



CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

**Date:**           **October 7, 2014**

**To:**               **Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager**  
**Through:**       **Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager**  
**From:**           **Kevin Dick, Director of Economic and Workforce Development**  
**Esther Coleman, Workforce Development Senior Manager**  
**Subject:**        **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Workforce**  
**Development Job Training 2014-2017 Grant Project Ordinance**

**Executive Summary**

This item recommends the approval of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training 2014-2017 Grant Project Ordinance received on October 1, 2014, by the Durham Workforce Development Board/Office of Economic and Workforce Development in the amount of \$200,000.

**Recommendation**

To authorize the City Manager to accept the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training 2014-2017 Grant funds by executing the grant documents; and

To adopt the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training 2014-2017 Grant Project Ordinance in the amount of \$200,000.00.

**Background**

On October 1, 2014, OEWD staff received written notification from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the Environmental Workforce Development Job Training (EWDJT) award of \$200,000. The award is to be used for environmental training and placement services for unemployed and underemployed clients of Durham County with the target area of North East Central Durham (NECD).

To date, the City has received seven EPA Job Training and Assessment grants, which are focused on the NECD region. Durham has received three Brownfield Assessment Grants (2006, 2009, 2014) and a total of four Job Training grants (2008, 2010, 2012, 2014). These grants have been pivotal in helping the City and its collaborative partners provide related job training opportunities to area residents as a strategy in redeveloping NECD area properties and community-wide revitalization.

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

- Enrolled 210 residents in “environmental technology” training;
- Graduated 176 participants; and

- Placed 120 (68%) of participants in employment with the vast majority gaining employment in fields directly related to their training.

**Issues/Analysis**

In February of 2014, OEWD successfully applied to the EPA for the 2014-2017 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant. OEWD’s objective for this grant will be to recruit trainees from the NECD target communities with disproportionately high rates of unemployment and underemployment. The job training that Durham residents will receive will provide a linkage to employment within projects identified through EPA’s assessment grants, ongoing local area brownfield and construction projects, and those within other environmental firms and wastewater treatment. The design of the EWDJT training program incorporated a labor market assessment and direct input from local and regional environmental businesses to ensure that the certifications will be relevant to positions that are in demand within the environmental field.

The training will be offered in three cycles with 26-30 students per cycle. The certifications for the training program will include Asbestos Worker Abatement, Lead Worker Abatement, 10-Hour OSHA General Industry, 40-Hour HAZWOPER, Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator I, and First Aid and CPR. In addition to the certifications, training will be provided covering underground storage tanks, confined space training, Environmental Data Analysis, Field Testing, Technological Orientation and Awareness, and 24 hours in Human Resource Development or Job Readiness training will be provided see table below for information on the time devoted to each subject.

<b>Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training</b>	
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator	44 (Certificate)
40-Hour HAZWOPER	40 (Certificate)
Asbestos Worker Abatement	32 (Certificate)
Lead Worker Abatement	16 (Certificate)
Soil Water Management	16
Field Testing & Equipment	12
10- Hour OSHA General Industry	12 (Certificate)
Underground Storage Tanks	8
Confined Space Training	8
First Aid/CPR	8 (Certificate)
Technological Orientation and Awareness	8
Field Observation	8
Environmental Data Analysis	4
Human Resource Development/Job Readiness <b>(Non EPA Funded)</b>	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>

The 2014 funds received for the EWDJT grant will allow OEWD to provide 240 hours of training in the environmental field through a contracted training provider leading to six certifications for 80 trainees. OEWD plans to graduate a minimum of 65 of the trainees and to achieve a placement rate at or above 70% of those graduating.

Approval of this Grant Project Ordinance will allow OEWD to contract with a primary training provider for the purpose of conducting the training program for 80 Durham residents including 240

hours of training over twelve weeks within the environmental field and to provide assistance with placement.

**Alternatives**

Council may choose not to 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 would have less resource capacity to implement the training and employment objectives outlined in the Issues/Analysis section.

**Financial Impact**

EPA funds are federal dollars administered by OEWD. Funding or not funding this item will have no impact on the City's general fund.

**SDBE Summary**

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

**Attachments**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training 2014-2017 Grant Project Ordinance, 1 page.

Letter of Award Notification for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training 2014-2017 Grant dated September 24, 2014, 12 pages.