

Brownfields 2020 Job Training Fact Sheet

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Bent, Otero, and Prowers Counties, CO

Grant Recipient Information

Name: Colorado Department of Local Affairs

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Website: .

EPA Information

Region: EPA Region 8 Brownfields Team

Phone: 303-312-6706

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/r8>

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Overview of the EPA Brownfields Program

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

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

Job Training Grant

\$200,000.00

EPA has selected the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for an Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs plans to train 70

students and place at least 50 graduates in environmental jobs. The training program includes approximately 175 hours of instruction. All students will attend 40-hour HAZWOPER and then transition to one of two training tracts: Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup (BAC), where students will take an asbestos worker course; or Wastewater General Technician, where students will take both a wastewater technician course and a commercial driver's license (CDL) course. Students enrolled in the BAC tract also can choose to take the CDL class. Participants who complete the training will earn up to two state and one federal certifications. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs is targeting residents of Bent, Otero, and Prowers Counties, including the Supportive Residential Community that is comprised of nearly 240 individuals struggling with substance abuse and experiencing homelessness. Key partners include Acumen Environmental Services, the Bent County Board of County Commissioners, Colorado Hazard Control LLC, and the Colorado Workforce Center.

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

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant application; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of the information. The cooperative agreement is negotiated after the selection announcement. Therefore, the funding amount and activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.