Brownfields 2025 Job Training Fact Sheet

Groundwork Elizabeth, NJ

EPA Information

Region: EPA Region 2 Brownfields Team
Phone: 212-637-4340
Website: https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/r2

Publication Information

Office:	United States Environmental Protection Agency Land and Emergency Management (5105T) Washington, D.C. 20460
Publication Number:	EPA 560-F-24-226
Publication Date:	December 2024

Job Training Grant

$499,550.00

EPA has selected Groundwork Elizabeth for a Brownfields Job Training Grant. Groundwork Elizabeth plans to train 75 students and place 40 in environmental jobs. The training program includes 168 hours of instructional training, as detailed in the chart below. Students who complete the training will earn up to four federal certifications. Groundwork Elizabeth is targeting youth aged 16-24 who are unemployed or underemployed residents in public housing or from the Youth Corp program. Key partners include the American Red Cross, Climate Change Mitigation Technologies, Curt Collier, Friends of Great Swamp, the Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth Jobs Plus University Program, the Kean University Department of Environmental Science and Sustainability, the New Jersey Apprenticeship Network, New Jersey Fish and Wildlife, the New Jersey Tree Academy, New Jersey Youth Corps, the New Jersey Institute of Technology Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities, One-Stop Career Centers, United Way of Greater Union County, and Viridian Environmental Consultants.

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).

Grant Recipient Information

Name: Groundwork Elizabeth
Address: 100 Union St, Elizabeth, NJ 07202
Contact: Ashley Alvarez, ashley@groundworkelizabeth.org, (908) 627-5725
Website: https://groundworkusa.org/network/groundwork-elizabeth/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GroundworkUSA/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/groundwork_usa/
Twitter: https://x.com/gwelizabeth
Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKny0Cz6-ZMO8dKojuL8rEQ
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/groundwork-elizabeth

Certificates & Technical Curriculum Supported by	• 40-Hour HAZWOPER

EPA	• OSHA 10-Hour Construction Safety • OSHA 30-Hour Construction Course • OSHA #5600 Disaster Site Worker Trainer Course • Blueprint Reading • Brownfield Redevelopment • Conservation Job Readiness • CPR/First Aid • Drilling/Soil Sample Demonstrations • Environmental Data Analytics • Environmental Stewardship • Extreme Temperatures (Heat Illness) • Preliminary Assessment and Site Investigations • Forestry Remediation • Intro to Alternative-Fuel Vehicles • Intro to Brownfields • Intro to Green Infrastructure • Soil, Ground, Water and Air Testing
Other Curriculum	• Microforest/Remediation • Climate Change/Resilience • Composting and Soil Amending • Environmental Assessments • Phase 1 and 2, Brownfield Basics: Sustainability, Community, and Justice • Landscape Restoration • Threatened and Endangered Species
Additional Skills and Services	

Overview of the EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, Tribal Nations, 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, Tribal Nations, 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 Brownfields Job Training Grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Brownfields Job Training Grant funds are provided to nonprofit organizations and other eligible entities to recruit and train unemployed and underemployed residents from communities affected by environmental pollution, economic disinvestment, and brownfields and place them in environmental jobs. Since the program was created in 1998, EPA has awarded 430 job training grants totaling over $113.1 million through Brownfield Job Training Programs. With these grants, approximately 23,460

individuals have completed training and over 17,450 individuals have been placed in careers related to land remediation and environmental health and safety. This equates to a cumulative placement rate of approximately 74 percent. The average starting wage for these jobs over the last five years is approximately $23 an hour.

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.