



U.S. EPA Brownfields Job Training Program

City of New Bedford

New Bedford, MA



Overview: The City of New Bedford was a recipient of a 2009 U.S. EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant, which provided \$200,000 for the development of the Greater New Bedford Brownfields Job Training program. The program was designed to help local unemployed and underemployed residents find employment opportunities by increasing industry-based training and education available in the area.

The New Bedford career training program has two training components. The first training component is the *Environmental Competency Track*. This is a non-credit track that consists of two semesters; the first semester is comprised of 184 hours of training, and the second is 160 hours of training. The other component is the *Higher Education Track* which is a two year, four semester program that provides a total of 465 hours of training. In addition to the industry-based training, the Higher Education Track gives participants the opportunity to earn an additional Environmental Science Certificate that is worth 25 college credit hours. Training for the program is offered at the Bristol Community College New Bedford Campus which provides students with a full range of support services, strong environmental education and training curriculum, tutoring, job advertisement and mentoring. Scheduling classes after 5 pm has been a priority for program staff to enable those who gain employment during the program to work during the day while continuing their education at night.

Participants: Participants for the job training program have been recruited directly from the New Directions Southcoast, Inc. Career Center in New Bedford, MA. In order to be eligible for the program, applicants are required to be at least 18 years of age, able to work in the United States, a resident of the greater New Bedford community, hold a high school degree or GED and a valid Massachusetts driver license, have access to transportation and be drug free. Eligible applicants that meet specific testing criteria are brought in for an interview to discuss the applicants' ability to fulfill the requirements of the program. Participants that fit basic criteria and are able to meet the demands of the program are enrolled and training commences.



Photo provided by Bristol Community College.

Outcomes: Graduates who have been able to enhance their skills with the training and network with job developers are achieving positive outcomes. Examples of job training graduates that have successfully completed the program and transitioned into a career in the environmental field include:

- Paul C., who is still participating in the Higher Education Track, was hired by *ORKIN Corporation*. He noted that his courses dovetailed perfectly with the skills his employer was looking for in an employee.
- Gerald W., who became the OSHA-30 Instructor for the program, was persistent in his efforts to become a full time OSHA Authorized Instructor.

Core Curriculum

Curriculum: Environmental Competency Track

- Work Certification
- OSHA-10 hour Construction Safety Training
- OSHA-40 hour HAZWOPER
- Hazardous Substance Transportation
- Mold Remediation
- Vapor Intrusion
- Construction Management & Blue Print Reading

Curriculum: Higher Education Track

- Work Certification
- Introduction to the Environment
- Fundamentals of Chemistry
- Hazardous Waste/ Waste Management
- OSHA-40 hour HAZWOPER
- OSHA -30 Supervisory Level Training
- OSHA- 10 Construction Safety Training
- Site Evaluation GIS (2 semesters)
- Job Preparedness /College Success Seminar

Program Partners

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, The Greater New Bedford Career Center, The Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board, New Directions Southcoast, Inc., Bristol Community College, Old Bedford Village