



CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

**Date:** 12/18/12

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager

**Through:** Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager

**From:** Kevin Dick, Director of Economic and Workforce Development  
Nicholas McCoy, Senior Workforce Development Manager

**Subject:** U.S Environmental Protection Agency Employment and Training 2012-2015  
Grant Project Ordinance

### **Executive Summary**

This item recommends acceptance of a \$199,998.00 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Job Training grant and passage of its 2012-2015 Grant Project Ordinance.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that City Council authorize the City Manager to accept the EPA job training grant by adopting the U.S Environmental Protection Agency Employment and Training 2012-2015 Grant Project Ordinance in the amount of \$199,998.00.

### **Background**

To date, the City has received 5 EPA Brownfield grants which are focused on Northeast Central Durham (NECD) region. Durham has received two Brownfield Assessment Grants (2006, 2009) and a total of three Job Training grants (2008, 2010, 2012). These grants have been pivotal in helping the City and its collaborative partners provide related job training opportunities to area residents as a primary strategy in redeveloping NECD area properties and community-wide revitalization.

From inception to date, the EPA job training program has accomplished the following:

- Trained 132 residents in “Environmental Technology” skill-sets
- Graduated 111 participants
- Placed 78 (70%) of participants in employment, with the vast majority gaining employment in fields directly related to their training.

## **Issues/Analysis**

On June 23, 2012, the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) received formal notification from the U.S. EPA that the 2012 “Environmental Workforce Development & Job Training Grant” application submitted by the City was awarded in the amount of \$199,998.00 for 2012-2015.

The 2012- 2015 training program’s primary outcomes, outputs, and goals are as follows:

- Recruit and screen up to 120 residents from NECD and the surrounding area to receive the training and technical skills needed to competitively seek employment in environmentally-related career
- Implement a training program that directly solicits input from and meets the needs of local and regional environmental related businesses and markets
- Provide certifications and technical skills training that will enable program graduates to competitively seek employment in related job markets
- Provide at least 75 residents (25 per cycle) from target area with job training skills in environmental technology between *October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2015*
- Conduct three (3) training cycles at 240 hours per cycle
- Maintain a retention rate of 80% during the training period
- Ensure 70% minimum job placement rate of graduates upon completion
- Assist graduates to connect to jobs created by EPA assessment/cleanup
- Track graduates of the program for a minimum of 12 months from the date of completion of the training program

The funds awarded for this job training grant are aligned with the vision(s) and objectives of the Durham City Council, Durham Workforce Development Board, and the U.S. EPA, as they relate to engaging under/unemployed adults and at-risk/transitional youth in training and providing coordinated employment opportunities to support “a strong and diverse economy”.

## **Alternatives**

Council may choose to not approve the Grant Project Ordinance or may choose to approve specific line items within the Grant Project Ordinance.

If Council chooses not to approve the Grant Project Ordinance, OEWD would have a lower operating budget and be less able to implement the employment and training objectives outlined in the Issues/Analysis section.

## **Financial Impact**

EPA job training funds are federal dollars received and administered by OEWD. Funding or not funding this item will have no impact on the City’s general fund. EPA authorizes the use of these funds to conduct workforce development activities within the County of Durham for 2012-2015.

## **SDBE Summary**

An SDBE summary is inapplicable because no project-specific goals have been set and no SDBE’s are involved in this item.

## **Attachments**

Attached: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Employment and Training 2012-2015 Grant Project Ordinance, 1 Page.