. Make sure you are current with SAM.gov and UEI requirements before applying for the award.

SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. [Begin that process today.](#)

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Please visit [How to Register to Apply for Grants](#) for additional information.

C. Submission Instructions

You must submit your application through Grants.gov. See [Section 5.B.](#) above for information on getting registered.

Important tips:

- To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to Grants.gov and click the red “Apply” button at the top of the view grant opportunity page associated with this opportunity.
- See the Quick Start Guide for Applicants for instructions on how to submit.
- Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks.
- Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files.
- Your application must be submitted by an official representative of your organization who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal financial assistance.
- If you receive an error or the button is grayed out, it may be because you do not have the appropriate role to submit in your organization. Contact your organization’s EBiz point of contact or contact Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.
- See Grants.gov Errors for information on other Grants.gov errors.
- The UEI used to apply must be registered to the applicant organization's SAM.gov account. If not, the application may be deemed ineligible.

D. Technical Issues with Submission

If applicants experience technical issues during the submission of an application that they are unable to resolve, follow these procedures **before** the application deadline date:

- Contact Grants.gov Support Center before the application deadline date.
- Document the Grants.gov ticket/case number.
- Send an email with “Funding Opportunity Number (FON): EPA-OLEM-OBLR-26-01 in the subject line to Brownfields@epa.gov, and your appropriate regional contact listed in Section 1.E. before the application deadline time and date and must include the following:
 - Grants.gov ticket/case number(s)
 - Description of the issue
 - The entire application package in PDF format.

Without this information, the EPA may not be able to consider applications submitted outside of Grants.gov. Any application submitted after the application deadline time and date deadline will be deemed ineligible and **not** be considered.

Please note that successful submission through Grants.gov or email does not necessarily mean your application is eligible for award.

Applicants with limited or no access to the internet may request an exception by following the procedures outlined [here](#). The request must be received at least 15 calendar days before the application due date to allow enough time to negotiate alternative submission methods.

EPA will make decisions concerning acceptance of each application submitted outside of Grants.gov on a case-by-case basis. EPA will only consider accepting applications that were unable to submit through Grants.gov due to Grants.gov or relevant SAM.gov system issues or for unforeseen exigent circumstances, such as extreme weather interfering with Internet access. Failure of an applicant to submit prior to the application submission deadline time and date because they did not properly or timely register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov is not an acceptable reason to justify acceptance of an application outside of Grants.gov.

E. Intergovernmental Review

The application is not subject to Intergovernmental Review.

6. Application Review Information

A. Responsiveness Review

Applications must meet the eligibility requirements described in [Section 2](#) to be evaluated. Applicants not meeting these requirements will be deemed ineligible and will be notified within 15 calendar days of the determination.

- Applications must adhere to the page limit requirements. Any pages over the limit(s) in [Section 4](#) will not be reviewed.
- Initial applications must be submitted *on or before* the application deadline through Grants.gov or through limited circumstances as expressed in [Section 5](#). The EPA will not evaluate applications that are not submitted on time.
- *Technical difficulties applying:* Applicants having technical difficulties applying must contact the Grants.gov hotline at 1-800-518-4726 *and* then must email a PDF of the full application to the EPA contact listed in [Section 1](#). The submission must be received prior to the application deadline for consideration.

B. Review Criteria

Criteria Name and Description	Points
Community Need	40
Training Program Description	25
Budget	15
Program Structure, Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes	50
Partnerships	40
Leveraging	5
Programmatic Capability	25

Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they demonstrate that they have the capability to successfully perform the project as described in [Section 3](#) of this funding opportunity.

Only eligible entities whose applications meet the threshold criteria in [Section 2](#) of this announcement will be evaluated. **Applicants should explicitly address these criteria as part of their application package submittal in the Narrative Criteria Responses.** Each application will be rated using a point system. Applications will be evaluated based on a total of 200 possible points.

1. Community Need (40 points)

Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:

a. Community Description (20 Points)

- (i) The degree to which the identified target area is appropriate for the training. (5 points)
- (ii) The degree to which the applicant demonstrates their community is impacted by a variety of waste facilities, blighted properties, contaminated sites, and other environmental issues and that environmental, public health, and employment/workforce challenges negatively impact the target community, taking into account the extent to which the demographic information identifies the environmental, social, public health, economic issues, and brownfield challenges. (5 points)
- (iii) The degree to which the demographic statistics for the target area demonstrate that the project will benefit communities in the target area, including comparison to the larger local, state, and/or national averages. *Note, responses that do not clearly identify sources of information used will be evaluated less favorably.* (5 points)
- (iv) The extent to which the project will benefit and help facilitate the identification and reduction of threats to human health and the environment that may be associated with exposure to hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, and the health or welfare of the target area population, including affected sensitive populations, and other high-need individuals in the target area, as described in [Section 4.D.1.a.\(iv\)](#). (5 points)

b. Labor Market Demand (20 points)

- (i) The extent to which the applicant's labor market assessment and employer survey were conducted using sound methods, including the currentness of the data used in the assessment. *Note, applicants that limit their labor market assessment to data from online sources only will be evaluated less favorably.* (5 points)
- (ii) The extent to which the labor market assessment identified demand for an environmental workforce in the proposed target area and/or region. (5 points)
- (iii) The extent to which the results of the labor market assessment are incorporated into the proposed curriculum, including the degree to which training courses will meet the labor market demands. (10 points)

2. Training Program Description (25 points)

Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:

a. Curriculum and Delivery (5 points)

The degree to which the proposed training curriculum and certifications offered are comprehensive, achievable, and structured to meet the hiring needs of the students, employers, and the community. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates an achievable plan to ensure all graduates will hold a current 40-hour HAZWOPER certificate compliant with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120(e)/1926.65, via initial 40-hour course or verification of prior 40-hour plus required refresher. The degree to which the applicant describes that proposed training does not duplicate other Federally funded Environmental Job Training Programs, the applicant is carrying out, or how the services under this proposed training will complement, but not duplicate, the existing federal environmental job training activities.

b. Training Course Descriptions and Costs (15 points)

The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that each training course that will use Brownfield Job Training Grant funds is eligible and is cost-effective, taking into account the percentage of the grant budget that will be allocated for each training course. *EPA will consider the clarity, eligibility, and adequacy of the proposed training courses, including whether the budget allocates a reasonable, well justified share of funds to each course's direct training costs (instruction, materials, certification exams, and trainee supports), and whether course hours, sequencing, and delivery methods are feasible to achieve the stated credentials and outputs. Applications that do not provide sufficient course level detail (e.g., objectives, hours, delivery method, credential(s) awarded, cost per individual course) or that include ineligible costs may be evaluated less favorably.*

c. Sustainable Practices (5 points)

The extent to which the execution of the training program incorporates sustainable practices, such as recycling and reuse of training materials, purchasing, or leasing more sustainable equipment, supplies, and services, or other practices that directly reduce water, materials, energy, or air impacts.

3. Budget (15 points)

Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:

a. EPA-funded tasks/activities (5 points)

The degree to which to which the EPA-funded tasks/activities that will take place under this grant (beyond the eligibility of the training courses evaluated in review criterion 2, Training Program Description) are eligible and appropriate to the goals of the proposed training program. *Projects that allocate at least 60% of funds to tasks directly associated with instruction/training will be evaluated more favorably. Transportation stipends, monetary stipends, and childcare subsidies are considered participant support costs that are separate and do not count toward the 60% for instruction/training costs to be evaluated more favorably. Projects that allocate more than 40% of funds for participant support costs and/or trainee wages will be evaluated less favorably. Administrative costs, as described in [Section 3.A.2](#), that exceed 5% of the total EPA-requested funds will be evaluated less favorably.*

b. Cost Estimates (5 points)

The degree of clarity on how each cost estimate was developed (including direct and/or indirect administrative costs, when applicable) and the extent to which costs per task are

presented in detail.

The extent to which the applicant's approach, procedures, and internal controls will ensure timely and effective expenditure of grant funds.

If participant support costs are included, the degree to which the applicant describes the process they will follow for determining the amounts of allowable stipends, procedures for accounting for participant support cost payments, and documenting that the costs are allowable and do not duplicate other support for the trainee.

c. Cost-Effectiveness and Task Alignment (5 points)

The extent to which each proposed cost estimate is cost-effective (costs are commensurate with benefits) to implement the training program and clearly correlates with the proposed tasks. *A response that includes cost estimates that are not cost-effective or realistic to implement the training program/grant will be evaluated less favorably. For example, applicants that request more funds than is justified in the Narrative Criteria Responses to complete the proposed project/grant.*

4. Program Structure, Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes (50 points)

Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:

a. Outputs and Outcomes (15 points)

- (i) The extent to which program outputs are clearly identified, including at a minimum: (1) the number of students enrolled, (2) the number of students anticipated to graduate, (3) target placement rate of graduates in environmental employment, and (4) anticipated starting wages for graduates), and the degree to which these outputs are feasible and supported by the program design and budget. EPA will evaluate the proposed placement rate itself (the level of the target) and the credibility of the plan to achieve it. *EPA considers a projected 70% job placement rate to reflect average performance. A response may not earn full points if the projected placement reflects average performance. EPA recognizes that placement rates may vary in rural, Tribal, and remote communities, and in other areas with smaller labor markets and populations. (10 points)*
- (ii) The degree to which the post-program outcomes are clearly described and address the challenges presented in the Community Need section. (5 points)

Note:

- *When evaluating applications under this criterion, EPA may consider whether the proposed outputs and outcomes, and the associated budget, are at a level sufficient - and appropriately aligned - to carry out the proposed training program plan.*

b. Recruitment, Screening, and Retention (15 points)

- (i) The degree to which recruitment strategies, including strategies for working with trusted community leaders and community-based organizations, are clearly identified and appropriate. This includes the degree to which the strategies focus on recruiting unemployed and underemployed adult residents of the target area who live in or near communities impacted by brownfields, waste facilities, blighted properties, contaminated sites, and other environmental issues, taking into account the emphasis placed on low income, Tribal, and Indigenous communities and other sensitive

populations, including veterans, formerly incarcerated persons, and individuals with little to no education beyond high school. (5 points)

- (ii) The quality of your screening approaches and the extent to which these approaches are appropriate for the target community. (5 points)
- (iii) The quality of the approach to retaining students in the training program and the extent to which these approaches are appropriate for the target community, including the extent to which this grant will be utilized to help alleviate the burden of fees to participants, and the degree to which accessibility to training facilities will not overburden the target community, and will help retain participants. (5 points)

c. Program Support For Job Placement (15 points)

- (i) The extent to which the proposed program provides job search support and resources for participants, including the extent to which the applicant will assist with initial job placement. (10 points)
- (ii) The extent to which the applicant (and if applicable, their coalition members) will track and provide employment support for program graduates. (Programs that will track graduates for less than one year will be evaluated less favorably.) (5 points)

d. Program Continuity (5 points)

The degree to which the applicant has a plan in place to continue the environmental training program once the EPA grant funding is exhausted, and the likelihood that it will sustain the program effectively.

5. Partnerships (40 points)

Notes:

- *Strong partnership letters clearly identify the partners' roles (e.g., recruitment support, curriculum input, hosting site visits or internships, interviewing or hiring graduates), the nature and frequency of commitment, and how the commitment supports outputs and outcomes.*
- *Generic letters with no defined commitment will be evaluated less favorably.*
- *Applicants that do not plan on collaborating or partnering with other groups specific to the criteria in this section will be evaluated based on the extent to which they demonstrate how they will be able to effectively perform and complete the project without such collaboration. Given the importance of partnerships and collaboration in the success of this program, it is unlikely applicants without collaboration or partnerships will score competitively.*

Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:

a. Collaboration with Environmental Entities (5 points)

The extent to which the specific commitments made by organizations (which may include non-lead coalition members) performing environmental work in the target community will contribute to the success of the proposed project.

The degree to which the applicant's past and/or future efforts to collaborate with organizations (which may include non-lead coalition members) completing local environmental projects in the target community will enhance and foster future employment opportunities for job training graduates.

The degree to which the applicant's relationships with local economic development or other city or county departments (which may include your non-lead coalition members) will result in the placement of graduates with local contractors.

The extent to which the Partnership Letters from organizations performing environmental work describe specific, actionable commitments to support the proposed training program. For applications referencing specific commitments from a coalition member that has not provided a Partnership Letter, the commitment must be in the Memorandum of Agreement or Coalition Agreement. *Note that Partnership Letters, Memorandum of Agreement, or Coalition agreement that do not match the commitment identified in the Narrative Criteria Responses will be evaluated less favorably.*

b. Collaboration with Job-Readiness/Life Skills (5 points)

The extent to which the specific commitments made by organizations (which may include non-lead coalition members) that provide students with job-readiness skills will ensure trainees have the pre-employment skills needed to secure full-time work.

The extent to which partners (which may include your non-lead coalition members) have committed support that will contribute to the success of the proposed program.

The extent to which the Partnership Letters from organizations providing job-readiness skills describe specific, actionable commitments to support the proposed training program. For applications referencing specific commitments from a coalition member that has not provided a Partnership Letter, the commitment must be in the Memorandum of Agreement or Coalition agreement. *Note that Partnership Letters, Memorandum of Agreement, or Coalition agreement that do not match the commitment identified in the Narrative Criteria Responses will be evaluated less favorably.*

c. Collaboration With Community (10 points)

(i) The extent to which the applicant has collaborated with community leaders and community-based organizations to support the success of the students in the program. The degree to which the applicant notified and involved the local community in developing the application. The extent to which the collaborations with the local community will continue throughout the program. (5 points)

(ii) The extent to which the Partnership Letters from community-based organizations describe specific, actionable commitments to support the proposed training program. For applications referencing specific commitments from a coalition member that has not provided a Partnership Letter, the commitment must be in the Memorandum of Agreement or Coalition agreement. *Note that Partnership Letters, Memorandum of Agreement, or Coalition Agreement that do not match the commitment identified in the Narrative Criteria Responses will be evaluated less favorably.* (5 points)

d. Collaboration with Employers (20 points)

- (i) The degree to which the employer community or local labor unions (which may include non-lead coalition members) were involved in the development of the proposed program, including those committed to enhancing student learning, and the degree to which the specific commitments by those employers or unions (which may include your non-lead coalition members) will contribute to the success of the proposed program. (5 points)
- (ii) The extent to which employers or local labor unions (which may include your non-lead coalition members) have made specific commitments to enhancing a graduate's chance of being hired. (10 points)
- (iii) The extent to which the attached documentation indicates leveraged commitments made by employer community or local labor unions to support the proposed training program. For applications referencing specific commitments from a coalition member that has not provided a Partnership Letter, the commitment must be in the Memorandum of Agreement or Coalition agreement. *Note that Partnership Letters, Memorandum of Agreement, or Coalition agreement that do not match the commitment identified in the Narrative Criteria Responses will be evaluated less favorably.* (5 points)

6. Leveraging (5 points)

Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:

The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that the leveraged funds/resources outside of those partnerships evaluated in 6.B.5. will be used to contribute to the performance and success of the proposed project, taking into consideration the extent to which leveraged commitments for monetary services/resources are already committed to your program or, if such commitments are not yet made, the likelihood that the commitments will materialize during the project.

Note that applications with committed or confirmed leveraged funding and resources will be evaluated more favorably.

The extent to which the Partnership Letters identify specific leveraged commitments outside of the partnerships evaluated in 6.B.5. made to support the proposed training program. For applications referencing specific commitments from a coalition member that has not provided a Partnership Letter, the commitment must be in the Memorandum of Agreement or Coalition agreement. *Note that Partnership Letters, Memorandum of Agreement, or Coalition agreement that do not match the commitment identified in the Narrative Criteria Responses will be evaluated less favorably.*

7. Programmatic Capability (25 points)

Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:

a. Grant Management System (5 points)

The extent to which the applicant has a management system in place to direct activities under this grant. The extent to which the project manager and staff have the qualifications and experience to successfully manage the grant. The degree to which the applicant has the

means to retain project leadership or recruit qualified staff should employee turnover occur. The degree to which the applicant has a system(s) in place to acquire additional expertise and resources required to perform the proposed project.

b. Organizational Experience (5 points)

The degree of experience the applicant's organization (and if applicable, the coalition members) has with working with the local community they are proposing to serve. The degree of experience the applicant (and if applicable, the coalition members) has in the employment and training fields at large. The extent to which the applicant (and if applicable, the coalition members) has experience in environmental training as it relates to the proposed curriculum. If the applicant does not have the experience and is considering contracting or using a subaward to an eligible subrecipient, the extent to which the criteria used to procure/select an instructor is clear and in compliance with applicable requirements described in the "Contracts and Subawards" solicitation clause and further discussed in Section IV.D. of EPA's Solicitation Clauses.

c. Past Performance and Accomplishments (15/8 points)

In evaluating an applicant's response to this criterion, in addition to the information provided by the applicant, EPA may consider relevant information from other sources including information from EPA files and/or from other federal or non-federal grantors to verify or supplement information provided by the applicant. Applicants will only be evaluated using a single sub-criterion below that is appropriate to their situation.

If the applicant has not received any type of federal or non-federal financial assistance agreement within the last 10 years, they should provide a response to such effect. Failure to respond to this criterion may result in zero points for this criterion.

(i) Current or Past EPA Brownfields Job Training or EWDJT Grant Recipients that were awarded a Job Training Grant within the last ten (10) years. (Please be advised the date you were awarded the grant must be 2017 or later to qualify for this category.)

1. The degree to which the applicant demonstrates its ability to successfully manage past EPA Brownfields Job Training or EWDJT Grants and proven success throughout the different phases of work under the grant.

The extent to which funds from any open Brownfields Job Training grant(s) were drawn down in a timely and appropriate manner. If the applicant has an open grant with funds remaining, the extent to which the applicant describes their plan to expend remaining funds. The extent to which the applicant explains its need for additional funds. (5 points)

2. The extent of compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms and conditions under the current/most recent grant(s), and the extent to which there is a demonstrated history of timely and acceptable quarterly performance and grant deliverables, as well as ongoing ACRES reporting. The extent to which the applicant affirms that ACRES data accurately reflect project status at the time of submission, or explains why not and provides a corrective plan.

The extent to which meaningful accomplishments were achieved under the current/most recent grant(s) including:

- The number of individuals the applicant committed to train and place versus what was provided in your approved workplan.
- The number of individuals that were actually trained under each grant.
- The placement rate.
- Whether the original anticipated training and placement goals were met, and, if not, the steps that were taken to improve the program. (10 points)

– OR –

(ii) Has Not Received an EPA Brownfields Job Training or EWDJT Grant and is a recipient of Other Federal or Non-Federal Financial Assistance Agreements awarded within the last 10 years. (Please be advised the date you were awarded the grant must be 2017 or later to qualify for this category.)

1. The degree to which the applicant demonstrates its ability to successfully manage federal or non-federal grants, and the performance of all phases of work under each grant.

The extent to which the current/most recent assistance agreement(s) is similar in terms of scope and relevance in terms of structure and/or deliverables to the proposed project. The extent to which meaningful project accomplishments (including specific outputs and outcomes and measures of success) were achieved under the current/most recent assistance agreement(s). (5 points)

2. The degree of success in meeting and complying with reporting requirements, including quarterly reporting, technical reports, final reports, and data entry into required systems such as ACRES, as applicable. (10 points)

– OR –

(iii) Never Received Any Type of Federal or Non-Federal Financial Assistance Agreements.

Whether it is clearly affirmed that the organization never received any type of federal or non-federal financial assistance agreement, or has recently received a financial assistance agreement, but has not had an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the award requirements. Applicants, that this criterion applies to, that affirm this will receive a “neutral” score of 8 points. (8 points)

Applications that do not address **Past Performance and Accomplishments** may receive zero points for this criterion.

C. Review and Selection Process

EPA will conduct a threshold review of applications submitted by the deadline to determine eligibility using the criteria listed in [Section 2](#). A panel of EPA reviewers will evaluate and score each eligible application using the review criteria stated in [Section 6.B](#). The Headquarters Selection Official will make the final selections for awards from the ranked list of eligible applications and

may consider the other factors described in [Section 6.C.1.](#)

1. Other Evaluation Factors

In making the final funding decisions, the Headquarters Selection Official may also consider the following factors identified by the applicant:

- whether the community population is 15,000 or less;
- whether the applicant has not received an EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant since 2017;
- whether the applicant is a federally recognized Indian Tribe or U.S. Territory or whether the project is assisting a Tribe or territory;
- whether the applicant is seeking to serve veterans; and
- whether a target area is located within a community in which a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2017 or later) or is closing.

EPA may verify this information prior to selection.

Additionally, the Headquarters Selection Official may also consider the following factors:

- distribution of funds between urban and non-urban areas;
- whether the proposed site(s) is located within, or includes, a county experiencing “persistent poverty” where 20% or more of its population has lived in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates;
- the distribution of funds among EPA’s ten regions;
- whether the applicant has previously been awarded a Brownfields Job Training Grant; and
- whether the application is for a Job Training Coalition Grant.

D. Risk Review

The EPA will consider any comments by the applicant, along with information available in the responsibility/qualification records in SAM.gov., when doing the risk review as required by [2 CFR 200.206](#).

7. Award Notices

The EPA anticipates notification to successful applicants will be made by Jerry Minor-Gordon-English, OBLR, Deputy Director. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the application or the project contact listed in the application. This notification is not an authorization to begin work. The official notification of an award will be made by the Regional Award Official assigned to the cooperative agreement. Selection does not guarantee an award will be made. Statutory authorization, funding, or other issues during the award process may affect the ability of the EPA to make an award. The award notice, signed by an EPA grants officer, is the authorizing document and will be provided through electronic or postal mail. The successful applicant may need to prepare and submit additional documents and forms, which must be approved by the EPA, before the grant can officially be awarded. The time between notification of selection and award of a grant can take up to 90 days or longer.

If your application is selected for funding, EPA will list the training courses (i.e., eligible trainings with Brownfields Job Training Grant funds and leveraged training courses) in your organization’s [Brownfields](#)

[Grant Fact Sheet](#). These courses will also appear on [EPA's Brownfields Job Training Current and Past Grantees Map](#).

8. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

A. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The recipient and any sub-recipient must comply with the applicable [General Terms and Conditions](#). These terms and conditions are in addition to the assurances and certifications made as part of the award, terms and conditions, and restrictions reflected on the official assistance award document.

Awards issued as a result of this funding opportunity are subject to the requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Title [2 CFR § 200](#) and [2 CFR § 1500](#).

B. Reporting

[EPA's General Terms and Conditions](#) in the Notice of Award will have information on performance and financial reports, including:

- How often you will report.
- Any required form or formatting.
- How to submit them.

C. Subaward and Executive Compensation Reporting

The Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires:

- Data entry at SAM.gov for all subawards and subcontracts issued for \$30,000 or more.
- Reporting executive compensation for both recipient and subaward organizations.

9. Other Information

A. Additional Provisions for Applicants

Additional provisions that apply this funding opportunity and/or awards made under this funding opportunity, can be found at [EPA NOFO Clauses](#). If you are unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please contact the EPA point of contact to obtain the provisions.

These provisions are important for applying to this funding opportunity and applicants must review them when preparing applications.