IOWA WESTERN

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25-JT-12-R07

Iowa Western Community College
Green Environmental Training (GET) Certified Program

Narrative Information Sheet

A. Applicant Identification

Iowa Western Community College
2700 College Rd, Council Bluffs, IA 51503

B. Grant Type

Brownfields Job Training Grant

C. Project Period and Funding Request

a. Proposed project period: 5 Years
b. Federal funds requested: $478,474

D. Coalition Members

Not Applicable

E. Website URL

https://www.iwcc.edu/

F. Population/Target Area Data

	Omaha - Council Bluffs, NE-IA MSA	**Council Bluffs, IA**	**Omaha, NE**
Total Population	967,604	62,799	468,051

- The Target Community served will be general public, underemployed, unemployed, veterans, and members from the Designated Disadvantaged Communities within the Target Area below.

This program population will include 96 students from these communities described.

- The Target Area will be the Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA MSA, focusing on Council Bluffs, IA and North Omaha, NE.

- The target area for the proposed Iowa Western Community College GET (Green Environmental Training) Certified program is centered around the City of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and North Omaha, NE, and will extend throughout its Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), known as the Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA MSA. Omaha, NE (Douglas County) and Council Bluffs, IA (Pottawattamie County).

  The majority of the target area within the Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA MSA, specifically Council Bluffs, IA and North Omaha, NE, is considered a Designated Disadvantaged Community according to the Justice40 (CEJST), and the Environmental and Climate Justice Program, EPA IRA Data 1.0 and EPA IRA Data 2.0 EJScreen map layers. Within the proposed program target area served in this project, at least 58 census tracts are Designated Disadvantaged meeting two or more burden and socioeconomic criteria (ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper).

- The target area for this proposed project is not smaller than a city/town.

- The anticipated training facility address is Iowa Western Community College, 2700 College Rd, Council Bluffs, IA 51503

G. Contacts

a. Project Director:
Matt Mancuso, VP of Business and Community Education, Iowa Western CC
[redacted], 2700 College Road, Council Bluffs, IA

b. Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Official:
Dr. Dan Kinney, President of Iowa Western Community College
[redacted], 2700 College Road, Council Bluffs, IA

H. Releasing Copies of Applications

Iowa Western Community College respectfully claims that all contact information of individuals named in this application packet are, and should remain, confidential as some of it is not publicly available.

I. Other Factors

Other Factors		Narrative Page #
☐	Community Population of 10,000 or less	
☑	New Applicant (since 2015)	Page 2
☐	Federally-recognized Tribe, or primarily serving tribal communities	
☐	Seeking to serve veterans	
☑	Target area in which a coal-fired power plant recently closed	Page 2
☐	None of the above apply	

Iowa Western Community College
Green Environmental Training (GET) Certified Program
FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant
Full Narrative

1. Community Need

1A. Community Description

The target area for the proposed Iowa Western Community College GET (Green Environmental Training) Certified program is centered around the City of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and North Omaha, NE, and will extend throughout its Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), known as the Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA MSA. Omaha, NE (Douglas County) and Council Bluffs, IA (Pottawattamie County), share a border on the Mississippi river and share many of the same environmental, socioeconomic, and demographic environments. This target area was selected for this project not only because it is located in the direct service area of Iowa Western Community College (IWCC), but also because the community needs in legacy pollution mitigation, gaps in construction workforce development, and because the area is largely composed of disadvantaged communities, as defined by the Climate and Social Justice Screening Tool.

The majority of the target area within the Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA MSA, specifically Council Bluffs, IA and North Omaha, NE, is considered a Designated Disadvantaged Community according to the Justice40 (CEJST), and the Environmental and Climate Justice Program, EPA IRA Data 1.0 and EPA IRA Data 2.0 EJScreen map layers. Within the proposed program target area served in this project, at least 58 census tracts are Designated Disadvantaged meeting two or more burden and socioeconomic criteria (ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper).

Environmental and Public Health
According to the EPA EJScreen Tool using the Supplemental Indexes (averaging sensitive populations) layer, rates of Lead Paint in the target areas of North Omaha and Council Bluffs are alarmingly high; most of these area shows at least the 90 - 95 Percentile, while some show as high as the 95 - 100 Percentile (National Percentiles). Additionally, the rates of Cancer in southeastern Council Bluffs and north Omaha are at least in the 90 - 95 Percentile; some areas in the community are reported in the 95 - 100 Percentile. Most of the Council Bluffs, IA area is reported to be in at least the 50 - 80 Percentile. Moreover, the EPA EJScreen reports that the majority of north Omaha are in the 90 - 100 Percentile in Low Life Expectancy rates; while Council Bluffs shows a large portion of the area being in the 80 - 90 Percentile for Low Life Expectancy. These health disparities, and their regional trends, align with the historical hazardous materials facilities and Brownfield sites in this area (ejscreen.epa.gov).

Social and Economic Issues facing the target area for this grant proposal can be found in the demographics table included in this Narrative.

Brownfield Challenges
According to the EPA, Cleanups and Grants Listing Page, there are 160 current Brownfield properties listed and at least 90 EPA Lead contaminated sites within a 15-mile radius of Council Bluffs, IA, including Omaha, NE (map22.epa.gov/cimc/brownfields). Within the proposed project area, there are

currently two (2) active EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grants: 1001 S. 6TH St., Council Bluffs, IA (EPA Registry Id: 110038726055) and 1608 Webster St., Omaha, NE (Former MORECO Plating Company Site, EPA Registry Id: 11006038767 (epa.gov/frs).

In 2020, The EPA awarded Council Bluffs a $300,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant to conduct 23 environmental site assessments, inventory brownfield sites, develop two site-specific cleanup plans, and support community outreach and reuse planning activities. In 2022, Council Bluffs was awarded a $500,000 EPA Brownfields Grant for brownfields cleanup efforts, specifically at the former Reliance Battery Site. The site assessment and cleanup of the former Reliance Battery Site in Council Bluffs is led by Impact 7G, a collaborative Environmental partner with IWCC in this proposed GET Certified project. This cleanup is anticipated to begin by the end of 2024/beginning of 2025 and IWCC wants to assist in preparing a new workforce training to make the target area and our community safer and healthier.

	Omaha, NE-IA MSA	**Council Bluffs, IA**	**Omaha, NE**	**Nebraska**	**Iowa**	**National**
Total Population	967,604[1]	62,799[1]	468,051[1]	1,961,504[1]	319,0369[1]	331,097,593[1]
African American	8%[1]	3%[1]	13%[1]	5%[1]	4%[1]	12%[1]
Hispanic or Latino	11%[1]	10%[1]	15%[1]	11.8%[1]	6.8%[1]	19%[1]
Asian	3.5%[1]	1%[1]	5%[1]	3%[1]	2%[1]	6%[1]
Native American	1%[1]	1%[1]	1%[1]	1%[1]	0.5%[1]	1%[1]
Unemployment	3% [3]	2.8% [3]	3% [3]	2.6% [3]	2.8% [3]	4.1% [3]
Poverty Rate	10%[2]	13.6%[2]	12.5%[2]	2.6%[2]	11%[2]	11.5%[2]
Median Household Income	$65,000[1]	$61,181[2]	$70,202[2]	$71,722[1]	$69,588[1]	$75,149[2]

[1]https://data.census.gov/ [2]https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/ [3]https://www.bls.gov/

Other Factors

- The last coal-fired power plant in Council Bluffs, Iowa, is the Walter Scott Energy Center. Unit 3 of this plant is scheduled to close in 2024, and Unit 4 is planned for closure by 2030. The last coal-fired power plant in North Omaha, the North Omaha Station, was originally scheduled to cease burning coal at the end of 2023, but has been delayed until 2026.
- Iowa Western Community College is considered a new applicant and has not received an EPA Brownfields Job Training grant since 2015.

1B. Labor Market Demand

A labor market assessment focused on the general construction and OSHA-trained construction was conducted using a combination of one-on-one meetings and relationships with partner employers, and published reports. Additional Workforce and Labor Market statistics are included in the chart above.

Demand for a skilled construction workforce was communicated during one-on-one meetings with environmental partners, Impact 7G, New Horizons, and the City of Council Bluffs. Through one-on-one interviews and relationships with employer and community partners, Impact 7G, the qualified Brownfield assessment and cleanup contractor for the City of Council Bluffs reported a need for workers trained in HAZWOPER 40 and Hazardous Communications. New Horizons, the proposed contracting trainer for the IWCC GET Certified program, reports a demand for trained workers in Asbestos Abatement and OSHA 10 certifications. Additionally, the City of Council Bluffs report a demand for workers with HAZMAT certifications.

The IWCC GET Certified program will incorporate the following industry-recognized certifications into the curriculum: Asbestos Abatement Worker Training OSHA Certificate of Completion, OSHA Lead Awareness Certificate of Completion, HAZWOPER 40 OSHA Certificate of Completion, OSHA 10 Card from U.S. Dept. of Labor, OSHA Hazard Communication Certificate of Completion. Other certifications will be awarded from IWCC and Goodwill Industries for completion of other job readiness training courses not included in this proposed grant project.

Iowa Workforce (workforce.iowa.gov) reports that Pottawattamie County (location of Council Bluffs, IA) experiences workforce challenges and 68% of surveyed Construction Industry employers reported that “finding qualified job candidates” was the top workforce challenge. Additionally, 46.1% of these Construction Industry employers reported that their response to this workforce challenge resulted in “hiring a less qualified applicant”. The IWCC GET Certified Program is designed to create and place qualified job candidates through industry-standard training to address the top workforce challenge of this area and remedy the common response to hire underqualified workers and threatening the safety of those in the field and the general community.

2. Training Program Description

The IWCC GET Certified Program is designed to meet the intersecting needs of a target area with both historical and current hazardous environments, contaminated Brownfield sites, and a demonstrated and reported need for more OSHA-trained construction workforce members.

Proposed Curriculum Description

The proposed curriculum will deliver online, and in-person, industry-standard, OSHA-designed and approved coursework to a total of 96 students over twelve (12) training sessions spanning four (4) years, followed by one (1) year of additional tracking, evaluation, and job placement support for program graduates from IWCC. The curriculum includes both environmental job training as well as general job readiness and workforce training.

The training sessions will be delivered jointly by New Horizons Enterprises, a nationwide provider of environmental management and contracting services. Upon notification of successful grant award, IWCC will recruit and hire a Program Coordinator to manage the recruitment, screening, support, job placement, tracking and evaluation for the proposed program. The training program will be structured to maximize the student’s time, and expedite their pathway to more secure, higher paying employment while mitigating hazards and creating a healthier community for all.

Employer partners, Impact 7G, New Horizons, and the City of Council Bluffs were interviewed and the qualified Brownfield assessment and cleanup contractor for the City of Council Bluffs reported a need for workers trained in HAZWOPER 40 and Hazardous Communications. New Horizons, the proposed contracting trainer for the IWCC GET Certified program, reports a demand for trained workers in Asbestos Abatement and OSHA 10 certifications. Additionally, the City of Council Bluffs report a demand for workers with HAZMAT certifications.

Community needs are met by the GET Certified Program by addressing the gaps in a local, qualified employment pool for construction and environmental companies tasked with the cleanup of Brownfield sites, improving the health and wellbeing of high needs individuals in the community by aiding in the removal of hazardous sites and environments, and creating pathways to high quality jobs.

The certifications earned by graduates of the proposed program include the following:

1. Asbestos Abatement Worker Training OSHA Certificate of Completion
2. OSHA Lead Awareness Certificate of Completion
3. HAZWOPER 40 OSHA Certificate of Completion
4. OSHA 10 Card from U.S. Dept. of Labor
5. OSHA Hazard Communication Certificate of Completion
6. Deconstruction and Construction Techniques, Technical Mathematics, Computer Training, and Resume Building IWCC Certificate (Not included it in this funding proposal)

Training Courses Descriptions

1. Asbestos Abatement Worker Training - This course is designed to meet the standards of The Asbestos Model Accreditation Plan (29 CFR 1910.1001) training courses approved by the EPA. It will be instructed by New Horizons, and will address a variety of specialized abatement topics, such as Pre-asbestos abatement work activities, work area preparation, establishing decontamination units, PPE, worker decontamination procedures, practical hands-on exercises, and proper handling and disposal of ACM wastes.

2. OSHA Lead Awareness - The course, instructed by New Horizon, provides an overview of the OSHA lead standard for general industry (29 CFR 1910.1025), including key safety controls, permissible exposure limits, risks associated with lead exposure, monitoring for lead exposure, and medical surveillance and recordkeeping.

3. Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) 40 - HAZWOPER 40 is the initial training needed for workers who could or will be exposed to hazardous substances. HAZWOPER 40 is a requirement (29 CFR 1910.120) by OSHA for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response training. This online OSHA Education Center course will include laws and regulations, Hazardous substances type and nature, Hazard recognition and identification, Toxicology, Physical, mechanical and electrical hazards, personal protective equipment (PPE), understanding HAZWOPER Work Zones, air monitoring, site health and safety plan, effective communication in work zones, decontamination of equipment and PPE, emergency decontamination, site emergencies, and hands-on training on site specific, actual equipment.

4. OSHA 10-Hour General Industry - This course will teach students how to recognize and avoid common workplace hazards. This deep dive into OSHA safety standards (29 CFR 1910) is designed for entry-level workers and contains 10 hours of educational material. It focuses on the prevention, recognition, avoidance and abatement of potential hazards at work.

5. OSHA Hazard Communication - In this course, students will learn the requirements of chemical labeling and the use of safety data sheets (SDSs) to identify chemical properties; physical health and environmental hazards; protective measures; and safety precautions for handling, storing, and transporting chemicals. This course will follow Regulations (CFR) 1910.1200) in teaching the requirements for classifying chemicals on labels and SDSs to help employees understand workplace chemical hazards.

6. Other courses, **not** included in this grant proposal, will include general Construction and Deconstruction, Technical Math, Computer Skills Training, and Resume Building Training.

Job Pathways
The IWCC Get Certified Program is designed to provide both industry standard training and Program Coordinator support to ensure that graduates have the skills needed to command a higher wage and that the Coordinator will assist with placement and support. Moreover, employer partners have helped create a pathway to interviews and hiring for program graduates.

Apprenticeship Program
The IWCC GET Certified program is not proposing a pre-apprenticeship program at this time.

Sustainable Practices
Through the generalConstruction and Deconstruction coursework curriculum, students will learn how to effectively dismantle and preserve materials and structures for reuse and recycling. Unlike traditional demolition techniques, deconstruction of Brownfield sites focus on carefully dismantling structures to mitigate the spread or release of hazardous materials, and also provides an opportunity to sustainably reuse or repurpose safe materials. Additionally, IWCC will make every effort to ensure that training supplies and training materials are created or secured from environmentally conscious sources and processes, and that the materials are recycled and reused throughout the program's lifespan, when appropriate.

Course Information Table

Course Name	Level of Training	Type of Certification	# of Hours	Start Date - End Date	Course Frequency	Training Provider	Total Cost of Course	% of Grant
Asbestos Abatement Worker Training - Asbestos M.A.P	Advanced	Federal OSHA Certificate of Completion	32	March 2025 - Oct 2028	2025 - 3 times 2026 - 3 times 2027 - 3 times 2028 - 3 times	New Horizon	$69,600	15%

OSHA Lead Awareness	Awareness	Federal OSHA Certificate of Completion	2	March 2025 - Oct 2028	2025 - 3 times 2026 - 3 times 2027 - 3 times 2028 - 3 times	New Horizon	$9,000	2%
HAZWOPER 40	Intermediate	Federal OSHA Certificate of Completion	40	March 2025 - Oct 2028	2025 - 3 times 2026 - 3 times 2027 - 3 times 2028 - 3 times	OSHA Education Center (Online)	$23,520	5%
OSHA 10-Hour General Industry	Awareness	Federal OSHA 10 Card from U.S. DOL	10	March 2025 - Oct 2028	2025 - 3 times 2026 - 3 times 2027 - 3 times 2028 - 3 times	IWCC	$21,600	4%
OSHA Hazard Communication	Intermediate	Federal OSHA Certificate of Completion	2	March 2025 - Oct 2028	2025 - 3 times 2026 - 3 times 2027 - 3 times 2028 - 3 times	New Horizon & IWCC	$9,000	2%
		Totals:	***86 Hours / Session 258 Hours / Year 1032 Hours / Program***		***12 Total Offerings***		***$132,720***	***28%***

3. Budget

	Budget Category	Outreach, Recruitment & Retention	Instruction & Training	Program Management	Placement & Tracking	Total
Direct Costs	Personnel	$20,069	$46,827	$46,827	$20,069	$133,790
	Room Rental		$9,600			$9,600
	Travel		$4,150	$4,150		$8,300
	Contractual		$132,720			$132,720
	Supplies		$52,000			$52,000
	Student Stipend	$96,000				$96,000
	Drug Screening	$5,280				$5,280
	Marketing /Ads	$18,000				$18,000
	Admin Costs	$6,967	$12,265	$2,549	$1,003	$22,784
Total Direct Costs		$146,316	$257,562	$53,526	$21,072	$478,474
Indirect Costs		$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total Budget		$146,316	$257,562	$53,526	$21,072	**$478,474**

Budget Descriptions

Personnel Costs listed include 40% of the costs to hire a full-time, salaried Program Coordinator to create, develop, and manage the IWCC GET Certified program, as well as recruit, retain, track and evaluate students. The proposed budget amount of $133,790 includes 40% of 5 years of Program Coordinator salary costs. This position has already been approved by the IWCC Cabinet and IWCC commits to fund the remainder of this position during and full amount after this proposed grant period ends. (See attached Letter of Support).

Room Rental fees totaling $9,600 include payments for room usage to deliver the training. Annually, this budgeted line will cost $2,400, or $800 per session (3 annually).

Travel to and from brownfield conferences for the Program Coordinator, and GET Certified Program Team (2 other IWCC staff members) and will total $8,300, or $691.67 per person, per year (3 team members x 4 years).

Contractual Fees of $132,720 includes the contract with New Horizons to deliver the training sessions to program students. Please see GET Certified Training Program Table on Pages 5 - 6 of this Narrative for specific costs for each course. Total costs of contracted fees ($132,720) break down to $1,383 per student, per session.

Supplies to deliver the training and provide personal protection equipment (Safety glasses, gloves, hard hats, earplugs, respirators, and steel-toed boots in compliance with OSHA safety standards) and equipment (air quality monitors, noise level meters, chemical detection kits, water testing kits, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, spill containment supplies, and eye wash stations) to every student (totals $52,000, which equates to $541.67 per student, per session.

Student Stipends of $1,000 per enrolled student (96) totalling $96,000 over the grant period.

Drug Screening will cost $55 per student, totaling $5,280 over the course of the grant period.

Marketing for program student recruitment will focus on targeted social media advertisements and will cost $1,500 per session, per year and total $18,000 for the entire grant period.

Administrative costs which assist in funding some of IWCC costs associated with program delivery, totaling $22,785 over the grant period, or $5,312 per year, for the first four (4) years, and $1,913 during year five (5).

Approach, Procedure, and Controls

Each of the costs outlined in the proposed project Budget are based on actual fees of the training courses from OSHA advertised and communicated to training partners, actual fees of trainers to deliver the training, an estimated cost basis for supplies, actual drug screening costs, predetermined advertising budgets set for digital social media marketing, and estimated costs for administrative costs to deliver the proposed program.

4. Program Structure, Anticipated Outputs, and Outcomes

4A. Outputs and Outcomes

Overall # Of Participants Enrolled	# of Graduates	# of Graduates Placed in Env. Positions	Average Anticipated Wage for Graduates
96	76 (80%)	69 (90%)	$27.86 (Council Bluffs, IA)[1] $28.09 (Omaha, NE)[2]

[1]https://workforce.iowa.gov

[2] https://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/news-release/occupationalemploymentandwages_omaha.htm

Outcomes from the IWCC GET Certified Program include creating a larger workforce to aid in the Brownfields site cleanups that Council Bluffs and others have committed to addressing, creating a more highly trained construction workforce that have increased opportunities for gainful employment, creating more highly trained workers capable of securing higher wages, and improve the overall environmental and community health by removing hazardous materials sites and creating opportunity for new economic growth and workforce opportunities for the target area and communities.

The Program Coordinator will be tasked with overseeing evaluation of the proposed program. After each training session, the Program Coordinator will survey students from previous training sessions to determine their job placement status, wages, and overall quality of life held by the program graduates. The Program Coordinator will continue to evaluate outcomes of program graduates for an additional year after the grant period of this proposed project. Short-term outputs and outcomes include reaching 100% of enrollment goals and 80% graduation rate goals. Long-term outcomes include 90% of graduates securing gainful job placement with a sustainable living wage. The proposed timeline is designed to move students through the curriculum quickly to expedite the pathway to job placement and reduce the amount of time the students spend in training and not employed.

4B. Recruitment, Screening, and Retention

Recruitment

Prospective students will be recruited through a variety of targeted and general marketing techniques. IWCC will utilize traditional newspaper print ads describing the opportunity. Many individuals from underserved populations, like recently incarcerated individuals, veterans, and un/under-employed community members may not have access to television or the internet and would not be impacted by digital marketing efforts. Additionally, IWCC plans to develop and send press releases about the program to media partners and local press. These news outlets broadcast over antenna television waves and are more likely to be viewed by individuals who rely on low or no-cost television options due to un/under-employment situations or recently incarcerated community members. Digital marketing will include targeted social media ads. These ads will target individuals that social media marketing platforms identify as under or unemployed, veterans, formerly incarcerated, and individuals with little to no advanced education.

The program will also be marketed to prospective students through established channels such as the IWCC Education to Employment program, and community partners like the HSAC, IowaWorks, Goodwill Enterprises, New Visions, and Heartland Workforce Solutions.

Trusted Community-based Organizations
Goodwill Enterprises, New Visions, and Heartland Workforce Solutions will play a crucial role by allowing us to engage directly with their clients through informational sessions and targeted outreach efforts. We will collaborate with them to distribute marketing materials, such as flyers and brochures, within their networks. Additionally, their staff will provide valuable referrals and endorsements, enhancing our program's visibility and credibility. This cooperative approach ensures that we reach potential students who are already seeking opportunities for skill development and career advancement.

Screening
The screening approaches utilized in this proposed program will mirror the successful approach used in the existing workforce development program, IWCC Education 2 Employment program. Prospective students will complete a comprehensive application for the program. Once completed, IWCC Pathway Navigators (job pathway and placement specialists already on staff) will interview applicants to ensure that they understand the curriculum, purpose, schedule, expectations, and process of the proposed IWCC Get Certified Program. If the applicant student is deemed a good fit for the program, they will be asked to participate in a minimum physical activity evaluation (stretching, lifting and balance) to ensure they can effectively participate and complete the training and effectively work in the hazardous material construction field. Additionally, prospective students will be asked to complete a Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) test to evaluate their current skill level. This test will not be a barrier to enrollment, but will assist IWCC in evaluating the individual level of support a student may need to ensure success. Finally, prospective students must successfully pass an initial drug screening for admission to the program.

Retention
Retention of students in the IWCC GET Certified program, developed from actual feedback from IWCC students enrolled in other training programs in the past, include providing every enrolled program student with stipends of $1,000 per student per session, access to public transportation passes, all necessary supplies and personal protection safety equipment (more details in Budget Description), and Program Coordinator support from recruitment through job placement.

Accessibility
This program will alleviate the financial burden by using awarded grant funding to provide the training at no cost to the student. Moreover, the location of the training is anticipated to be held at the IWCC campus, which is located on major public transportation lines to/from Omaha, NE and Council Bluffs, IA. Additionally, IWCC offers a student assistance program that provides free public transportation passes through the Education 2 Employment program. Finally, the provided $1,000 stipend that each student receives can be used to enhance accessibility to the program and ensure retention through reliable transportation.

4C. Program Support for Job Placement

Job Support System
The IWCC GET Certified Program will rely on both community partners and IWCC internal job readiness and placement programs with a proven track record of success to ensure an effective job

support system is in place for graduates of the program. IWCC Pathway Navigators in collaboration with the GET Certified Program Coordinator in stewarding relationships with local employers, providing training support in ensuring the job readiness of the program students through resume, interviewing and other job placement skills, and will continue to track the placement of program students throughout the four (4) year grant-funded training period and one (1) year beyond, totaling five (5) years of job placement support and tracking.

Hiring Incentives
IWCC plans to use Local and federal hiring incentives to aid in the job placement of program graduates. IWCC administers the Iowa Industrial New Jobs (260E) program that assists local companies in expanding their workforce and can connect IWCC GET Certified graduates with new industries and provide related training needed to intersect their OSHA training with industry-specific training, at no cost to the employer. Additionally, the High Quality Jobs program administered by the Iowa Economic Development Authority provides financial assistance to companies to locate, expand or modernize an Iowa facility. These jobs created through this program are defined as high-quality by Iowa State statute. Other opportunities like Empower Rural Iowa Initiative, Veteran Hiring Programs, and Iowa Employer Innovation Fund are all hiring incentive programs that IWCC anticipates marketing to potential employers. IWCC has multiple departments tasked to promote tax incentive programs by highlighting how these incentives can offset the costs of employee training and development. IWCC closely collaborates with Economic Developers and Chambers in the region who are also promoting these incentives.

The IWCC GET Certified Program Coordinator will follow-up with program graduates, through phone calls or text messaging, once per quarter for one-year after job placement. This job placement tracking will continue for one (1) year following the end of the training programs provided through this proposed grant project.

4D. Program Sustainability

Upon successful award of this proposed grant project, IWCC will work with a variety of community partners to develop a sustainability plan to continue this important environmental training program. IWCC believes that after the first training session is complete in 2025, the impact, outcomes, and output will be measurably compelling to local employers, invested funders, city and community organizations. It is anticipated that the IWCC cabinet will commit to the longevity of the program beyond these proposed grant funds. Additionally, IWCC will develop a plan to continue job placement support, tracking of program graduates, and channels for program graduates to maintain earned certifications.

5. Partnerships

Partner	Partner Contact	Partner Type	Partner Organization Mission	Partner Commitments
New Horizons Enterprise	Stephanie Isaacson President	Environmental Job Readiness	New Horizons Enterprises provides quality environmental management and contracting services along with demolition throughout the US.	Contractual instruction partner to deliver comprehensive, OSHA-approved training to GET Certified students.
Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce + The 712 Initiative	Chris LaFeria President & CEO	Community	Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce + The 712 Initiative is committed to advancing economic growth and workforce opportunities for the broader Council Bluffs.	General support, and guidance in job pipeline development
Impact 7G	Jon Reis Senior Project Manager	Environmental Employer	The goal of Impact 7G is to provide clients with objective data, field services, and analysis to help them meet their environmental planning, due diligence, permitting, and compliance needs.	As the City of Council Bluffs' QEP for the city's brownfield assessment and cleanup grants, Impact7G has committed to interviewing and creating a pathway to employment.
City of Council Bluffs	Courtney Harter Director Community Development	Environmental Community	To continuously improve the quality of life and attractiveness of the City of Council Bluffs.	General Support Brownfield Cleanup Grant recipient, assist in pathways to employment.
Iowa*WORKS*	Randall McQueeney Regional Manager	Job Readiness	Iowa*WORKS*, a proud partner of the American Job Center network, powers Iowa's possibilities by connecting job seekers to opportunities and employers to workforce solutions.	Provide skills training, resume writing and interview skills along with providing supportive services under WIOA legislation to aid in successful completion of this program.
Iowa State University Extension, West Pottawattamie	Kerry Aistrope Regional Director	Community	ISUEO builds a strong Iowa by engaging all Iowans in research, education, and extension experiences to address current and emerging real-life challenges.	General support, and guidance in job pipeline development
Iowa Workforce Development Vocational Rehabilitation Services	Dr. James Williams, CRC, ACAS	Employer Job Readiness	The VRS division is an employment program for individuals who experience a disability to help Iowans prepare for, obtain, keep, and advance in employment.	General Support Recruitment Assistance Job Placement Guidance

New Visions Homeless Services	Shawn Miller CEO	Community Job Readiness	To "provide help, hope, and opportunity for those experiencing hunger and homelessness in the Council Bluffs and Omaha metro."	General Support in job readiness guidance and possible recruitment.

5A. Collaboration with Environmental Entities

IWCC has been collaborating with New Horizons, Impact 7G, and the City of Council Bluffs to act as committed environmental partners in the GET Certified Program.
New Horizons, a national provider of environmental training, will deliver the industry-standard OSHA and hazardous materials training to program students. They have committed to providing all course training listed in this grant for three (3) sessions per year, totaling twelve (12) sessions over the course of 4 years.

Impact 7G is able to provide guest speakers to present to students, and provide environments for real on-the-job training learning opportunities. Additionally, Impact 7G has agreed to interview interested graduate applicants to help create a high quality job pathway.

IWCC collaborates with the City of Council Bluffs in many different ways. For the purpose of this program, the City, as the recipient of both Brownfield Assessment and Brownfield Clean Up Grants, will be critical partners in the success of the GET Certified Program. IWCC will leverage its strong partnerships with local Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development organizations to strategically place GET Certified graduates in communities throughout the region. By collaborating closely with these entities, IWCC ensures that its programs align with the environmental needs of local industries, creating a pipeline of skilled workers ready to meet the demands of the region.

5B. Collaboration with Job-Readiness/Life Skills

IWCC will collaborate with IowaWORKS, Iowa Workforce Development Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and New Visions Homeless Services to aid in delivering and supporting the growth of curriculum to include job readiness skills and training in Resume Building, Interview Skills, and other life skills not included in the coursework curriculum supported by this grant opportunity.

IowaWORKS has committed to assist IWCC with skills training to include resume writing and interview skills, along with providing supportive services for any Youth, Adult, and/or Dislocated Worker under WIOA legislation to aid in their successful completion of this program. Moreover, IWCC will collaborate with Goodwill Enterprises to deliver Computer Training to enhance the skills of the program students.

5C. Collaboration with Community

IWCC partners with twenty-six (26) SE Iowa area High Schools in recruiting students. These partnerships provide much of the student recruitment for IWCC. Iowa State University Extension is also a trusted community partner that can aid in a possible pipeline of recruit students in need of

remedial coursework. Additionally, IWCC will partner with Heartland Family Services, Micah House (homeless family shelter), and Heartland Workforce Solutions.

IWCC will work with these high schools and other community partners that have not yet provided a letter of support, to market the program to their members, stakeholders and constituents throughout the grant period.

5D. Collaboration with Employers

Impact 7G, the qualified party responsible for both the EPA grant-funded Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup efforts, has discussed creating a pathway to employment for program graduates through interviewing graduate applicants of the GET Certified Program. Additionally, it is anticipated that Impact 7G can facilitate guest speakers presentations to students, as well as provide environments for on-the-job training opportunities. The City of Council Bluffs and Impact 7G have committed to cleanup target area Brownfield sites, and with the documented need for training workers, will sustain strong pathways to employment. Iowa Workforce Development Vocational Rehabilitation Services has also discussed assisting in the pipeline of both prospective student recruitment and identifying employment opportunities through their vast network of collaborative employer partners. The Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce has also discussed the ability to create job pathways and employment opportunities through communications with its business members and funnels to local job boards. All Employer partners are anticipated to present information to students and provide real-world learning opportunities in a variety of environments.

6. Leveraging

The only Leveraged funding required for this project is the costs associated with fulfilling the reminder of Personnel Costs for the Program Coordinator and the costs to provide Construction and Life Skills training. IWCC has fully committed to funding these budget items in the amount of $200,658 (secured) for Personnel and will work with other community partners/find funding in its budget to fund the other training curriculum totaling $25,600 (highly anticipated). Please see attached IWCC letter in the Narrative Attachments file.

7. Programmatic Capability

7A. Grant Management System

IWCC will partner with New Horizons to deliver the proposed grant-funded courses and will also draw from the vetted population of internal adjust instructors to assist in delivering this training curriculum in this program. Additionally, IWCC contracts with many other companies annually and has developed strong relationships with potential instructors, if needed.

IWCC has a long and well-documented history of successful grants management at the Federal, state, and local levels. The Program Coordinator, in collaboration with a dedicated IWCC grants manager, grants and contracts accountant, procurement specialist, and research analyst will work with grant administrators to provide strategic oversight of the post-award management process. This model

ensures that awarded funds will be utilized per Federal Uniform Guidance while supporting the intended goals of this initiative.

7B. Organizational Experience

IWCC has proudly served the greater Council Bluffs, IA and Omaha, NE communities since 1966 and offers more than 80 education programs in Career / Technical Education and Liberal Arts. The Division of Business and Community Education at IWCC provides training and education services to over 8,000 students annually and has over 200,000 in-contact hours. IWCC has provided related environmental training in the past. This curriculum included OSHA 10 General Industry, Lead Awareness, and HAZWOPER 40 training courses.

7C. Past Performance and Accomplishments

ii. Iowa Western Community College has not received an EPA Brownfields job Training Grant within the last 10 years, but has received other Federal grants for job training and workforce development.

In October 2023, IWCC was awarded the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Infrastructure Grant as a passthrough subrecipient of Iowa Workforce Development (IWD). IWD is a state agency that provides services to both job seekers and employers and routinely focuses their efforts on the expansion of workforce training programs within the State of Iowa. This funding was to provide Iowa Community Colleges with the support needed to build, purchase, and remodel their current CDL training infrastructure. The Federal funds received has allowed IWCC to generate new opportunities for its current CDL training program through the purchase of updated automatic transmission vehicles as well as critical infrastructure repairs to its closed training course. IWCC has remained committed to the timely execution of the program's work plan and schedule, as well as the terms and conditions of the grant. All listed equipment, including three trailers and two trucks have been purchased. IWCC has worked closely with the assigned IWD program manager to operate within the procurement guidelines set forth within the awarded contract, as well as those outlined in Federal Uniform Guidance.

Additionally, the original program has been successfully expanded to IWCC's Harlan and Atlantic rural center locations. To date, Iowa Western has made significant progress toward achieving the expected results of the grant according to the original timeline set forth in the application. As of July 31st, 2024, 39 new truck drivers have successfully completed CDL training through IWCC. This is in line with the program's goal of 66 completions by November 1, 2024.

All quarterly progress reporting, claim reimbursement forms, and backup documentation have been submitted in accordance with the awarding agency's specific formatting guidelines in an accurate and timely manner. If required, additional follow-up and documentation has been provided to support the rationale related to specific costs incurred during the administration of this programming.

Iowa Western Community College
Green Environmental Training (GET) Certified Program

Eligibility Threshold Criteria

1. **Applicant Eligibility**

    a. Iowa Western Community College is eligible for this grant opportunity because it is a public institution of higher education and is exempt from Federal taxation under the Internal Revenue Code (see IRS Letter attachment).

2. **Coalition Agreement**

    Not Applicable - this application does not include non-lead coalition members.

3. **Demonstration of Non-Duplication**

    According to the available website lists of Federal agency grant programs maintained by the EPA, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences or Department of Labor, no other such federally funded brownfield training programs are currently offered to our target community. The following lists maintained by these federal agencies were consulted:

    EPA: www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-job-training-initiative
    EPA: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice
    NIEHS: www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/about_wetp/ecwtp/index.cfm
    DOL: www.dol.gov/general/grants/howto

    Iowa Western Community College is not listed on any of these websites as a recipient. IWCC is also not the recipient of other federally funded environmental or "green job" training programs serving the target community of the GET Certified Program.

4. **Required HAZWOPER Training**

    The proposed IWCC GET Certified Program includes OSHA 29 CFR § 1910.120 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training, and will be provided to all trainees in the proposed program. This information can be found in the Narrative on Pages 5 - 6.

5. **Federal Funds Requested and Estimated Project Period**

The requested funding amount for this project is $478,474 and the proposed project period is five (5) years.

6. **Substantial Conformity with Instructions and Format Requirements**

Iowa Western Community College will strive to substantially conform to the application submission instructions and format requirements set forth in this funding opportunity.

7. **Training Curriculum Chart Indicating the Cost of Each Course**

The Training Curriculum Chart is included in this application Narrative and can be found on Pages 5 - 6 of the attached Narrative.

8. **Target Area**

The Target Community served will be general community members, underemployed, unemployed, veterans, and members from the designated Disadvantaged Communities within the Target Area. This program population will include 96 students from these communities described.

The Target Area for the proposed Iowa Western Community College GET (Green Environmental Training) Certified program is centered around the City of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and North Omaha, NE, and will extend throughout its Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), known as the Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA MSA. Omaha, NE (Douglas County) and Council Bluffs, IA (Pottawattamie County). The majority of the target area within the Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA MSA, specifically Council Bluffs, IA and North Omaha, NE, is considered a Designated Disadvantaged Community according to the Justice40 (CEJST), and the Environmental and Climate Justice Program, EPA IRA Data 1.0 and EPA IRA Data 2.0 EJScreen map layers.

9. **Previous Funding Requirement**

Iowa Western Community College has received a Brownfields Job Training Grant from the EPA in 2012 that ended in 2016.

10. **Expenditure of Existing Brownfields Job Training Grant Funds**

Iowa Western Community College, the applicant, does not have an open EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant.

Iowa Western Community College
GET Certified Program
FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grant

Milestone Schedule

2024	
October	Potential Grant Award Notification
November	Hire Coordinator/Assign to EPA
December	Work with partners to prepare for training
2025	
January - February	Meet with training partners Recruitment process for new students
March - April	Conduct EPA Get Certified Program #1 Host Interviews with employers
April - ongoing	Graduates secure employment through Project Coordinator and Education 2 Employment Team, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
April - June	Meet with training partners Recruitment process for new students
June - July	Conduct EPA Get Certified Program #2 Host Interviews with employers, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
July - August	Graduates secure employment through Project Coordinator and Education 2 Employment Team, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
August - September	Meet with training partners Recruitment process for new students
October	Conduct EPA Get Certified Program #3 Host Interviews with employers, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
November - ongoing	Graduates secure employment through Project Coordinator and Education 2 Employment Team, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
2026	
January - February	Meet with training partners Recruitment process for new students
March - April	Conduct EPA Get Certified Program #4 Host Interviews with employers

April - ongoing	Graduates secure employment through Project Coordinator and Education 2 Employment Team
April - June	Meet with training partners Recruitment process for new students
June - July	Conduct EPA Get Certified Program #5 Host Interviews with employers, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
July - August	Graduates secure employment through Project Coordinator and Education 2 Employment Team, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
August - September	Meet with training partners Recruitment process for new students
October	Conduct EPA Get Certified Program #6 Host Interviews with employers, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
November - ongoing	Graduates secure employment through Project Coordinator and Education 2 Employment Team, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
2027	
January - February	Meet with training partners Recruitment process for new students
March - April	Conduct EPA Get Certified Program #7 Host Interviews with employers, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
April - ongoing	Graduates secure employment through Project Coordinator and Education 2 Employment Team, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
April - June	Meet with training partners Recruitment process for new students
June - July	Conduct EPA Get Certified Program #8 Host Interviews with employers, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
July - August	Graduates secure employment through Project Coordinator and Education 2 Employment Team, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
August - September	Meet with training partners Recruitment process for new students
October	Conduct EPA Get Certified Program #9 Host Interviews with employers, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
November - ongoing	Graduates secure employment through Project Coordinator and Education 2 Employment Team, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
2028	

January - February	Meet with training partners Recruitment process for new students
March - April	Conduct EPA Get Certified Program #10 Host Interviews with employers, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
April - ongoing	Graduates secure employment through Project Coordinator and Education 2 Employment Team, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
April - June	Meet with training partners Recruitment process for new students
June - July	Conduct EPA Get Certified Program #11 Host Interviews with employers, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
July - August	Graduates secure employment through Project Coordinator and Education 2 Employment Team, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
August - September	Meet with training partners Recruitment process for new students
October	Conduct EPA Get Certified Program #12 Host Interviews with employers, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
November - ongoing	Graduates secure employment through Project Coordinator and Education 2 Employment Team, Tracking and Evaluation occurs
2029	
January - December	Program Coordinator works to ensure graduates obtain and retain job placement
January - December	Program Coordinator continues to Track graduates and Evaluate the program

IOWA WESTERN

Office of the President
2700 College Road
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
712.325.3200 w 800.432.5852

US EPA
Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization
Mail Code 5105 T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants– Letter of Commitment / Leveraging

To whom this may concern:

On behalf of Iowa Western Community College, I would like to express our commitment to the IWCC GET Certified program proposed through this grant application. As a fully invested partner in ensuring our community's health, safety, and socioeconomic status is paramount, we are committed to funding the remaining portion of the costs associated with the supporting role of Program Coordinator, as well as supplemental life skills and general construction training we will provide alongside of the industry-standard training offered through this program. The projected costs that Iowa Western will cover for the program coordinator over the term of the grant is $200,685.32. Iowa Western will work with its partners in securing the cost of the construction training of $25,600.00.

We are excited for IWCC's pursuit of the Brownfield Job Training Grant. This is an important part of creating environmental equity for the community by improving public health and mitigating environmental degradation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted]

Sincerely,

Dr. Dan Kinney
President

NEW HORIZONS LLC

Innovative Building Solutions

July 9, 2024

US EPA
Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization
Mail Code 5105 T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants – Letter of Support

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of New Horizons Enterprise, LLC (New Horizons) I would like to express our support for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfields Job Training Grant. Under this grant, Iowa Western Community College will recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents of areas affected by the presence of Brownfield sites. Through the Brownfields JT Program, completers will develop the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field. These skills include sustainable cleanup and reuse, and chemical safety. These green jobs reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for communities.

New Horizons is an environmental consulting and contracting firm with offices in Kansas City, Missouri and Lincoln, Nebraska. We are excited to support Iowa Western Community College in the education of a workforce focused on providing skills needed for green jobs that reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for our community. We have already met with Iowa Western Community College to discuss best practices for developing a pipeline of unemployed and underemployed individuals within Council Bluffs and the surrounding area.

New Horizons will be supporting the Brownfields Job Training Grant in multiple ways. New Horizons will be providing training for those participating in the job training. New Horizons offers a variety of safety training. We will also be hiring qualified individuals once they have completed the program and can either travel or work from our current locations.

New Horizons is excited for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfield Job Training Grant. This is an important part of creating environmental equity for the community by improving public health and mitigating environmental degradation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted].

Sincerely,

Stephanie Isaacson
President
New Horizons Enterprises, LLC

Iowa Workforce Development

Kim Reynolds, Governor

Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

Beth Townsend, Executive Director

July 26, 2024

US EPA
Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization
Mail Code 5105 T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants– Letter of Support

To whom this may concern:

On behalf of Iowa*WORKS*, I would like to express our support for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfields Job Training Grant. Under this grant, Iowa Western Community College will recruit, train and place unemployed and under-employed residents of areas affected by the presence of brownfield sites. Through the Brownfields JT Program, completers will develop the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field. These skills include sustainable cleanup and reuse, and chemical safety. These green jobs reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for communities.

As an agency serving Iowans with unemployment and reemployment needs, we are excited to support Iowa Western Community College in the education of a workforce focused on providing skills needed for green jobs that reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for our community. We have already met with Iowa Western Community College to discuss best practices for developing a pipeline of unemployed and underemployed individuals within Council Bluffs and the surrounding area.

We believe that this is an opportunity for job seekers in Iowa to receive training and skills for jobs that serve their communities. We would also be happy to assist Iowa Western Community College with skills training to include resume writing and interview skills along with providing supportive services for any Youth, Adult, and/or Dislocated Worker under WIOA legislation to aid in their successful completion of this program.

Iowa*WORKS* is excited for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfield Job Training Grant. This is an important part of creating environmental equity for the community by improving public health and mitigating environmental degradation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted].

Sincerely,

Randall McQueeney, Regional Manager
Iowa*WORKS*

c.c. Teresa Larson-White, Title I Manager, Iowa*WORKS*

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US EPA
Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization
Mail Code 5105 T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants– Letter of Support

To whom this may concern:

On behalf of Goodwill Industries Inc. Serving Eastern NE and Southwest IA, I would like to express our support for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfields Job Training Grant. Under this grant, Iowa Western Community College will recruit, train and place unemployed and under-employed residents of areas affected by the presence of Brownfield sites. Through the Brownfields JT Program, completers will develop the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field. These skills include sustainable cleanup and reuse, and chemical safety. These green jobs reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for communities.

Since 1933, Goodwill Omaha has provided opportunities through a variety of employment programs, including YouthBuild AmeriCorps, Goodwill Works and Work Experience. We're also affiliated with the federal AbilityOne program, which provides jobs at federal facilities to people with severe disabilities. We are excited to support Iowa Western Community College in the education of a workforce focused on providing skills needed for green jobs that reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for our community. We have already met with Iowa Western Community College to discuss best practices for developing a pipeline of unemployed and underemployed individuals within Council Bluffs and the surrounding area.

Through a collaborative partnership between Goodwill Omaha and Iowa Western, individuals desiring to advance their career and develop necessary job skills will have a solid continuum of support and opportunity.

Goodwill Industries Inc. Serving Eastern NE and Southwest IA is excited for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfield Job Training Grant. This is an important part of creating environmental equity for the community by improving public health and mitigating environmental degradation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted].

Sincerely,

Tobi Mathhouser
President & CEO

Goodwill
Serving Eastern Nebraska and Southwest Iowa
4805 N. 72nd Street, Omaha, NE 68134 | 402.341.4609
GoodwillOmaha.org

149 W Broadway | Council Bluffs, IA 51503

7/15/2024

US EPA
Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization
Mail Code 5105 T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants– Letter of Support

To whom this may concern:

On behalf of Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce + The 712 Initiative, I would like to express our support for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfields Job Training Grant. Under this grant, Iowa Western Community College will recruit, train and place unemployed and under-employed residents of areas affected by the presence of brownfield sites. Through the Brownfields JT Program, completers will develop the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field. These skills include sustainable cleanup and reuse, and chemical safety. These green jobs reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for communities.

Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce + The 712 Initiative is committed to advancing economic growth and workforce opportunities for its members and the broader Council Bluffs community through strategic initiatives, collaborative partnerships, and proactive advocacy efforts. We are excited to support Iowa Western Community College in the education of a workforce focused on providing skills needed for green jobs that reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for our community. We have already met with Iowa Western Community College to discuss best practices for developing a pipeline of unemployed and underemployed individuals within Council Bluffs and the surrounding area.

It's vital to this community that there is a skilled workforce that meets industry demands. Chamber businesses will continue to have a prepared, robust pipeline with grant opportunities like this EPA Grant.

Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce + The 712 Initiative is excited for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfield Job Training Grant. This is an important part of creating environmental equity for the community by improving public health and mitigating environmental degradation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted].

Sincerely,

Chris LaFerla, President and CEO
Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce + The 712 Initiative

c.c. Rachel Jensen, Director of Workforce Development,
Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce + The 712 Initiative

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Kerry Aistrope
Iowa State University Extension West
Pottawattamie County
126 E Broadway. Suite 2
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
Phone: 712-366-7070
E-mail: aistrope@iastate.edu
https://www.extension.iastate.edu/westpottawattamie/

July 12, 2024

US EPA
Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization
Mail Code 5105 T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants– Letter of Support

To whom this may concern:

On behalf of Iowa State University Extension West Pottawattamie County, I would like to express our support for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfields Job Training Grant. Under this grant, Iowa Western Community College will recruit, train and place unemployed and under-employed residents of areas affected by the presence of brownfield sites. Through the Brownfields JT Program, completers will develop the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field. These skills include sustainable cleanup and reuse, and chemical safety. These green jobs reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for communities.

Iowa State University Extension West Pottawattamie County offers workplace skill certification programs as well as continuing education opportunities for those interested in environmental stewardship. Thus, we are excited to support Iowa Western Community College in the education of a workforce focused on providing skills needed for green jobs that reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for our community. We have already met with Iowa Western Community College to discuss best practices for developing a pipeline of unemployed and underemployed individuals within Council Bluffs and the surrounding area.

Iowa State University Extension's Strategic Vision and Direction identifies three areas of focus for our external programming for the next five years:

- Empowering Resilient and Thriving People and Communities
- Promoting Entrepreneurial and Innovative Agricultural and Food Systems
- Fostering Adaptive and Sustainable Natural and Built Environments

Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfields Job Training Grant compliments the strategic vision and direction of Iowa State University Extension and adds value to the partnership that exists currently between both educational institutions.

Iowa State University Extension West Pottawattamie County is excited for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfield Job Training Grant. This is an important part of creating environmental equity for the community by improving public health and mitigating environmental degradation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted].

Sincerely,
Kerry Aistrope, Regional Director
ISU Extension West Pottawattamie

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext.

July 18, 2024

US EPA
Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization
Mail Code 5105 T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants– Letter of Support

To whom this may concern:

On behalf of the City of Council Bluffs, I would like to express our support for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfields Job Training Grant. Under this grant, Iowa Western Community College will recruit, train and place unemployed and under-employed residents of areas affected by the presence of brownfield sites. Through the Brownfields JT Program, completers will develop the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field. These skills include sustainable cleanup and reuse, and chemical safety. These green jobs reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for communities.

The City utilizes their partners, including Advance Southwest Iowa (ASWIC) and the Chamber of Commerce for business attraction and retention. We are also excited to support Iowa Western Community College in the education of a workforce focused on providing skills needed for green jobs that reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for our community. We have already met with Iowa Western Community College to discuss best practices for developing a pipeline of unemployed and underemployed individuals within Council Bluffs and the surrounding area.

The City has a history of successfully implementing EPA Brownfields Grants through Assessment and Cleanup Grants. The City has seen the benefits from these grants and we anticipate similar outcomes from this project that also benefit the community.

The City of Council Bluffs is excited for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfield Job Training Grant. This is an important part of creating environmental equity for the community by improving public health and mitigating environmental degradation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted].

Sincerely,

City of Council Bluffs – Department and/or Division Name
209 Pearl Street | Council Bluffs, IA 51503 | (712) 890-5100 | councilbluffs-ia.gov
Equal Opportunity Employer

Courtney Harter
Director, Community Development
City of Council Bluffs

Iowa Workforce Development
Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Kim Reynolds, Governor
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor
Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development
James Williams, Administrator

July 20, 2024

US EPA
Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization
Mail Code 5105 T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants– Letter of Support

To whom this may concern:

On behalf of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS), I would like to express our support for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfields Job Training Grant. Under this grant, Iowa Western Community College will recruit, train and place unemployed and under-employed residents of areas affected by the presence of brownfield sites. Through the Brownfields JT Program, completers will develop the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field. These skills include sustainable cleanup and reuse, and chemical safety. These green jobs reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for communities.

As the vocational rehabilitation agency responsible for helping Iowans with disabilities obtain competitive, integrated employment, we are excited to support Iowa Western Community College in the education of a workforce focused on providing skills needed for green jobs that reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for our community. We have already met with Iowa Western Community College to discuss best practices for developing a pipeline of unemployed and underemployed individuals within Council Bluffs and the surrounding area.

We believe partnering with organizations like IWCC, helps us ensure that Iowans with disabilities receive as much support as possible to reach their workforce goals.

IVRS is excited for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfield Job Training Grant. This is an important part of creating environmental equity for the community by improving public health and mitigating environmental degradation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted].

Sincerely,

James Williams

Dr. James Williams, CRC, ACAS
Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Iowa Workforce Development

July 10, 2024

US EPA
Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization
Mail Code 5105 T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants-Letter of Support

To whom this may concern:

On behalf of New Visions Homeless Services (NVHS), I would like to express our support for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfields Job Training Grant. Under this grant, Iowa Western Community College will recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents of areas affected by the presence of brownfield sites. Through the Brownfields JT Program, completers will develop the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field. These skills include sustainable cleanup and reuse, and chemical safety. These green jobs reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for communities.

NVHS recently built a resource center on our Council Bluffs campus where we offer a variety of trainings, educational classes, recovery groups, and a Pathways to Employment class focusing on workforce development and resume building. Iowa Western Community College has been a key collaborative partner offering support through the Education to Employment Program and opportunities for the individuals we serve to enroll in their welding and culinary certification programs.

We are excited to support Iowa Western Community College in the education of a workforce focused on providing skills needed for green jobs that reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for our community. We have already met with Iowa Western Community to discuss best practices for developing a pipeline of unemployed and underemployed individuals within Council Bluffs and the surrounding area.

The Brownfields JT Program will be instrumental in providing workforce development and employment opportunities for our marginalized and underserved neighbors in the Council Bluffs community and Southwest Iowa, empowering them to rise above their circumstances and allowing them to have a meaningful connection to their community.

NVHS is excited for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfield Job Training Grant. This is an important part of creating environmental equity for the community by improving public health and mitigating environmental degradation. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted]

Sincerely,

Shawn Miller
Chief Operating Officer
New Visions Homeless Services

NEW VISIONS
HOMELESS SERVICES

MAIN OFFICE
1435 N 15th St.
Council Bluffs, IA 51501
712-256-3940

OMAHA CAMPUS
1425 N. 18th St.
Omaha, NE. 68102
402-505-3523

www.newvisionshs.org

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United Way
United Way
of the Midlands

July 10, 2024

US EPA
Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization
Mail Code 5105 T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants– Letter of Support

To whom this may concern:

On behalf of Impact7G, I would like to express our support for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfields Job Training Grant. Under this grant, Iowa Western Community College will recruit, train and place unemployed and under-employed residents affected by the presence of brownfield sites. Through the Brownfields JT Program, completers will develop the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field. These skills include sustainable cleanup and reuse, and chemical safety. These green jobs reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable communities.

Impact7G is a comprehensive environmental services provider. We offer a diverse suite of professional environmental services in the industry. Our team is comprised of environmental scientists, planners, geologists, biologists, foresters, drillers, GIS analysts, and regulatory specialists. We are excited to support Iowa Western Community College in the education of a workforce focused on providing skills needed for green jobs that reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for our community. We have already met with Iowa Western Community College to discuss best practices for developing a pipeline of unemployed and underemployed individuals within Council Bluffs and the surrounding area.

Impact7G, has been the City of Council Bluffs' Qualified Environmental Professional for the city's brownfield assessment and cleanup grants. This has provided Impact7G with firsthand knowledge of the need for brownfields remediation professionals within the area.

Impact7G is excited for Iowa Western's pursuit of the Brownfield Job Training Grant. This is an important part of creating environmental equity for the community by improving public health and mitigating environmental degradation.

Sincerely,

Jon Reis

Jon Reis
Impact7G
Senior Project Manager
Office: [redacted] · Mobile: [redacted]