



The Fortune Society
BUILDING PEOPLE, NOT PRISONS

(17)-JT-05-R02

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February 24th, 2017

Schenine Mitchell
U.S. EPA Region 2
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Dear Ms. Mitchell,

Please find attached The Fortune Society's official submission under the FY17 U.S. EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant funding opportunity to obtain **\$200,000**. We are eager to continue our highly successful training program, funded in FY11, FY13, and FY15 by the EPA, which provides formerly-incarcerated jobseekers with certification-based trainings which helps them obtain employment in environmental jobs in New York City. Below is the required information for this EPA Transmittal Letter:

A. Applicant Identification: The Fortune Society, Inc. 29-76 Northern Boulevard Long Island City, NY 11101 DUNS Number: 13-2645436

B. Responses to the Eight (8) Threshold Eligibility Criteria: **a. Applicant Eligibility;** The Fortune Society (Fortune) is a non-profit organization with IRS 501(c)(3) status. **b. Demonstration that Proposed Project Does Not Duplicate Other Federally Funded Environmental Job Training Programs;** While Saint Nick's Alliance and the NJ/NY Hazardous Materials Worker Training Centers offer broad-based environmental trainings in the region, we are proposing the *only* environmental workforce training targeted exclusively to criminal justice-involved jobseekers, and the only training which provide additional locally-specific, hands-on training in urban agriculture, stormwater management, underground storage tank awareness. **c. Required HAZWOPER Training** We will provide the following required training: OSHA 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) as discussed on pages 3 & 4 of the Proposal Narrative for full details; **d. Federal Funds Requested;** Fortune is requesting \$200,000 in U.S. EPA funds for a 3-year grant period. **e. Substantial Conformity with Instructions and Format Requirements;** Fortune has adhered to the EPA guidelines in conforming with all instructions and formatting requirements. **f. Training Curriculum Chart Indicating the Cost of Each Course;** See pages 3 and 4 of the Proposal Narrative for Training Curriculum Chart. **g. Target Area and Proposal Submission Requirement;** Our Target Area is New York City, NY. Specifically, we will target the neighborhoods of South Bronx, Mid-Upper Manhattan, four Brooklyn neighborhoods, (Brownsville, Bedford-Stuyvesant, East New York, Crown Heights) and Jamaica, Queens. **h. Submission of Proposal.** The proposal is being submitted through Grants.gov on February 24th, 2017.

C. Grant Type: Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant

D. Location: New York City, NY

E. Contacts: **a.** Project Director: **Laura Senkevitch, Senior Director of Education and Training;** Phone: 718-517-7942; Fax: 212-633-6845; Email: lsenkevitch@fortunesociety.org; Mailing Address: The Fortune Society; 29-76 Northern Boulevard; Long Island City, NY 11101 **b.** Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Official: **JoAnne Page, President/CEO;** Phone: 347-510-3601; Fax: 212-633-6845; Email: jpage@fortunesociety.org; Mailing Address: The Fortune Society; 29-76 Northern Boulevard; Long Island City, NY 11101

F. Date Submitted: February 24th, 2017

G. Project Period: Upon award notification, we will immediately commence program operation for two years, using the third year for follow-up and evaluation.

H. Population: According to US census data, NYC is home to 8,426,743 residents. The unemployment rate is 9.5% (1.2% higher than the national average), and the poverty rate is 20.6% (5.1% higher than the national average).

I. Training: Environmental Awareness Training: (3 weeks: 105 hours)

- **Environmental Health and Safety (21 hour module):** This course provides an overview of hazardous materials, risk assessment, and **personal protective equipment (PPE)** and measures, as well as Federal, State, and City environmental regulations. Topics covered include CERCLA, interpreting material safety data sheets (MSDS), and calculating allowable levels of substances in the environment. The course will prepare students to complete **FEMA Independent Study online exam IS-5.A: An Introduction to Hazardous Materials**, which will result in a Certificate of Completion and Comprehension.
- **Urban Agriculture/Composting (14 hour module):** This course utilizes Fortune Society's urban roof garden to discuss and demonstrate the core concepts of the carbon, nitrogen, hydrological, and phosphorus cycles through hands-on experience with soil monitoring devices, composting containers, and rainwater harvesting. This course will expand the "Living Lab" concept through use of our community partner sites, including Smiling Hoghead Ranch, Brooklyn Grange, and Lower East Side Ecology Center.
- **Innovative Treatment Technology (21 hour module):** This course provides information about technical, financial, and practical factors to be considered when determining the appropriateness of innovative treatment technologies for application in various cleanup projects. The course provides a comprehensive overview of innovative liquid and solid treatment technologies, including bioremediation (using microorganisms and mushrooms), planting phytoremediation species, soil vapor extraction enhancements, thermal desorption, soil washing, air sparging, and the incorporation of renewable energies. This course will continue to incorporate another "Living Lab" that will include collaboration with partners involved in brownfield projects that border the Gowanus Canal and Newtown Creek. Partners assist in guided walking tours of the Gowanus Canal corridor to visit brownfield sites including the NYS Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) perimeter and the Gowanus Whole Foods construction site, which is a designated NYS BOA development; students will also have the opportunity to meet with various stakeholders in the Gowanus Canal Superfund process in order to learn of its significance to the community.
- **Underground Storage Tank (UST) Awareness (14 hour module):** This course provides an explanation of the UST regulations; identifies the differences between the UST and leaking UST programs; discusses financial responsibility; orients new users to the components of an UST system; and describes how inspectors can prepare for and conduct compliance inspections at typical UST sites. This course was taught utilizing UST materials provided by EPA's EWDJT annual conference in 2013. This module also includes site visits located in Long Island City's Special Mixed Use District's "e-designated" sites (known environmentally contaminated as designated by NYC) to put UST into perspective.
- **Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure (14 hour module):** This course is designed to teach the complexities of urban stormwater management through a combination of local case studies, hands on training, and site visits—a specific focus will be placed on understanding the connection between NYC's combined sewage outfall system and the need for local storm water retention installations, including, but not limited to bioswales and green/blue roof construction. The class will review case studies provided by our NYC Department of Environmental Protection's Green Infrastructure program and will have the opportunity to examine local bioswales, rainwater capture systems, and local wastewater treatment plants. We will continue to work with our partners at Newtown Creek Alliance to plan further hands-on training in green infrastructure installation.
- **Solid Waste Management, Assessment and Cleanup (21 hour module):** This course provides an introduction to solid waste management, assessment and cleanup. Topics of the course include landfill design, permitting processes, daily operations, groundwater monitoring, an overview of solid waste laws and regulations, solid waste assessment processes, and solid waste disposal and cleanup methods. It also includes an overview of U.S. EPA & U.S. DOT regulations for waste transportation packaging, placards, transportation documents (Manifest versus Bill of Lading). Other topics discussed will include Life Cycle Analysis principles, deconstruction and Construction Activity Pollution Prevention (CAPP) concepts as they relate to waste management. A portion of the module will also focus on deconstruction and re-use opportunities as this has yielded unique business opportunities for our local economy.

Environmental Advanced Technical Training: (3+ weeks: 136 hours)


- **OSHA HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – HAZWOPER (40 HOUR MODULE):** This course provides an overview on recognition and description of hazards present on a job site. Includes hazard communication on a waste site, different types and usage of personal protective equipment (PPE), decontamination procedures, preparing site safety and health plans, working area monitoring, material handling and sampling-permit

required confined spaces, and workers legal rights on a waste site. **Results in OSHA 40hr HAZWOPER Certification**

- **EPA LEAD RENOVATION, REPAIR, AND PAINTING (RRP) (8 HOUR MODULE):** This course was developed by the U.S. EPA, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to train renovation, repair, and painting contractors how to work safely in housing with lead-based paint and comply with EPA's Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Rule, and HUD's Lead Safe Housing Rule. Topics include: health risks of lead paint poisoning and sources of lead exposure, RRP rules and regulations, testing for lead-based paint, interior and exterior dust containment, worker protective equipment, cleaning activities, clearance testing, and disposal of abatement debris. **Results in EPA LEAD RRP Certification**
- **OSHA CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM (16 HOUR MODULE):** This course covers Occupational Safety and Health Standards required on a job site. Familiarity with Citation Policy Regarding 20 CFR 1926.20, 29 CFR 1926.21 and related general safety and health provisions. Occupational Health and Environmental Controls, Health Hazards in Construction, Personal Protective and Lifesaving Equipment, Fire Protection and Prevention, Materials Rigging, Storage, Use and Disposal, Tools/Hand and Power; Machine Guarding, Welding and Cutting, Electrical, Scaffolding, Fall Protection, Cranes Derricks, Hoists, Elevators and Conveyors. **Results in OSHA 10hr Construction Certification**
- **OSHA CONFINED SPACE (16 HOUR MODULE):** This course offers an introduction to the regulations and procedures of safety work in OSHA defined confined spaces. Recognition of hazards, health effects of exposure, testing procedures for atmospheric monitoring and legal liability. **Results in Confined Space Certification**
- **DISASTER SITE WORKER (16 HOUR MODULE):** This course will cover disaster site hazards and response, risk analysis, safety regulations, firefighting, rescue, chemical safety, bio-hazards, airborne contaminants, blood borne pathogens, personal protective equipment (PPE), respiratory protection use of SCBA, evidence collection and chain of custody, and decontamination operations and Incident Command System. **Results in Disaster Site Worker Certification**
- **ASBESTOS HANDLER NYS/NYC AND FEDERAL (32 HOUR MODULE):** Any person according to the New York State Industrial Code Rule (12NYCRR56) and Federal USEPA and USOSHA regulations employed on an asbestos project whose duties involve removal, encapsulation, application or enclosure of any asbestos material, or the disturbance of friable asbestos, must hold an Asbestos Handler Certificate. Course covers all aspects of the asbestos hazards; trainee is taught the specific procedures and how to apply them on a job site. Legal rights of the worker are also carefully described. Groups of students take part in discussions as well as in hands-on training. The course itself guides trainees through the variety of topics like: health effects of asbestos, medical surveillance, personal protective equipment, preparing the working area and setting up the decontamination unit, usage of negative pressure air filters, air monitoring and hazard communication regulations. **Results in NYS Asbestos Handler (Initial) and NYC Asbestos Handler (Initial) Certifications**
- **Global Hazard Communication (4 hour module):** This course covers the principles of Hazardous Communication System under OSHA Standards 29.CFR 1926.59 and 29.CFR 1919.1200. Emphasis is placed on safe chemical handling, MSDS preparation, label interpretation and hazard recognition. **Results in Global HazComm Certification.**
- **4-HOUR SCAFFOLD USER (4 HOUR MODULE):** This entry-level course is required for all individuals who will be on any supported scaffold. Students learn New York City and OSHA regulations, fall hazards, power lines, identification of top and middle rails, toe boards, proper protection equipment, and how to calculate maximum intended loads. **Results in 4-hr Scaffold User Certification.**

We hope that you will approve our request for this urgently needed EPA funding. Please feel free to contact me or our Project Manager, Laura Senkevitch, if there are any questions about our proposal.

Sincerely,


JoAnne Page, Esq.
President and CEO

SECTION 1. COMMUNITY NEED - A. Community Description: The Fortune Society (Fortune) is a New York City (NYC) - based nonprofit organization whose mission is to support successful reentry from incarceration, and promote alternatives to incarceration, thus strengthening the fabric of our communities. *Challenges confronting the target communities:* Everyone recruited for Fortune’s proposed US EPA - Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) program will be unemployed or underemployed, and will have a history of justice involvement. We will also actively recruit criminal justice-involved **veterans**. These individuals will represent a subset of Fortune’s general client population, who primarily reside in high-poverty, low-literacy neighborhoods that lack adequate connections to social service supports. According to data from the Justice Mapping Center, 54.5% of NYC adult males entering prison – and eventually returning to society – are residents of the South Bronx, Mid-Upper Manhattan, four Brooklyn neighborhoods, (Brownsville, Bedford-Stuyvesant, East New York, Crown Heights) and Jamaica, Queens.¹ The economic challenges facing our target community are compounded by environmental afflictions. These neighborhoods are home to three active US EPA Superfund sites - *Newtown Creek*, which spans Kings and Queens Counties, the *Gowanus Canal* in Kings County, and the *Wolff-Alport Chemical Company* in Queens County - as well as over 500 mostly vacant lots that are subject to the NYC Office of Environmental Remediation (OER)’s Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP). Furthermore, over 70% of the properties in the OER’s Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) are located in historically disadvantaged neighborhoods - such as Harlem, Washington Heights, the South Bronx, north and central Brooklyn². *Demographics and community need:* As noted in the following chart, the need for our proposed EWDJT program is clearly demonstrated by the high unemployment and poverty rates facing our proposed target community.

	New York City (Target Community)	NY State	National
Population:	8,426,743 ³	19,673,174	321,418,820 ⁴
Unemployment:	9.5% ⁵	8.2% ³	8.3% ⁶
Poverty Rate:	20.6% ⁷	15.7% ⁵	15.5% ⁸
Percent Minority:	56.7% ¹	35.4% ¹	26.4% ²
Median Household Income:	\$53,373 ⁹	\$59,269 ⁷	\$51,371 ⁴

Impact on residents: There is a clear link between the environmental, social, and economic injustices facing our target community. An in-depth study conducted by the NYC Department of Health found that, "Communities with higher concentrations of poverty have higher rates of health conditions sensitive to air pollution, making them more vulnerable to harm from a given level of exposure."¹⁰ Furthermore, using the EPA’s Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool, we found that the National Air Toxic Assessment (NATA) ranked our target communities in the 95th – 100th percentile for Air Toxics Cancer Risks, Respiratory Hazards, and Diesel PM.¹¹ Based on our current workforce development programs, we anticipate that 65% of participants of our proposed program will be African-American, and 31% will be Latino. This population experiences significantly higher rates of unemployment when compared to the general US population. According to the US Bureau of Labor

¹ Justice Mapping Center: <http://www.justiceatlas.org/>

² New York City Office of Environmental Remediation, About OER: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/oer/html/about-oer/about.shtml>.

³ 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, US Census Bureau, Detailed Race:

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

⁴ 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, US Census Bureau, Demographic and Housing Estimates:

https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP_2015_PEPANNRES&src=pt

⁵ 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, US Census Bureau, Employment Status:

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

⁶ 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, US Census Bureau, Selected Economic Characteristics:

https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_5YR_DP03&src=pt

⁷ 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, US Census Bureau, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months:

https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml

⁸ 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, US Census Bureau, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months:

https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_5YR_S1701&prodType=table

⁹ 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, US Census Bureau, Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2015 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars): <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

¹⁰ The New York City Community Air Survey: Newneighborhood Air Quality 2008 - 2014. April 2016

<http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/environmental/comm-air-survey-08-14.pdf>

¹¹ US EPA Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool: Queens County, Kings County, New York County, Bronx County, NEW YORK, EPA Region 2: <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>

Statistics, in 2016, 5% of the general population was unemployed, compared to 6.6% of people with Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and 9.6% of African-Americans¹² Experts cite lack of training, loss of public-sector jobs, incarceration rates which are five times that of white males, unequal access to social networks, and outright discrimination as reasons these employment disparities.¹³ **B. Labor Market Demand:** *Depth of labor market assessment:* Since receiving our first US EPA EWDJT grant in 2011, Fortune has committed to maintaining in-depth knowledge of market demand for the specific skills and certifications that participants acquire under our EWDJT program. *Methodology:* Our assessment begins with culling labor statics for environmental remediation and green construction jobs on the State and City level. According to the *NYS Green Jobs Survey*, issued in 2010, the Green Building Services sector, which increases facilities’ energy efficiency and environmental sustainability, had 37,940 employees in NYC. Of the 2,250 green firms in Building Services in NYC, 9% (210) had difficulty recruiting qualified workers.¹⁴ More recently, the 2015 NYS Energy Plan projects significant new job opportunities through the establishment of the New York Green Bank (NYGB), which utilizes a variety of approaches and transaction structures that are market-focused and responsive, to encourage investments and innovation in clean energy projects. As noted in the NYS Energy Plan, “Overall demand has been robust—as proposals for more than \$730 million of NYGB investment have been received, in connection with potential total clean energy investments of between \$2 billion – \$3 billion.”¹⁵ One of our chief partners for obtaining up to date local labor statistics is the *New York City Office of Environmental Remediation (OER)*, which has provided pivotal data and insight into local labor market needs pertaining to the certifications graduates of our EWDJT program receive. OER itself facilitates the cleanup and development of approximately 80 brownfield projects a year in all five boroughs. In a typical year, OER cleanup of brownfields will **create 2,200 permanent new jobs and 6,500 construction jobs**.¹⁶ This corroborates with the following data that we obtained from the **New York State Department of Labor:**

NYC Region Occupational Projections 2012-2022¹⁷

SOC CODE	Job Title	Employment Outlook	Median Wage	Annual Openings
47-4041	Hazardous Materials Removal Workers	Very Favorable	\$70,530	90
49-9071	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	Very Favorable	\$44,370	1,440
53-7062	Laborers, and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	Very Favorable	\$25,600	1,320
49-9021	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	Very Favorable	\$62,020	210
37-3011	Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	Very Favorable	\$37,470	300
37-2011	Janitors and Cleaners	Very Favorable	\$33,480	3,230

Because our population faces unique challenges in entering the workforce due to their histories of justice involvement, we also look at research regarding the accessibility of this career path. A longitudinal study conducted by the Urban Institute in 2008 found that most common types of jobs available to formerly incarcerated jobseekers were construction and general labor. In 2014, we were able to affirm these national trends on a local level when we hosted a *Green Construction/ Environmental Remediation Networking & Brainstorming Brunch*. This meeting confirmed the broad willingness of the Green Construction industry to provide employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated jobseekers. In the ensuing months, we sent out a *Green Employer Survey*¹⁸ to nearly 100 community and employer partners. The overwhelming majority of survey respondents placed a premium value on OSHA 40 HAZWOPER training and Leaking Underground Storage Tank training, and reported that they foresaw the need for additional skilled environmental remediation technicians and supervisors, and asbestos

¹² Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor force characteristics by race and ethnicity, 2015: <https://www.bls.gov/opub/reports/race-and-ethnicity/2015/home.htm>

¹³ Allen, Reniqua, “For Black Men, A Permanent Recession,” Al Jazeera America, Oct. 9, 2014:

<http://america.aljazeera.com/features/2014/10/for-black-men-a-permanentrecession.html>; see also Drake, Bruce, “Incarceration Gap Widens between Whites and Blacks,” Pew Research Center, Sept. 6, 2013: <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2013/09/06/incarceration-gap-between-whites-and-blacks-widens/>.

¹⁴ New York State Dept. of Labor (DOL) NYS Green Jobs Study, 2010: <http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/green/newyorkcity.pdf>.

¹⁵ New York State Energy Plan. 2015: <https://energyplan.ny.gov/Plans/2015>

¹⁶ New York City Office of Environmental Remediation, About OER: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/oer/html/about-oer/about.shtml>.

¹⁷ NYS Dept of Labor, Regional Long-Term Occupational Employment Projections, NYC Region, 2012-2022: <https://labor.ny.gov/stats/lswage2.asp#49-0000>

¹⁸ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M2PG3WL>

handlers and inspectors, in the coming three years. *Demand for environmental professionals in our target area:* Fortune maintains a sector-based Business Advisory Council (BAC) consisting of industry employers, associations, and other stakeholders within the Green Construction and Environmental Remediation industries. Through regular meetings and ongoing issuance of our aforementioned ***Green Employer Survey***, these local employers have confirmed the demand for workers who have the certifications that graduates of our EWDJT program receive. Notably, ***Blue Air Environmental Solutions*** and ***Selective Demolition*** each anticipate **40** new internal job openings for which our graduates would be qualified to apply for over the next three years (See attached letters). The commitment from Blue Air Environmental Solutions is of particular significance because the Co-Founder and Project Manager of this company is Damon Rodriquez, a former Fortune client and graduate of our EWDJT program. Upon completion of our program, Damon found work in the green construction industry first with Local Labor Union 78, then with GNA Environmental. He quickly rose the ranks to supervisor at GNA, **earning \$52/hour**. After a year of supervising multi-million dollar project, Damon decided to start his own company in 2016. Damon’s successes since graduating our EWDJT program provides concrete evidence of both the demand for environmental professionals in our target area, and the effectiveness of our approach to providing workforce development and job training programs. *Incorporation of assessment in training:* Since the launch of our first EWDJT program in 2011, Fortune has used market data and input from our growing network of local employer partners, to create and further develop our training curriculum to ensure that the course offerings reflect market demand and specific employer needs. Additionally, by building an approach geared towards the needs of employers, we have been able to structure our job readiness, support services, and transitional work offerings around the elements that are most valuable to individuals who are in a position to hire our graduates.

SECTION 2. TRAINING PROGRAM DESCRIPTION - *Comprehensive and realistic curriculum:*

The Program Manager for this project, Laura Senkevitch, has overseen Fortunes US EPA EWDJT program since its inception in 2011, and designed the training curriculum based largely on her professional experience in environmental planning. The curriculum is structured in 3 cohorts of 20 enrollees per cohort, totaling 60 trainees over the first two years, with the third year focusing on placement and retention. Every client will follow 1 track in which they must complete each of the courses listed below to successfully graduate from the program. Under the supervision of Ms. Senkevitch, Fortunes Training Coordinator, Judy De La Cruz will administer the Environmental Awareness Training courses. In order to assess course comprehension all participants are given three quizzes during the training, and one Final Exam at the end of the first three weeks. Participants in good academic standing, maintaining an average of at least 70% on all quizzes, and who also maintained good attendance, are then able to move on to the Advanced Technical Trainings, which includes the required **OSHA 40-hour HAZWOPER** training. These trainings will be provided by a third-party training consultant that will be selected through a competitive bidding process. (See Milestone Schedule for Start/Completion Dates)

Course Name	Level of Training	Type of Certification	# of Hours	# of Times Offered	Training Provider	Cost of Course	% of Grant
Environmental Health & Safety	Awareness	N/A	21	1x/ cohort	Fortune Society	\$12,915 for 3 cohorts	6%
Urban Agriculture / Composting	Awareness	N/A	14	1x/ cohort	Fortune Society	\$8,610 for 3 cohorts	4%
Innovative Treatment Technology	Awareness	N/A	21	1x/ cohort	Fortune Society	\$12,915 for 3 cohorts	6%
Underground Storage Tank (UST) Awareness	Awareness	N/A	14	1x/ cohort	Fortune Society	\$8,610 for 3 cohorts	4%

Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure	Awareness	N/A	14	1x/ cohort	Fortune Society	\$8,610 for 3 cohorts	4%
Solid Waste Management, Assessment and Cleanup	Awareness	N/A	21	1x/ cohort	Fortune Society	\$12,915 for 3 cohorts	6%
OSHA Hazardous Materials - HAZWOPER	Advanced	OSHA HAZWOPER	40	1x/ cohort	TBD	\$30,440 for 3 cohorts	15%
EPA Lead Renovation, Repair, and Repainting	Advanced	EPA Lead RRP	8	1x/ cohort	TBD	\$6,088 for 3 cohorts	3%
OSHA Construction Industry Health & Safety Program	Advanced	OSHA Construction Health & Safety	16	1x/ cohort	TBD	\$12,176 for 3 cohorts	6%
OSHA Confined Spaced	Advanced	OSHA Confined Space	16	1x/ cohort	TBD	\$12,176 for 3 cohorts	6%
Disaster Site Worker	Advanced	Disaster Site Worker	16	1x/ cohort	TBD	\$12,176 for 3 cohorts	6%
Asbestos Handler NYS/NYC and Federal	Advanced	NYS/NYC Asbestos Handler	32	1x/ cohort	TBD	\$24,352 for 3 cohorts	12%
Global Hazard Communication	Advanced	Global Hazard Communication	4	1x/ cohort	TBD	\$3,044 for 3 cohorts	1.5%
4-hour Scaffold User	Advanced	4-hour Scaffold User	4	1x/ cohort	TBD	\$3,044 for 3 cohorts	1.5%

[See fully detailed **Environmental Training Curriculum** in EPA Transmittal Letter.]

Student and community benefit: The ability to obtain employment is the cornerstone of wellbeing, but for formerly incarcerated jobseekers, this can be prohibitively difficult without adequate support. Recognizing the needs of our population, as well as the environmental challenges facing our target community, we have committed to providing the above certification driven, sector-based trainings, which grow in-demand skills relating to environmental health and safety. In the 6+ years that we have administered this curriculum, we have placed **158** clients in full time employment in the environmental sector, and with our growing network of local employer partners, our graduates are earning higher wages than ever. In addition to the hard skills outlined above, Fortune is committed to ensuring that individuals served under this program have tools they need to succeed both while they are in the program, and when they attempt to enter the workforce. Heavy emphasis is placed on skill building activities that assist with cognitive, social, emotional, and coping skill development for the work environment. This approach allows Fortune to instill confidence within our clients, while engaging them in deep case management services that help them overcome barriers and difficulties to entering the workforce, and thriving as contributing members of society. *Sustainable practices:* Our curriculum provides participants with a deep understanding of sustainable practices, including: Health and Safety – hazardous materials and debris removal at disaster sites; Urban Agriculture/Composting – carbon, nitrogen, hydrological, and phosphorus cycles; Innovative Treatment Technologies – innovative liquid and solid treatment technologies; Underground Storage Tank Awareness – Underground Storage Tank (UST) regulations, differences between UST and leaking UST programs; Storm water Management and Green Infrastructure – urban storm water management, as seen through case studies, hands-on training, and site visits; and Solid Waste Management and Cleanup – landfill design, methane gas and groundwater monitoring, solid waste disposal and cleanup, and waste transportation packaging. *Logic of curriculum design:* We understand that the EPA anticipates designating a majority of funding under this RFP for the HAZWOPER training, and we hope there is a degree of flexibility in this respect, as we have found

that our proposed curriculum creates well-rounded and highly employable graduates, who are capable of excelling in a variety of settings. The curriculum was developed using local labor market demand, including direct input from our network of employer partners in the Green Construction and Environmental Remediation industries. After conducting an inventory of certifications that are in high-demand with our local labor force, we carefully reviewed course materials and requirements, and selected certification trainings that our target population could realistically complete based on the general education and skill level of clients served within our Employment Services Unit. We chose to operate the curriculum in scheduled cohorts based on our extensive experience in providing workforce development trainings for formerly incarcerated jobseekers. In our experience, this approach fosters a team environment in which students can hold each other accountable for attending classes, and can rely on each other for support as they work through lessons. *Ensuring successful employment:* Our workforce development approach centers on intensive jobseeker supports and is built on a deep understanding of both client and employer needs. We have amassed a cadre of mutually beneficial relationships with employers in our target community who are capable of providing graduates with employment opportunities and career-building transitional work internships. A number of these employers have, and will continue to volunteer to conduct mock interviews with graduates, exposing them to a level of professionalism and valid, real-world expectations that many formerly incarcerated jobseekers are unaccustomed to. To further ensure successful employment, we will use funds leveraged from the Robin Hood Foundation to provide a three-week job readiness workshop for all participants. The workshop instills jobseekers with a valuable set of tools for their job search, including instruction on producing a professional resume and speaking to its content, problem solving, time management, and practice in answering difficult questions, especially surrounding their criminal justice involvement. This approach better prepares graduates for finding employment, and excelling in a workplace setting. Following is a sample of companies who have hired our graduate and the positions/salaries: The Manhattan Company – Laborer - **\$37/hour**; Professional Construction Group of New York – (Unionized) Roofer – **\$27/hour**; ATREX – Asbestos Remover - **\$25/hour**; Environmental Business Consultants – Environmental Technician - **\$25/hour**. A prime example of the success of our program is the story of Damian W. After serving 2 years on Rikers Island, Damian was turned down for every job he applied for. He enrolled in our EWDJT program to help bolster his career prospects. According to Damian, “In this program I was taught how to dress & conduct myself professionally on an interview, create a compelling and comprehensive resume that will attract the interests of employers.” After completing our EWDJT program, Damian applied for a Hazardous Waste Laborer position as an Asbestos Abatement Worker with Mason Tenders Local 78. The recruiters were extremely impressed with his skill level and the certifications he received through our EWDJT program, and brought him on at an entry level position. Damon quickly rose the ranks and now earns **\$54/hour** plus full benefits.

SECTION 3. BUDGET -

Project Funding	Outreach	Job Readiness	Environmental Training	Placement / Retention	Program Management	Total
EPA Project Funding						
Personnel	\$4,500	\$0	\$49,500	\$0	\$8,000	\$62,000
Fringe Benefits @ 25%	\$1,395	\$0	\$15,345	\$0	\$2,480	\$19,220
Client Travel	\$0	\$0	\$11,160	\$0	\$0	\$11,160
Contractual	\$0	\$0	\$103,500	\$0	\$0	\$103,500
Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$4,120	\$0	\$0	\$4,120
Total EPA	\$5,895	\$0	\$183,625	\$0	\$10,480	\$200,000
Non-EPA Project Funding						
Robin Hood	\$0	\$15,720	\$0	\$366,595	\$17,685	\$400,000
Total Non-EPA	\$0	\$15,720	\$0	\$366,595	\$17,685	\$400,000

The above budget is based on three training cycles during the first 2 years of the 3-year project period. **Outreach:** Fortune's Training Coordinator, supported with EPA funds, will develop an outreach and recruitment strategy. Her salary is \$45,000 and she will dedicate approximately 5% of her time to outreach activities at a cost of \$2,250 per year, or \$4,500 during the first 2 years of the grant period. Fringe is calculated at 31% of salary, totaling \$1,395 over 2 years. This includes all statutory benefits, workers compensation, health and dental insurance, disability and life insurance, and pension costs. The Training Coordinator will conduct aggressive outreach and recruitment to potentially eligible low-income individuals with criminal histories in need of job training. **Outputs:** 90 participants recruited. **Job readiness training:** Fortune's Workshop Facilitator, supported with \$15,720 in leveraged funds from the Robin Hood Foundation, will provide students served under this program with a 3-week Job Readiness Workshop. **Outputs:** 60 participants enrolled in job readiness training. **Environmental training:** Fortune's Training Coordinator, supported with EPA funds will dedicate approximately 55% of her time coordinating environmental training activities with training subcontractors and teaching the Environmental Awareness Training course, totaling \$49,500 over the first 2 years of the project period. Fringe benefits are calculated at 31% of salary, totaling \$15,345 over 2 years. Tasks undertaken by the Training Coordinator include: developing a training schedule, coordinating all training activities, and teaching the 3-week Environmental Awareness Training course for each of the 3 EPA cohorts. Client Travel by mass transportation to and from Fortune and the environmental training site is calculated at \$11,160 based on the following methodology: weekly MetroCards for 3 weeks at Fortune: 60 participants x \$31 weekly MetroCard x 3 weeks = \$5,580; weekly MetroCards for 3 weeks at environmental training site: 60 participants x \$31 weekly MetroCard x 3 weeks = \$5,580. In total, \$5,580 + \$5,580 = \$11,160 in client travel expenses in the first 2 years of the project period. Based on our current subcontract with our training provider, ANDO International, we have calculated the total cost of the Environmental Advanced Technical Training at \$29,000 per cohort x 3 cohorts = \$87,000. Based on existing licensing and medical fees associated with the Asbestos Handler (Initial) certification, costs are as follows: \$100 per person for NYC Asbestos Handler Initial exam fees through NYC Department of Environmental Protection x 60 people = \$6,000; \$50 per person for NYS Asbestos Handler Initial exam fees through New York State Department of Labor x 60 people = \$3,000; Fit and Medical Test fee for Asbestos Handler exam at \$125 per person x 60 people = \$7,500. Thus, total contractual costs for 3 cohorts of environmental training and licensing fees are \$103,500. We have calculated the total cost of supplies at \$2,060 per year totaling \$4,120 in the first 2 years of the project period to cover the costs of client folders, stationary supplies, employer files, and other supplies related to client recruitment, screening and job placement. **Outputs:** 50 trained graduates with industry-recognized credentials in HAZWOPER, Lead RRP, OSHA 10-hr Construction Health and Safety, OSHA Confined Space, Disaster Site Worker, 4-hr Scaffold User, Global Hazard Communication, as well as NYS Asbestos Handler (Initial) and NYC Asbestos Handler (Initial); and a certificate of completion in Environmental Health & Safety, Urban Agriculture/Horticulture, Innovative Treatment Technology, UST Awareness, Stormwater Management and Solid Waste Management. **Job placement / retention:** We will utilize staff supported with \$366,595 in leveraged funds from the Robin Hood Foundation for job placement and job retention activities, including a Workshop Facilitator, Account Managers and Career Advisors. The Account Managers and Career Advisors will work closely with trained graduates in Year 1 and Year 2 to facilitate job placements, and will be the primary staff to work with trained graduates from all 3 completed cohorts in Year 3 to help them obtain employment and to make continued career gains. **Output:** 42 graduates placed into jobs; 35 of which will be placed in environmental. **Program management:** Fortune's Senior Director of Education and Training, supported by EPA funds, will be the Program Manager and will manage the overall day-to-day operations of the EPA Environmental Training program. Her salary is \$80,000 and she will spend approximately 5% of her time to program management activities in the first 2 years of the grant, or \$4,000 per year, for a total of \$8,000. Fringe is calculated at 31% of salary, totaling \$2,480 over 2 years. In addition, Fortune's Associate Vice President of Employment Services, supported with \$17,685 in leveraged funds from the Robin Hood Foundation will supervise the Program Manager and will provide support in operating all

aspects of the proposed EPA program, including job placement/retention activities. **Outputs:** The program management team, in collaboration with the finance team, will manage the budget and ensure successful production of all outputs and outcomes in collaboration with the EQI Program Analyst, developing and implementing a corrective action plan to ensure that the outcomes are produced within the 3-year grant period when required.

SECTION 4. PROGRAM STRUCTURE, OUTPUTS & OUTCOMES - A. Outputs & Outcomes:

Anticipated outputs and outcomes: Under our proposed program, we will conduct three training cohorts in the first two years of the grant period, focusing exclusively on job placement and retention activities for trained graduates in the final year of the grant period. For each cohort, we will enroll **20** participants, for a total of **60** enrolled trainees. We expect that **50** will complete the full training program. Of those that complete the training, **42 (70%)** will be placed in permanent positions by the end of year three.

Outputs:			
Overall # Participants Enrolled in Program	# of Graduates Completing Program	# of Graduates Placed in Environmental Positions	# Graduates Not Placed but Pursuing Further Education
60	50	42 placements total; 35 specifically in environmental positions	5
Outcomes:			
Residents of environmental justice (EJ) communities will be employed in NYC green jobs	Intensive training will be provided to residents of EJ communities that leads to sustainable employment	Strategic partnerships will be strengthened between Fortune and key environmental groups/employers	Residents of EJ communities will participate in promotion of environmental health and occupational safety

Plan to achieve outputs & outcomes: During this project, Fortune will build on the success of our current EWDJT program to conduct strategic outreach that engages the target population of this RFP. By leveraging finding from the Robin Hood Foundation, all participants will be provided with the robust menu of workforce development offerings that are available with Fortune’s Employment Services Unit. This includes: **1) Centralized Intake** that determines which of our offerings are necessary for a client and allows for the coordination of support services; **2) In-Unit Risk & Needs Assessment** through an independently verified third party tool (the Level Services/Case Management Inventory) coupled with formalized Career Planning which allows us to jointly set goals with participants and determine their individual risk of recidivism/needs, and adjust the level of support accordingly; **3) Job Readiness Training** which teaches clients the communication skills and etiquette needed for interviews with prospective employers through a curriculum that facilitates cognitive behavioral change; **4) Hard Skills Training** that yield stackable certifications in in-demand professions; **5) Subsidized Transitional Work** that promotes job placement for clients with limited work history and/or high levels of risk and need; **6) Job Placement, Coaching, and Replacement/Retention Services** which provides clients with a highly individualized and tailored job search based on their skills, credentials, and interests, and adequate support to overcome barriers that would otherwise prevent them from maintaining employment; and **7) Formalized Mentorships** that helps support clients during their transition into the workforce. Evaluating progress: Our progress in achieving goals will be measured and evaluated using Fortune's Client Level Information Management Bank (CLIMB), our proprietary database which allows us to track individuals as they engage in our various service offerings. Upon enrollment in our Employment Services unit, participants will be assigned a dedicated Career Advisor, who serves as their case manager and primary point of contact throughout the duration of their stay in the program. The Career Advisor monitors each client’s progress and documents all case notes, incident reports, placements and other information in the CLIMB database – allowing for collaborative case management and oversight by unit management to determine whether a client's immediate and long term needs are being met. Each month, staff prepare a Critical Indicators’ Report, which provides progress and outcome data, which is used to analyze trends and identify problems to improve the program, and to identify gaps in service and unmet needs of the

individuals that we serve. These reports include feedback solicited from clients through satisfaction surveys, focus groups, one-on-one interviews, and our client advisory board. Fortune's Evaluation and Quality Improvement (EQI) department plays a key role in tracking, interpreting, and evaluating programmatic data. The EQI staff works with program staff to support the development of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) protocols. This process allows EQI to brainstorm with program and executive staff to help unpack key issues, think creatively about solutions, develop data points to track and monitor project effectiveness, and generate a corrective action plan to address unmet output and outcomes. *Program goals & likelihood of success:* The outputs and outcomes outlined in this proposal are similar to what we have successfully delivered under *three prior EPA Training grants*. We are certain, based on past success, that these are clearly identified, sufficiently detailed, and highly realistic.

B. Recruitment and Screening: *Successfully recruiting residents from the target area:* With almost five decades' experience working with un/under-employed criminal justice-involved New Yorkers, and nearly 40 years of providing direct workforce development services to this population, Fortune will have no difficulty getting 60 participants to enroll in our training program over the three year project period. As a current recipient of a US EPA EWDJT grant, Fortune has extensive existing relationships with referral organizations who have consistently provided us with access to individuals that could greatly benefit from our EWDJT program. The success of our current program has resulted in a number of satisfied graduates actively promoting our program to their peers. As a result of these feeders, our last EPA Training cohort had a waitlist of over 50 candidates. During this project, we will also rely on our long standing partnerships with the *New York City Department of Corrections (DOC)* and the *New York City Department of Parole (DOP)* to identify and recruit potential participants. We will also continue to build on our strong working relationships with the *NYS Department of Corrections and Community Services (DOCCS)*, where we have a regular daily presence at both at Parole Offices across NYC, and a regular attendance at Queensboro Correctional Facility, as well as the *NYC Human Resource Administration (HRA)*, who allows us to conduct outreach and recruitment activities at resource events held in HRA's facilities, and at all major business events, workforce consortiums, and employment fairs. Recently, Fortune submitted a highly competitive proposal to the NYC Department of Justice Services (DCJS). As a result of this award, we now serve as lead agency for the newly established - *Queens County Reentry Taskforce*. In serving this role, we will have direct access to individuals from our target communities who are returning to society after incarceration, and who would potentially benefit from the services outlined in this proposal. *Participant screening and required benchmarks:* All potential participants of our proposed EWDJT program will be screened by their dedicated Career Advisor who will serve as the primary point of contact for each participant throughout their stay in the program. The first step of this process involves a risk/needs assessment which is conducted using the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI), an independently verified evidence-based assessment tool which captures a wide range of information around topics including criminal history, education/employment, family/marital status, leisure/recreation activities, companions, alcohol/drug use, and pro-criminal/anti-social behaviors. Using evidence-based practices from the *Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies*, which was developed by the US Department of Justice - Bureau of Justice Services, Career Advisors will work with their supervisors to determine if a potential candidate meets an appropriate level of stability to successfully complete our proposed program. The second phase of the screening process occurs after a potential participant has completed our required job readiness workshop described in the previous section. Career Advisors will meet one-on-one with each candidate to monitor their progress and to determine if they can demonstrate that they have attained a sufficient mastery of the lessons, have developed appropriate attitudes, and have acquired adequate interview skills. The final phase of the screening process occurs during the development of a collaborative, goal-oriented Career Plan. During this process, Career Advisors will work with each potential candidate to determine their skill level, motivation, and foreseeable barriers to employment. By developing a structured relationship built on trust and a deep understanding of client needs, Career Advisors will be able to connect participants in need of further social service programming to the vast array of resources available both at Fortune, and through our network of community-based partners.

These life-stabilizing resources will greatly improve their ability to successfully complete our program, and find and maintain employment. Participants will also be encouraged to participate in our evening mentoring group. This weekly program provides a prosocial environment where participants can express themselves and discuss their job search and reentry transition. It is particularly useful for individuals transitioning into society after a long incarceration and searching for a sense of community. We have found from our nearly 40 years of providing workforce development services for criminal justice-involved New Yorkers that this method of screening and services coordination creates a highly stable program – maximizing retention and successful completions. *Program accessibility:* The intake, screening, job readiness trainings, and support services outlined in this proposal will be provided at our main service center in Long Island City, NY. The building is ADA-compliant and accessible by six major subway lines and ten bus lines, making our program highly accessible for our target population. Furthermore, our current EPA Training provider, ANDO International, is located within walking distance of Fortune’s main service center. Understanding the needs of our target population, and their ability to provide all required training in one convenient location as a key factor. Participants will also be provided access to free or low-cost transportation (Metro Cards) that allows them to attend soft and hard skills workforce development trainings, mentoring activities, career fairs, interviews, and once placed, getting to and from work. **C. Program Support:** *Support for placing program graduates:* With our 11 direct service units, we are able to provide each individual that we serve with access to a holistic, one-stop-shop that offers a gamut of resources, including housing, education, mental health and substance use treatment, HIV/AIDS services, family support, food and nutrition programming, discharge planning/case management, and lifetime aftercare, all under one roof. Our Employment Services unit has a strong track record for building self-confident, skilled, and work-ready employees who are an asset to their future employers. This begins with our job readiness workshop, which was recently revitalized as part of a project with *MDRC* (a major workforce evaluator) and the *University of Cincinnati Correctional Institute (UCCI)*, which has created a cognitive based workforce curriculum, targeting formerly incarcerated jobseekers with medium and high risks of recidivism. As a result of this project, our workshop now incorporates cognitive-behavioral interventions with more traditional “readiness” approaches, focusing on teaching participants how to identify and manage high risk situations related to obtaining and maintaining employment. In addition the job readiness workshop, we will leverage funding from the Robin Hood Foundation to provide each participant with a dedicated Career Advisor, who will serve as a case manager, and will ensure that every participant has access to the robust array of services available in-house at Fortune, or with one of our community-based providers. When a graduate is ready to look for work, they will be paired with an Account Manager, who works closely with their Career Advisor to create a highly individualized and tailored job search based on the jobseekers’ skills, credentials, interests, and professional goals. Our Account Managers have been specifically trained in the environmental and construction labor market and are able to cultivate and maintains relationships with hundreds of employers a year. They also work directly with the *NYC Workforce Development Board* to gather employment trend data, as well as updates on valuable workforce development resources which can improve our jobseekers’ prospects for employment. During this project, we will utilize their expertise and their vast network of employers to maximize job placements. Another tremendous resource for individuals served under this project is Fortune's relationship with the *NYC Mayor’s Office of Environmental Remediation (OER)’s BrownfieldWorks!* program¹⁹. Since 2013, Fortune and OER have worked together to place EPA Training graduates in three-month internships at brownfields clean-up sites across NYC with such notable environmental remediation firms as Langan Environmental and Roux Associates. This program also features a mentorship component whereby OER leadership establishes one-on-one relationships with each participant, providing them intensive support throughout their internship.²⁰ *Tracking graduates:* Once

¹⁹ New York City Office of Environmental Remediation. BrownfieldWorks!: http://www.nyc.gov/html/oer/downloads/pdf/green_jobs/BF_WORKS_One-pager_2011.pdf; <http://www.nyc.gov/html/oer/html/resources/brownfield-works.shtml>.

²⁰ Past mentors have included **Dr. Daniel Walsh, OER Founding Director**, who was named **2013 Brownfield Renewal Person of the Year**, and was also given the **American Bar Association’s Award for Excellence in Environmental, Energy, and Resources Stewardship**. See Brownfield Renewal Person of the Year 2013: <http://www.brownfieldrenewal.com/poy-winners2013.html>; see also American Bar Association, American Bar Association’s 2013 Award for

employed, each graduate's Career Advisor will monitor job satisfaction, service issues, and provide job retention resources. For job retention services, we will leverage pools of private and public funding to offer participants transportation incentives (Metro Cards) at 30, 60, 90, 120, 180, 270 and 365-day intervals, in exchange for providing us with paycheck documentation, continuing counseling, and engaging in services that encourage them to maintain their employment. This contact with graduates will allow us to further identify and address barriers to maintaining employment, and will provide us with an opportunity to work with them to help advance their career goals, including obtaining promotions and raises, and furthering their education. *Incentives for marketing graduates to employers:* Internally, our most successful tool for marketing the skills of our graduates is our transitional work program, which consists of a part-time paid internship with one of our employer partners throughout the NYC metro area. Coupled with rigorous case management and engagement in our weekly Job Club, this experience performs an important "bridging" function for some of our hardest-to-serve clients by generating a record of work, introducing them to employers, and providing a "lab" where they can work through on-the-job issues. We will continue to leverage resources throughout this project to ensure that graduates of our proposed EPA training have access to this invaluable resource. At the state level, Fortune has worked closely as a member of the *NYS Work for Success Committee* to promote the utilization of federal tax credits to employers who hire individuals with criminal histories.²¹ We will continue to work closely with NYS Department of Labor to provide information to employers about the *Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)*, which provides a tax credit up to \$2,400 for each new hire with a previous felony conviction. On the city level, Fortune played a significant role in advocating for the passage of the Fair Chance Act in NYC, which made it illegal for a person to be denied a job solely on the basis of having a criminal record. We are now working closely with employers throughout NYC to ensure that the "Ban the Box" policy opens new doors to employment for formerly incarcerated jobseekers by removing the check box regarding criminal histories from job applications. At the local level, Account Managers and other Fortune staff who interact with employers proactively educate them on these initiatives, and in the case of federal tax credits, assist employers in obtaining them. Additionally, our relationship with the *NYC Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation (OER)*'s has resulted in our EWDJT graduates receiving priority for internships under the *BrownfieldWorks!* program which gives participating companies a \$6,000 grant to take on three-month interns. This program better positions our graduates for competitive full-time environmental remediation positions.

D. Program Sustainability: Fortune has a dedicated Development team that continuously seeks new public and private funding opportunities, as well as individual giving from high net-worth donors to support our workforce development offerings. Currently, our Employment Services unit is sustained by nine public funding sources, and a growing number of private funding sources (See [Section 7](#) for full details). Based on our solid program outcomes, we are certain that we have a realistic and sufficiently detailed plan to sustain the proposed program beyond the life of this funding. Once EPA funding is exhausted, Fortune will initially reallocate a portion of the almost \$3 million in funding specifically allotted to our Employment Services unit. Simultaneously, we would seek out new public and private funding sources, drawing from our excellent and long-standing relationships with our federal, state, and local government funders as well as our growing network of foundation funders and private donors.

SECTION 5. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY - A. Grant Management System: *Effectively administering this grant:* Fortune has operated a highly successful EWDJT program since 2011. The program operates under Vice President of Programs, David Nidus, who provides strategic leadership for all of Fortune's workforce development offerings to ensure the quality delivery of career advisement, job readiness workshops, and business development activities. Mr. Nidus has 18 years' experience in workforce development with 11 in reentry services. Senior Director of Education and Training, Laura Senkevitch will serve as Program Manager for this project. Ms. Senkevitch oversees all of Fortune's

Excellence in Environmental, Energy, and Resources Stewardship:

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/environment_energy_resources/awards/stewardship_award/past_recipients.html.

²¹ NYS DOL Work for Success Committee: <http://www.labor.ny.gov/careerservices/work-for-success/incentives.shtm>.

vocational training and Transitional Work programs, as well as our adult and youth education offerings. Ms. Senkevitch holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and a Master's degree in Urban Environmental Systems Management and has over ten years' experience in the environmental justice field in New York City. Since coming to Fortune in 2011, Ms. Senkevitch has been pivotal in deepening the breadth and quality of our training programs and our relationships with employer partnership. Ms. Senkevitch spearheaded our first EWDJT program, and has worked collaboratively with clients, community constituents, and a growing network of employer partners to further develop the curriculum so that it can better serve the needs of our target population. During this project, she will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the proposed training program and its curricula, as well as monitoring related contract requirements, and ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of the program. Under Ms. Senkevitch's guidance and supervision, Fortune's Training Coordinator, Judy De La Cruz will be responsible for recruiting and selecting participants, conducting the Environmental Awareness Trainings, coordinating and managing key partnerships with training providers, reviewing client charts to ensure quality and detail of documentation, coordinating job placements with Account Managers, and coordinating job retention and career advancement services with Career Advisors and Account Managers. Ms. De La Cruz holds a BA from Pace University, and has been working with formerly incarcerated jobseekers since coming to Fortune in 2012. She has administered our proposed training curriculum since April of 2015, and has a very strong track record for engaging clients in the course work, coordinating with our training provider, and ensuring that participants have the resources they need to excel in the program. Necessary expertise: This project will be operated with in Fortune's Employment Services unit, which provides nearly 700 formerly incarcerated jobseekers per year with groundbreaking workforce development and job training programs that are tailored to meet the unique challenges facing our population. As detailed in Section 6 of this proposal, this projects Program Manager, Laura Senkevitch frequently attends formal and informal events which allow her to stay up-to-date on issues relating the Environmental Remediation and Green Construction industries. With Ms. Senkevitch's continually growing knowledge in the field, as well as the extensive experience of Mr. Nidus and Ms. De La Cruz, Fortune is endowed with knowledge and expertise that is needed to successfully implement all of the programmatic and administrative requirements outlined in this proposal. Staff retention: Fortune's Employment Services Unit has a proven track record for recruiting, training, and retaining highly-skilled, culturally competent staff. This is achieved by developing positions that provide clear ladders for vertical growth both within the unit, and within the agency at large. As a result, we are able to attract a highly qualified workforce, while reducing the likelihood of staff turnover. **B. Organizational Expertise:** Working with local community: Since 1967, Fortune has emerged as one of the nation's preeminent reentry service organizations. With our 11 direct service units, we offers a holistic, one-stop-shop that provides nearly 7,000 justice-involved NYC residents per year with a gamut of resources that help them to break the cycle of crime and incarceration, and thrive in their communities. We have operated a very successful US EPA EWDJT program since 2011, and have a strong track record for collaborating with our target community. One of our greatest assets for engaging our community is the *NYC Brownfield Partnership*, a nonprofit membership organization that is composed of environmental consulting firms, environmental law organizations, environmental remediation contracting organizations, brownfield redevelopment organizations, and community-based organizations throughout NYC. The Program Manager for this project, Laura Senkevitch, has been an active member of this organization since the inception of our first EWDJT program, and in October of 2016, she was appointed to sit on the Board of Directors. As noted by President of the Board of Directors, Mimi Raygorodetsky, "Laura's passion for environmental and workforce programming highlights the values of the NYC Brownfield Partnership as we strengthen our commitment to providing communities 21st century resources."²² As described in further detail in the following section, Ms. Senkevitch has also built and maintained strong working relationships with community-based environmental

²² NYC Brownfield Partnership Press Release: Laura Senkevitch Joins New York City Brownfield Partnership Board of Directors: October 2016 <http://us8.campaign-archive2.com/?u=e6bff7a8a9f808a01c41d0abb&id=548e045373&e=41ac03ad70>

remediation entities, including *Smiling Hogshead Ranch*, *Newtown Creek Alliance*, *Rockaway Waterfront Alliance*, and the *NYC Office of Environmental Remediation (OER)*. These community partnerships allow us to efficiently and effectively engage our target community in the implementation and further development of our EWDJT program. *Developing a local workforce*: Each year, Fortune’s Employment Services Unit provides over 700 formerly incarcerated jobseekers with services including job search and placement assistance, structured job readiness workshops, hard skills trainings. Our innovative program model features multiple sector-based trainings, each of which offer stackable certifications that are in high demand with local employers. The curriculum that we developed for our EWDJT program has become our most in-demand hard-skills training, due to our high placement rate for graduates, and the salary level that these graduates are able to obtain. A key to this success has been our ability to develop and further expand a sector-based Business Advisory Councils (BACs) consisting of employers, associations, and other stakeholders within the Green Construction and Environmental Remediation industries. We now have over 40 members, many of whom attend between one and two convening’s per year to discuss their employment priorities and qualification/certification needs, as well as to give feedback on our trainings. These key partnerships have proven invaluable in honing and improving our workforce development offerings and in maximizing job placement and retention outcomes for our clients. This high level of employer collaboration has greatly enhanced our ability to build self-confident, skilled, and work-ready employees. This has resulted in Fortune exceeding program outputs under our past and current EPA Training programs, as well as our contracts with the NYS Department of Justice Services, the NYS Department of Temporary Disability Assistance, and the NYS Department of Labor. **C. Audit Findings:** Fortune has no audit findings at this time. **D. Past Performance and Accomplishments:** *Appropriate drawdown of funds*: Fortune has successfully closed out 2 US EPA EWDJT programs, and we are currently on pace to successfully close out a third. We have always been able to draw down funds in a timely manner, and have submitted all of our quarterly reports on or before their due date. *Success toward achieving goals*: During our first EWDJT program, *Fortune exceeded our training goal by 42% and our placement goal by 52%. During our second EWDJT program, we exceeded our training goal by 11% and our placement goal by 89%. Under our current EWDJT program, we are currently on pace to exceed our training goals by 24% and are on target with our placement goals.*

Grant #	Project Period	Funds Expended	#of Participants Trained	#of Participants Placed	% Placed in Full-time Employment	Data Updated in ACRES
JT97203111	08/01/11–07/31/13	\$300,000	85	83	75%	Yes
JT96290414	09/01/13 – 08/31/16	\$200,000	50	49	98%	Yes
JT962779150	09/01/16 – 08/31/18	\$155,054 to date	62	23	49%*	Yes

*final cohort graduated recently and graduates are currently being placed

SECTION 6. COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS - A. Collaboration with Entities Involved with Local Remediation Activities and Environmental Projects: *Collaboration in the target area*: Since spearheading Fortune’s first US EPA EDWJT program in 2011, Ms. Senkevitch has forged robust collaborations with a number of NYC-based environmental entities to actively promoted our EPA program, discuss the impending renewal funding opportunity, and elicit feedback from community-based environmental remediation entities. Recent examples include: In March 2015, she attended the *Blue Room Summit for Community Brownfield Planners*. Hosted by the *Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation (OER)*, the summit discussed citywide brownfield remediation initiatives. In February 2015, June 2015, and October 2016, she participated in meetings hosted by *The Newton Creek Superfund Site – Community Advisory Group (CAG)*, a community-based organization dedicated to protecting the environmental, recreational and commercial integrity of Newtown Creek, which is part of the Hudson Estuary, between Queens and Brooklyn. In January 2016, she participated

in the “**Ranch on Rails**” Coalition Meeting. This group meets to discuss the future of the Montauk Cutoff, a raised rail line that stretches from Sunnyside Yards to the Dutch Kills tributary. The group includes members of the Newtown Creek Alliance, land access advocates, and the **Smiling Hogshead Ranch**, an urban farm near the Montauk Cutoff. In October 2016, she attended the **NYC Brownfield Partnership** Board of Directors meeting. This nonprofit membership organization is composed of environmental consulting firms, environmental law organizations, environmental remediation contracting organizations, brownfield redevelopment organizations, and community-based organizations throughout New York City. In November 2016, Ms. Senkevitch received a certification from the **Mayor's OER - TurboTraining** program, which teaches techniques to efficiently navigate the City Voluntary Cleanup Program. In addition to offering concrete skills and knowledge about conducting environmental work, the training provided a great opportunity for her to network with leaders in the Environmental Industry, and gain insight into the work of the remediation field. Ms. Senkevitch has also built a strong working relationship with our training provider partner, **ANDO International**, which has been the primary Region 2 EPA-funded environmental remediation training provider since 2001. Working with ANDO and its network of community partners has enabled Fortune to develop a deep understanding of complex local environmental remediation needs. Lastly, Fortune has a long-standing active partnerships with the **Queens Economic Development Corporation (QEDC)** and the **Long Island City (LIC) Partnership** who continually provide us with assistance in placing our clients, including those served under our EWDJT program. Number of partnerships: Under our current EWDJT program, Fortune has 8 partnerships with private entities/nonprofit organizations (Long Island City Partnership; Queens Economic Development Council; Friends of CB 6; Newtown Creek Alliance; OnForce Solar, Impact Environmental; Vokashi Kitchen Waste; Envirolution), and have added 2 additional partners (Rockaway Waterfront Alliance and Smiling Hogshead Ranch). Quality of partnerships how they benefit the program: We also have 3 partnerships with local government agencies (Mayor's Office - Center for Economic Opportunity; NYC Office of Environmental Remediation; NYC Workforce Development Board). Through these partnerships, we receive ongoing feedback on the development and expansion of Fortune's Environmental Training curriculum. These entities also provide field trip opportunities at their locations, and mentoring and/or internship opportunities for Fortune's graduates In addition to providing the feedback/mentoring/field trip support outlined above, the **OER** and the **Queens Economic Development Corporation** have committed to participate in a 'speaker series' to educate Fortune's participants on key environmental industry concepts. The **NYC Workforce Development Board** has also committed to providing us with up-to-date labor market data, and providing our EWDJT graduates with information about job opportunities in high-demand green/environmental industries in NYC. **B. Community Partnership Building:** Collaboration with the target community: Fortune's entire EPA Training model is built on close-collaboration with community stakeholders and key industry partners. Notably, Fortune's Program Manager for this project, Laura Senkevitch, has been an active member of the **NYC Brownfield Partnership** since 2012, and in October of 2016, she was appointed to sit on the board of directors. During her first meeting as an official Board Member in December 2016, Laura updated that partnership about our current US EPA EWDJT program, informed them that we would again be applying for funding to support this program, and solicited feedback from key community stakeholders as to how the program could be improved. Additional examples of community partnership building include: In February 2015, former EPA Regional Administrator, Judith Enck invited Ms. Senkevitch to participate in the **Women and Climate Change Summit**. Hosted in Hyde Park, New York, the event brought together leaders in the environmental sector, and provide them an opportunity to educate one another on policies for addressing climate change (including EPA's regulatory actions). In April 2015, she attended the **Brownfield Coalition of Northeast - Sustainable Communities Conference**. The conference brought together experts and attendees to discuss the issues related to the environment and sustainability In August 2015 Ms. Senkevitch was invited to present at the **US EPA - EWDJT "All Grantee"** meeting, where she shared her knowledge about working with formerly incarcerated jobseekers and solicited feedback about our program. In September 2015, she presented at the **National Brownfield Training Conference**, which is the largest

conference and trade show in the nation focused on creating more sustainable communities through land revitalization and economic redevelopment strategies and projects. In January 2016 Ms. Senkevitch discussed our program at the ***Gardens Rising Roundtable***, a community-based environmental project that seeks to reduce storm water flooding on the Lower East Side by building green infrastructure and community gardens. In April 2016 she attended the ***Big Apple Brownfield Awards***, which is an awards and networking event that brings together a wide-range of community stakeholders to recognize successful NYC brownfield clean-up and redevelopment projects. In September 2016, she participated in an event hosted by the ***Kingsland Garden Roof*** in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Kingsland Garden represents a partnerships between local businesses and community organizations committed to environmental sustainability and community development, and the event was comprised of community members who are committed to expanding natural habitat and green corridors native to the New York City landscape. In August 2016 she attended the ***US EWDJT “All Grantee”*** meeting – where she co-presented on best practices for working with special populations/ reentry community. *Level of collaborators involvement, and benefit to the program:* As noted in the attached letters of support, we have built a robust network of community collaborators who are able to provide ongoing feedback on the development and expansion of our EWDJT program, mentoring and internship opportunities, and job cultivation support. We will also have a high-level of involvement from the ***NYC Workforce Development Board (WDB)*** who will play a crucial role in ensuring that our training curriculum remains up-to-date based on local labor market demand and the needs of local employers. *Non-environmental training:* Through Fortune’s in-house Education programs, participants lacking a high school diploma or HSE will have an opportunity to participate in HSE preparation classes. Participants needing to upgrade their skills in literacy and math will be required to attend these classes before enrolling in the program. We also have a strong relationship with the ***College Initiative***, which helps students prepare for and enter higher education programs. Fortune also provides other supports and services, including life skills training, basic job readiness training, substance abuse counselling, and parenting workshops; and we will provide MetroCards for daily transportation. All such services will be provided to EPA trainees in-kind. As noted above, we will leverage funding from the Robin Hood Foundation to provide job readiness workshop to all participants before they are selected for our EPA Training program. This introductory workshop ensures job readiness by building/refreshing jobseekers’ basic soft skills and helping them to frame their criminal justice histories so as to make them professionally competitive. **C. Employer Involvement:** *Collaboration with employers:* Our employer and industry partners have been instrumental in shaping Fortune’s overall EPA Training program design, including curricula, internships, mentoring structure, etc. We maintain an active ***Green Construction/ Environmental Remediation Business Advisory Council (BAC)***, comprised of individuals who have knowledge on various industry concepts and the green labor market, and who can provide internships and employment opportunities for our graduates. In addition to semi-annual convening’s with this BAC, we continuously engage local employers to improve the scope and effectiveness of our program. Recent examples include: In September 2015, we hosted a ***Non-Profit Business Advisory Council*** meeting, which was attended by a number of environment-related non-profit organizations, including ***BIG Reuse*** and ***Envirovolution***, who have both provided graduates of EWDJT program with internships and mentoring opportunities. ***ANDO International*** also participated in the event. In addition to being our current training provider, ANDO is also one of our strongest employer partners. To date, they have hosted nine interns, directly hiring four upon completion of their internship. This includes ANDO’s Program Coordinator, Derwin Dume who is a 2015 alumni of Fortune’s EWDJT program. According to Mr. Dume, our program gave him a broad understanding of the construction industry. With these skills, employers were willing to give him a chance, and he was able to run with the opportunity, and excel in an employment setting²³. In April 2016, we collaborated with the ***NYC Office of Environmental Remediation (OER)*** to recruit EWDJT graduates for the ***Brownfield Works!*** program, which gives workers on-the-job training & experience and introduces employers to a new, local source of labor. As

²³ Interview with ANDO International’s Program Coordinator, Derwin Dume: February 15th, 2017

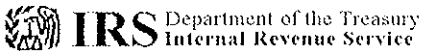
noted by OER’s Senior Project Manager, Amanda Duchesne, “There is a need for a hybrid laborer that is able to perform constructions tasks, but also is familiar with community air monitoring plans, environmental house-keeping measures, and how to implement health and safety plans. Fortune’s curriculum provides a breadth of certifications to trainees that can be applied to several fields in the environment and public health sectors. Fortune graduates are determined to better themselves and gain professional skills needed to build on their budding careers in the environmental industry.”²⁴ In April and November of 2016 we participated in Job Fair hosted by *Selective Demolition*, a local employer who actively recruits our EWDJT graduates. Since 2015, Selective Demolition has hired **20** environmental remediation graduates directly from our program as demolition and deconstruction laborers, starting at **\$14/hr**. They have since promoted three of these graduates to supervisory/foreman positions. In April 2016 we participated in a job fair hosted by *Alive Structures*, a landscaping business based in Brooklyn, NY. As a result, they recruited two of our graduates for internships for green roof installation, and eventually hired both of them. In a recent conversation with the founder of Alive Structures, Marni Majorelle, we received very positive feedback about our program. Ms. Majorelle was extremely impressed with our graduate’s knowledge of storm water infrastructure and native plants. She noted that both graduates were hard working and very engaged.²⁵ (Letter available upon request). In September 2016, Fortune hosted our *First Annual Job Fair*, which allowed our graduates to interact with industry professionals, ask questions about green businesses and job opportunities, and build relationships with individuals who could serve as mentors and/or professional references. The event was a resounding success, and will become a standard element of our Employment Services model. *Level of employer involvement and commitment to hire graduates:* As is evinced by the attached letters of support, our current employer partners overwhelmingly affirm that the training curriculum and industry-recognized certifications that participants will acquire as a result of this EPA-funded training are highly relevant to environmental businesses in the NYC region. Significantly, Selective Demolition and Blue Air Environmental Solutions who combined, anticipate the need to hire **80** individuals who have the certifications that our EWJT graduates will receive, over the three-year grant period. Our relationship with Blue Air Environmental is of particular significance. As noted in Section 2, this company was co-founded by former Fortune client, Damon Rodriguez, who graduated from our EWJT program in 2013. According to Damon, “Laura’s (Senkevitch) fingerprints are all over my success.” He is extremely grateful for the support he received from Fortune, and is committed to recruiting employees directly from our EPA funded EWDJP program.²⁶

SECTION 7. LEVERAGING This proposal will directly leverage our growing pool of private and public dollars to cover a Workshop Facilitator, Account Managers, Career Advisors, and a portion of the VP of Workforce & Transitional Services, providing job readiness training, job placement assistance, job retention, and follow-up services. We are currently awaiting our grant award from the **Robin Hood Foundation** for 2017, which we anticipate will be \$400,000 based on last year’s grant amount and our strong performance outcomes, especially on our one-year retention rate, this past year. We were again awarded \$250,000 from the **Clark Foundation** for General Operating support. We received a second year of funding from the **NY Community Trust** of \$80,000 to continue supporting our 3-Year Plan for Employment Services and are awaiting notice for year-three. We were also excited to receive a second year of funding from the Mariposa Foundation, which increased their grant to \$40,000 in 2016. We also received \$767,003 in annual funding from **MDRC** to support the enhancement of our job readiness workshop. We also have in place the following government contracts to support our Employment Services: **NYS OTDA Wage Subsidy Program (\$200,000)** – ending August 2020; **NYS OTDA SNAP Education & Training (\$400,000)** – ending Sept. 2022; **NYS DCJS Workforce Training Tier 1 & 3 (\$1,136,568)** – ending Dec. 2022; **NYC HRA/CEO NYC Recovers (\$33,222)** – ending June 2017; **Queens Borough President Discretionary (\$15,000)** – ending June 2017.

²⁴ Interview with NYC Mayor’s Office of Environmental Remediation Senior Program Manager, Amanda Duchesne : February 17th, 2016

²⁵ Interview with Founder of Alive Structures, Marni Majorelle: February 15th, 2017

²⁶ Interview with Co-Founder/Project Manager of Blue Air Environmental Solutions, Damon Rodriguez February 17th, 2017



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati OH 45201

In reply refer to: 0248567577
Apr. 08, 2010 LTR 4170C E0
13-2645436 000000 00

00014098
BODC: TE

FORTUNE SOCIETY INC
ATTN PAUL LIEFFRIG
2976 NORTHERN BLVD
LONG ISLAND CITY NY 11101



000220

Person to Contact: ALBERT ZERHUSEN
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear TAXPAYER:

This is in response to your request of Mar. 30, 2010, regarding the tax-exempt status of FORTUNE SOCIETY INC.

Our records indicate that a determination letter was issued in JUNE 1969, granting this organization exemption from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our records also indicate this organization is not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because it is described in section(s) 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors may deduct contributions to this organization as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to the organization or for its use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown above.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele M. Sullivan".

Michele M. Sullivan, Oper. Mgr.
Accounts Management Operations I

Milestone Schedule

Project Tasks	Start Date	Completion Date
TASK 1: Conduct pre-implementation planning and preparation activities: Procure environmental training sub-contractor(s), Draft Implementation Plan with essential partners	Month 1, Week 1	Month 1, Week 4
TASK 2: Conduct outreach and recruitment activities (leveraged resource)		
Cohort 1	Month 2, Week 1	Month 2, Week 4
Cohort 2	Month 8, Week 1	Month 8, Week 4
Cohort 3	Month 13, Week 1	Month 13, Week 4
TASK 3: Conduct intake and assessments (leveraged resource)		
Cohort 1	Month 3, Week 1	Month 3, Week 4
Cohort 2	Month 9, Week 1	Month 9, Week 4
Cohort 3	Month 14, Week 1	Month 14, Week 4
TASK 4: Conduct Job Readiness Workshop (leveraged resource)		
Cohort 1	Month 4, Week 1	Month 4, Week 4
Cohort 2	Month 10, Week 1	Month 10, Week 4
Cohort 3	Month 15, Week 1	Month 15, Week 4
TASK 5: Provide Environmental Awareness & Advanced Technical Trainings		
Cohort 1	Month 5, Week 1	Month 6, Week 2
Cohort 2	Month 11, Week 1	Month 12, Week 2
Cohort 3	Month 16, Week 1	Month 17, Week 2
TASK 6: Provide job placement and re-placement assistance	Month 6, Week 3	Ongoing
TASK 7: Promote access to advanced education and training programs	Month 6, Week 3	Ongoing
TASK 8: Provide job retention, career advancement, and follow-up services	Month 8, Week 1	Ongoing
TASK 9: Conduct outputs and outcomes tracking activities	Month 5, Week 1	Ongoing
TASK 10: Develop plan to sustain project beyond end of grant period (leveraged resource)	Month 8, Week 1	Month 24, Week 4

Other Factors Checklist (Appendix 3)

Name of Applicant: The Fortune Society, Inc.

Recent (2008 or later) significant economic disruption (unrelated to a natural disaster or manufacturing/auto plant closure/power plant closure) has occurred within the community, resulting in a significant percentage loss of community jobs and tax base. NYC suffered heavily as a result of the Great Recession of 2008. Between September 2008 and September 2012, 200,000 more city residents have fallen into poverty, bringing the total to 1.7 million out of a population of 8.1 million. NYC's poverty rate climbed from 18.2% in 2008 to 20.9% in 2011, an increase of 2.7 percentage points, the same as for the nation as a whole (the U.S. poverty rate went from 13.2% to 15.9% over this 3-year period). Adjusted for inflation, median family incomes in NYC dropped by 8%, falling by nearly \$5,000 from \$59,100 in 2008 to \$54,300 in 2011. Nationally, median family incomes dropped by 7.2% from 2008 to 2011. This dramatic income erosion among NYC residents largely resulted from a 7.8% drop in real median wage earnings, which went from approximately \$35,000 in 2008 to \$32,200 in 2011. Median wage earnings included both full-time and part-time jobs held by city residents, reflecting the increase in involuntary part-time work since the recession began, and the fact that most of the city's net job growth between 2008 and 2011 occurred in industries paying below-average wages. Plus, real median wages for NYC full-time workers dropped in 2010 and 2011.¹ However, the NYC economy is slowly rebounding, and as of December 2016, NYC's unemployment rate fell to 5.2%, reaching its lowest level since October 2008.²

¹ Fiscal Policy Institute (September 27, 2012). "NYC's rising Poverty and Falling Incomes since the Great Recession." (<http://fiscalpolicy.org/nycs-rising-poverty-and-falling-incomes-since-the-great-recession>).

² Data highlights from the New York State Department of Labor's Jobs and Labor Force Press Release: December 2016 https://labor.ny.gov/stats/PDFs/NYS_highlights.pdf

Fair distribution of funds between urban and non-urban areas, including an equitable distribution of funds to “micro” communities (those communities with populations of 10,000 or less). Provide your total population count below.

Fair distribution of funds between new applicants and previous job training grant recipients; (“New” applicants are also defined as organizations that received EPA brownfields job training grant funding in 2008 or prior to 2008) Indicate whether or not you have ever received EPA job training grant funding before, and if so, in what year(s) did you receive funding? Fortune was awarded US EPA EWDJT funding in August 2011, September 2013, and September 2016.

Whether the applicant is a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory, or is an organization that will primarily serve tribal or territorial residents.

The needs of communities adversely affected by natural disasters (2012 or later). Fortune will serve individuals from across NYC, an area that was devastated by Hurricane Sandy, which hit the City on October 29, 2012. In particular, we will recruit participants from storm-affected areas of Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island, including the Rockaway Peninsula, Breezy Point, Gerritsen Beach, Brighton Beach, Broad Channel, Coney Island, Graveshead, Red Hook, St. George, Dongan Hills, New Drop Beach, Tottenville, Throggs Neck, and the Lower East Side. We are already working with employers involved in storm recovery efforts to place job seekers in cleanup jobs through our NYC Recovers Work Progress Program renewal grant, awarded by the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity.³ In addition, if awarded this grant, we are eager to partner with the EPA to connect participants to emerging job opportunities related to the collection of hazardous waste, asbestos removal, mold remediation, home demolition, and environmental remediation, particularly as FEMA and other agencies provide resources to cover these costs for homeowners, multi-family housing providers, and business owners. According to the FEMA website, the following disaster assistance has been provided to New York survivors of Hurricane Sandy as of October 2014: \$13.6 billion in total has been provided for Individual Assistance grants, SBA low-interest disaster loans, National Flood Insurance Program payments, and Public Assistance grants. FEMA referred 211,970 households to the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), disbursing over \$1 billion to survivors through this program alone.⁴

Whether the applicant is a recipient or a core partner of a HUD/DOT/EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) grant and the proposed target area includes the same area served through the PSC funding. Examples of PSC grant or technical assistance include a HUD Regional Planning or Challenge grant, DOT Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), or EPA Smart Growth Implementation or Building Blocks Assistance, etc.

Whether the applicant is one of the 24 recipients, or a core partner/implementation strategy party, of a “manufacturing community” designation provided by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) under the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP). A core partner/implementation strategy party is a local partner organization/jurisdiction that will carry out the proposed strategy, as demonstrated in letters of commitment or memoranda of understanding which documents their contributions, roles, and responsibilities to the partnership. EDA may provide EPA a list of the core partners/implementation strategy parties for each of the 24 “manufacturing community” designees, which EPA would use to verify this factor. Applicants must clearly demonstrate there is a nexus between their IMCP designation and the proposed training activities.

Proposals that seek to serve veterans. Fortune will actively recruit criminal justice-involved veterans, including those who received a less than honorable discharge from military service, for the proposed program. Fortune’s Reentry Veteran’s Initiative began in mid-2014 as a means of developing a deeper understanding of the unique challenges that veterans with criminal justice-involvement face. In the ensuing years, we have worked to help expand this population’s access to essential services, increase awareness of the issues impacting them, and to share the lessons we learned through our research and public policy initiatives. Recently, on November 11th, 2016, Fortune’s David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy (DRCPP) hosted a Veterans Day Celebration for people with military experience. The purpose of this event was to acknowledge and thank our staff and clients who served in uniform, and to provide these individuals with a platform for helping us understand the issues they face through the lens of criminal justice reform. Through this event, we were able to learn more about our clients & staff who served in the military, explore the issues that are important to them, and learn how criminal justice system involvement may intersect with military experience. As a follow-up to this event, we hosted, “Justice Involved Veterans: A Convening on Better Serving our Military-Involved Population,” on December 1st, 2016. The event included discussions on the problems facing individuals with justice system and military involvement, including service accessibility, mental health needs, and benefit eligibility. Throughout this project, we will continue our extensive outreach efforts for engaging formerly incarcerated veterans, and we will ensure that veterans who would benefit from the services outlined in our proposal are given priority access to our EWDJT program.

³ NYC Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO): <http://www.nyc.gov/html/ceo/html/home/home.shtml>.

⁴ US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (October 23, 2014). “Two Years after Hurricane Sandy: New York Recovery by the Numbers.” <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4085/updates/two-years-after-hurricane-sandy-new-york-recovery-numbers>.

February 17, 2017

JoAnne Page, Esq.
President and CEO
The Fortune Society
29-76 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11101

RE: EPA-OLEM-OBLR-17-01 (U.S. EPA FY17 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training)

Dear Ms. Page:

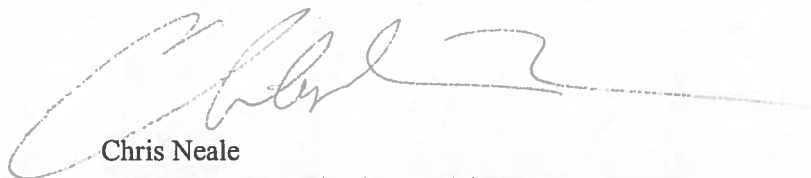
On behalf of the New York City Workforce Development Board, which is housed at the NYC Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, I am writing in support of the Fortune Society's proposal to the opportunity referenced above.

The Fortune Society has a strong track record of delivering workforce services in New York City. If awarded, U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency funding would allow The Fortune Society to build on those efforts through a Career Pathways framework, addressing the education, training, and supportive service needs of individuals participating in its Green/Environmental Training Program. The Fortune Society's Career Pathways approach aligns with the City's new workforce strategy outlined in *Career Pathways: One City Working Together* and the de Blasio administration's commitment to creating pathways to the middle class for every New Yorker. The proposal, if successful, would provide vulnerable New Yorkers with the much needed skills to substantially improve their educational and workforce opportunities.

We engaged with the Fortune Society in a conversation about their proposed program and their strategies for making it a success, if funded. We can underscore the fact that the organization's proposed sector focus – construction – is indeed a growth sector with a variety of in-demand occupations in New York City. If The Fortune Society is awarded, the NYC Workforce Development Board will provide advisory support to ensure that the program is established in line with the City's approach to career pathways. Finally, the Board will help connect The Fortune Society to America's Job Centers, called Workforce1 Career Centers locally, to help leverage additional services for its participants.

Our office is pleased to support this proposal and hope you will give it serious consideration.

Sincerely,



Chris Neale
Director, New York City Workforce Development Board
NYC Mayor's Office of Workforce Development



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION
100 Gold Street, 2nd Floor
New York, New York 10038

Daniel Walsh, Ph.D.
Director
Tel: (212) 788-8841

February 22, 2017

JoAnne Page, Esq.
President & Chief Executive Officer
The Fortune Society
29-76 Northern Blvd.
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Ms. Page,

The New York City Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation (OER) is pleased to offer its support to The Fortune Society (Fortune) in response to the FY17 U.S. EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant. This funding will meet an essential need for Environmental Training targeted to unemployed and underemployed low-income individuals with criminal justice histories from New York City. Below is a description of our agency and our established partnership with Fortune as part of this grant application.

OER is a team of about 20 scientists and engineers that was established to design, build and operate a set of world class municipal programs to advance cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites. This includes the New York City Voluntary Cleanup Program (NYC VCP), the nation's first municipally-run cleanup program. Using this program, OER enables the cleanup and development of approximately 80 brownfield projects each year in all five boroughs. These cleanups meet the most rigorous New York State quality standards and ensure that redeveloped properties are among the safest places in NYC to live and work. In doing so, OER eliminates public health impacts from exposure to environmental pollutants and improves the environmental quality and safety of NYC communities. About 50% of the properties in the NYC VCP are located in low-to-moderate income communities that have long borne a disproportionate burden of land pollution. **To date, OER has helped place seven (7) Fortune Society green job graduates on brownfield sites through our BrownfieldWorks! initiative for on-the-job field training with various environmental consultants in New York City. We anticipate having Fortune Society graduates intern with us in the future as site inspector trainees.**

OER affirms that the training curriculum and industry-recognized certifications that participants will acquire as a result of this EPA-funded training are highly relevant to environmental businesses in the New York City region. As an environmental industry partner with Fortune, OER will provide support to: 1) Inform Fortune about necessary skills, trainings and certifications for entry- and more senior-level employees in our workplace; 2) Afford general guidance to Fortune regarding candidates and the program; 3) As possible, help Fortune connect with other potential employers who may be interested in hiring through the program through the NYC Brownfield Partnership; and 4) Explore the hiring of suitable candidates from the program. OER strongly supports Fortune's application for an EPA job training grant. It is a pleasure to work with an organization that truly cares about helping formerly incarcerated individuals secure financial stability by obtaining employment and/or job training.

Sincerely,

Amanda Duchesne
OER Senior Project Manager
BrownfieldWorks! Program Coordinator



BLUE AIR
ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

February 16, 2017

JoAnne Page, Esq.
President and CEO
The Fortune Society
29-76 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Ms. Page,

I am a Fortune Society graduate who has personally gone through your environmental remediation training funded by the US EPA—because of which, I am very committed to offer support to Fortune in response to the 2017 U.S. EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant. My support is on behalf of the MWBE-certified environmental remediation company I have recently, successfully co-founded: Blue Air Environmental Solutions. I know firsthand that this funding will meet an essential need for Environmental Training targeted to unemployed and underemployed low-income individuals with criminal justice histories from New York City, because this opportunity did exactly that for me; Blue Air Environmental Solutions Inc. thus is looking forward to partnering with you to provide these opportunities to future program graduates.

Below is a description of our organization and our established partnership with Fortune as part of this grant application.

Blue Air Environmental – <https://blueairenvironmental.com/>

Blue Air Environmental Solutions Inc. designs clear, manageable and effective solutions to address any potential or existing environmental concern. Blue Air is a team of construction and environmental consulting professionals with diverse backgrounds in environmental remediation, hazardous waste removal, and general contracting. Blue Air brings the hands-on experience of industry leaders in asbestos removal, lead-based paint removal, and mold abatement, combined with our unit of project monitors highly qualified in the field of worksite preparation for air quality control. We promise to deliver 100% industry standard protection and oversight and ensure that all projects are conducted in compliance with NY regulatory agencies.

Partnership between Blue Air Environmental and The Fortune Society

We believe that the training curriculum and industry-recognized certifications that participants will acquire as a result of this EPA-funded training are highly relevant to environmental businesses in the New York City region—and we believe that these opportunities are greatly valuable to formerly-incarcerated job seekers. We commit to providing our feedback on labor market needs, and we anticipate the need to hire 40 Fortune graduates in environmental remediation jobs during the upcoming funding period.

Sincerely,

Damon Rodriguez, 2013 alum
Co-founder/Project Manager
Damon@blueairenvironmental.com
347 791 3631

☎ 917-818-6973

✉ INFO@BLUEAIRENVIRONMENTAL.COM

🌐 WWW.BLUEAIRENVIRONMENTAL.COM





February 15, 2017

JoAnne Page, Esq.
President and CEO
The Fortune Society
29-76 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Ms. Page,

Selective Demolition is very pleased to offer its support to The Fortune Society (Fortune) in response to the FY17 U.S. EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant. This funding will meet an essential need for Environmental Training targeted to unemployed and underemployed low-income individuals with criminal justice histories from New York City. **In fact, we have enjoyed a positive partnership with this organization since 2015, and proudly market this fact on our website.** Below is a description of our organization and our established partnership with Fortune as part of this grant application.

Selective Demolition – <http://www.nyselectivedemolition.com/>

At Selective Demolition Contracting, we specialize in providing professional manpower services. Hands-on, labor intensive demolition is what we do every day! We provide our clients with fast and always reliable service. **Interior demolition** is where we excel. Every day, our crews demolish, rip out and gut-out interior partition walls, ceilings and all types of floor coverings. We have experience with it all! We work in high rise buildings in Manhattan, retail stores in Queens, apartment housing in the Bronx and Fast food restaurants on Long Island and Brooklyn. Our large interior demolition crews quickly gut-out interior spaces making way for new construction. **Exterior demolition** sometimes requires manpower to get the job done, our crews can demolish or dismantle any partial structure without compromise to the entire structure. If only some of the building is coming down, and not the whole thing, you can call on us to do the job right. **Any part of these projects may require our professional, certified team to conduct the following: lead removal, mold removal, hazardous waste removal, boiler and tank removal, insulation removal, and/or deconstruction.**

Partnership between Selective Demolition and The Fortune Society

Since 2015, we have hired 20 environmental remediation graduates directly from this program as demolition and deconstruction laborers, **starting at \$14/hr. We have also since promoted three of these graduates to supervisory/foreman positions.** We greatly affirm that the training curriculum and industry-recognized certifications that participants will acquire as a result of this EPA-funded training are highly relevant to environmental businesses in the New York City region. Based on current hiring trends with this organization, we anticipate the need for **40 new internal job openings for which Fortune's EPA-funded training graduates would be qualified to apply over the next 3 years.**

As an environmental industry partner with Fortune, Selective Demolition will continue to partner with Fortune Society to conduct on-site job fairs for recruiting purposes and we affirm that we welcome the opportunity to continue to provide our insight into the labor market, along with our own hiring and training needs. **We greatly value this program and the work the Fortune Society has done to provide opportunities for the formerly-incarcerated in important environmental jobs.**

Sincerely,

Sekou Shakur
Supervisor



(Big Initiatives Incorporated)

Non-profit building materials warehouse supporting environmental education

Queens: 3-17 26th Ave. Astoria, NY 11102 718-777-0132

Brooklyn: 69 9th St. Gowanus, NY 11215 718-725-8925

www.bigreuse.org

February 21, 2017

JoAnne Page, Esq.
President and CEO
The Fortune Society
29-76 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Ms. Page,

Big Initiatives Inc., (dba) BIG Reuse is pleased to offer its support to The Fortune Society (Fortune) in response to the 2017 U.S. EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant. This funding will meet an essential need for Environmental Training targeted to unemployed and underemployed low-income individuals with criminal justice histories from New York City. Below is a description of our organization and our established partnership with Fortune as part of this grant application. Please note that without the Interns coming to us through Fortune and other similar organizations we would not be able to operate efficiently and profitably and as a social enterprise we would not be able to hire interns after their cohort is completed. Big Reuse Astoria latest full-time employee Michael Waight was hired from Fortune Society's last cohort and is improving everyday becoming a great salesman.

BIG Reuse is New York City's first non-profit retail outlet for salvaged and surplus building materials. Our mission is to keep these materials out of the landfill, while offering deep discounts on their resale. We are working towards reducing the amount of unnecessary construction and demolition (C&D) waste clogging our landfills, which contributes to pollution, GHG emissions, climate change and global warming. Founded in late 2004, our Astoria warehouse opened in February of 2005. Our second reuse center opened in November 2011 and is now open 7 days a week in Gowanus, Brooklyn. In addition to our reuse centers, we also support local environmental initiatives, such as BIG!Compost in Western Queens.

Partnership Between BIG Reuse and The Fortune Society:

Since 2012, we have hosted 18 interns and ultimately hired 8 EPA graduates in various roles, such as deconstruction laborers, program managers, and warehouse associates with an average starting salary of \$16.00/hr, medical, and 2-3 weeks vacation time. We believe that the training curriculum and industry-recognized certifications that participants will acquire as a result of this EPA-funded training are highly relevant to environmental businesses in the New York City region—and we believe that these opportunities are greatly valuable to formerly-incarcerated job seekers. We are committed to continuing to provide our feedback on labor market needs, as well continuing to provide internship and employment. Thank you for considering their proposal and for supporting this much-needed program. Feel free to contact me with any questions that may arise in the future, 718-777-0132 x2

Sincerely,

Steve Haskins

Steve Haskins 2/21/17



Steve Haskins - Director Of Operations

Big Reuse Queens

Email steve@bigreuse.org

Phone: 718-777-0132

3-17 26th Ave, Astoria, NY



International, Inc.

Safety & Environmental Training • Consulting

February 16, 2017
JoAnne Page, Esq.
President and CEO
The Fortune Society
29-76 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Ms. Page,

ANDO International is pleased to offer its support to The Fortune Society (Fortune) in response to the FY17 U.S. EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant. This funding will meet an essential need for Environmental Training targeted to unemployed and underemployed low-income individuals with criminal justice histories from New York City. Below is a description of our company and our established partnership with Fortune as part of this grant application.

ANDO International – www.andointernational.com

ANDO International is one of the oldest environmental entities in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut areas, providing environmental training services to clients since 1989. ANDO offers over 25 courses accredited by the U.S. EPA and Northeast regional regulatory agencies the NYS and NYS Department of Labor (DOL) to service clients in several apprenticeship programs. The ANDO environmental training programs represent the highest standard currently available in the United States. **ANDO has served as the training provider** for Fortune's current EPA program and is able to provide the following trainings to Fortune's EPA participants at a reasonable cost: OSHA 40 Hour HAZWOPER; Lead Renovation, Repair & Painting (RRP); OSHA 10 Construction Health & Safety; OSHA Confined Space; Asbestos Handler; and Disaster Site Worker.

To date, we have hosted nine interns, **directly hiring four** upon completion of their internship—who have proved to be very valuable and talented employees. **We cannot speak more highly of their work ethic, and of the immense value and quality of training that has been provided by Fortune through these funds.**

Partnership between ANDO and The Fortune Society

ANDO affirms that the training curriculum and industry-recognized certifications that participants will acquire as a result of this EPA-funded training are highly relevant to environmental businesses in the New York City region. We indeed anticipate new internal job openings for which Fortune's EPA-funded training graduates would be qualified to apply over the next 3 years and continue to be happy to assist in referring successful program graduates to available positions with our network.

Sincerely,

Tomasz Chabowski

President

February 21st, 2017

JoAnne Page, Esq.
President and CEO
The Fortune Society
29-76 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Ms. Page,

The Newtown Creek Alliance is pleased to offer its support to The Fortune Society (Fortune) in response to the FY17 U.S. EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant. This funding will meet an essential need for Environmental Training targeted to unemployed and underemployed low-income individuals with criminal justice histories from New York City. Below is a description of our company and our established partnership with Fortune as part of this grant application.

The [Newtown Creek Alliance](#) (NCA) is a community-based organization dedicated to restoring, revealing and revitalizing Newtown Creek. We represent the interests of community residents and local businesses who are dedicated to restoring community health, water quality, habitat, access, and vibrant water-dependent commerce along Newtown Creek. The Newtown Creek Alliance works to restore the Creek by securing mitigation and remediation of known environmental hazards – both in the neighborhoods surrounding Newtown Creek and in Newtown Creek itself – reporting ongoing sources of pollution, and preventing new pollution. To restore the ecological functions of the waterway, the Newtown Creek Alliance supports investments in green infrastructure, bioremediation, and habitat restoration. The Newtown Creek Alliance helps revitalize watershed communities by playing a leadership role in area-wide brownfield redevelopment planning, creating programs that improve the environmental profile of industrial businesses, and engaging in workforce development to create local green jobs. Our work supports environmental, economic and human health.

We have partnered with Fortune since 2012 and greatly support the work the organization does to train formerly incarcerated New Yorkers in important skills, enabling them to successfully compete in the labor market and revitalize our community. The Newtown Creek Alliance affirms that the training curriculum and industry-recognized certifications that participants will acquire as a result of this EPA-funded training are highly relevant to environmental businesses in the New York City region. As a committed environmental industry partner with Fortune, Newtown Creek Alliance will be able to continue to assist Fortune by providing ongoing feedback on the development and expansion of Fortune's Environmental Training curriculum as well as providing field trip opportunities at sites to enhance the participants' understanding of stormwater infrastructure and brownfield/environmental clean-up projects happening in our community.

Sincerely,



Willis Elkins
Program Manager
welkins@newtowncreekalliance.org
347-504-6701



February 17, 2017

Ms. JoAnne Page, Esq.
President and CEO
The Fortune Society
29-76 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Ms. Page,

The **NYC Brownfield Partnership** is pleased to offer its support to The Fortune Society (Fortune) in response to the FY17 U.S. EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant. This funding will meet an essential need for Environmental Training targeted to unemployed and underemployed low-income individuals with criminal justice histories from New York City. Below is a description of our company and our established partnership with Fortune as part of this grant application.

NYC Brownfield Partnership – <http://www.nycbrownfieldpartnership.org>

The NYC Brownfield Partnership is a NYS incorporated nonprofit organization. We are composed of partner organizations that include environmental consulting firms, environmental law organizations, environmental remediation contracting organizations, brownfield redevelopment organizations, and community-based organizations in New York City. Our mission is to provide leadership to the brownfield community throughout New York City by:

- Serving as a primary resource for information on brownfields and brownfields redevelopment in New York City;
- Advancing public awareness and understanding of benefits, opportunities, and best practices of brownfield redevelopment;
- Promoting excellence in brownfield redevelopment by honoring successful brownfield projects;
- Supporting the education and training of brownfield professionals, workers, and students; and
- Fostering collaborative relationships among brownfield developers, property owners, government agencies, and community groups.

Partnership between NYC Brownfield Partnership and The Fortune Society

We affirm that The Fortune Society is an active member in the partnership and that continued funding from the US EPA will help fill an important role in the labor market. The program to date provides valuable training and experience to formerly incarcerated jobseekers; the program results in a transformation in our community in multiple ways: by providing a skilled group of candidates to help revitalize our communities, and by providing life changing improvements to individuals in need.

We seek to utilize our partnership to provide applicable opportunities to Fortune's graduates through our events and brownfield awareness initiatives, which may come in forms including, but not limited to: ongoing feedback on the development and expansion of Fortune's Environmental Training curriculum, field trip opportunities/connections, mentoring and/or internship opportunities and cultivate job opportunities for Fortune's graduates, and/or participation in a Speakers Series to educate Fortune's participants on key environmental industry concepts.

Sincerely,



Mimi Raygorodetsky
President, New York City Brownfield Partnership

MR:lsf

ROCKAWAY WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

February 6, 2017

JoAnne Page, Esq.
President and CEO
The Fortune Society
29-76 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11101



Dear Ms. Page,

Rockaway Waterfront Alliance is pleased to offer its support to The Fortune Society (Fortune) in response to the FY17 U.S. EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant. This funding will meet an essential need for Environmental Training targeted to unemployed and underemployed low-income individuals with criminal justice histories from New York City. Below is a description of our organization and our established partnership with Fortune as part of this grant application.

Rockaway Waterfront Alliance (RWA) – <http://www.rwalliance.org>

We are dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding, respect and connection between our communities and the Rockaway waterfront. RWA works to empower residents of the underserved communities of the Rockaway Peninsula to play a role in the determination of their neighborhoods, by providing enriching educational and community programming, that instill both individual and civic respect for nature, and contributes to advancing the physical, economic and social sustainability in the Rockaway Peninsula and Greater New York City. We believe that partnering with local residents and youth to revitalize and protect the community and to address social justice issues will have a long-lasting effect on the Greater Rockaway community.

Partnership between Smiling Hogshead Ranch and The Fortune Society

As many of Fortune's Environmental Remediation training graduates are from the Rockaways, we believe there continues to be great opportunity to support their work. **In 2016, we had happily hosted two of their program graduates as paid interns and who used their newly learned skills to assist us at the Rockaway Institute for a Sustainable Environment**—both of which we were happy to support and provide references for as they worked to successfully secure full time employment in the environmental field. Rockaway Waterfront Alliance affirms that the training curriculum and industry-recognized certifications that participants will acquire as a result of this EPA-funded training are highly relevant to environmental businesses in the New York City region. As partners, Rockaway Waterfront Alliance looks to provide ongoing feedback on the development and expansion of Fortune's Environmental Training curriculum, field trip opportunities at our locations, and mentoring and/or internship opportunities and cultivate job opportunities for Fortune's graduates.

Sincerely,

Jeanne DuPont
Executive Director

Board of Directors

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Chairman

Jeanne DuPont
President

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Peter Nelson
Ronald Shiffman
Carol Tweedy
Claire Weisz



*Queens Economic
Development Corporation*

*120-55 Queens Boulevard, Suite 309
Kew Gardens, NY 11424*

*Tel 718 263 0546
Fax 718 263 0594*

www.queensny.org

February 16, 2017

JoAnne Page, Esq.
President and CEO
The Fortune Society
29-76 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Ms. Page,

The Queens Economic Development Corporation (QEDC) is pleased to offer its support to The Fortune Society (Fortune) in response to the FY17 U.S. EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant. This funding will meet an essential need for Environmental Training targeted to unemployed and underemployed low-income individuals with criminal justice histories from New York City. Below is a description of our company and our established partnership with Fortune as part of this grant application.

Queens Economic Development Corporation (QEDC) – <https://www.queensny.org/qedc/>
QEDC's mission is to create and retain jobs through programming that grows our neighborhoods, assists small businesses and promotes tourism and business development. Since 1977, QEDC has worked with scores of neighborhoods to revitalize their commercial districts by creating business organizations and establishing business improvement districts. Entrepreneurs are assisted in the preparation of business plans through individual counseling, classes and workshops. The Queens Tourism Council promotes the many cultural, recreational and retail opportunities within the borough. QEDC is a nonprofit governed by a board of directors representing the borough's many community and business sectors. It is funded by the New York City Department of Small Business Services, the New York State Department of Economic Development and the Small Business Administration in addition to generous support from New York City Council elected officials and the private sector. QEDC is a focal point for economic development efforts in a borough that encompasses about 2.3 million people from every corner of the world in more than 90 distinct neighborhoods. Emphasis is made to assist low and moderate income populations, women, immigrants and minorities.

Partnership between QEDC and The Fortune Society

We believe in Fortune's mission and support environmental workforce development opportunities for the formerly incarcerated to fill the region's labor market needs. QEDC affirms that the training curriculum and industry-recognized certifications that participants will acquire as a result of this EPA-funded training are highly relevant to environmental businesses in the New York City region. As a "green" environmental industry partner with Fortune, QEDC will provide some combination of the following services: (1) ongoing feedback on the development and expansion of Fortune's Environmental Training curriculum, (2) field trip opportunities at our locations, (3) participation in Fortune's "Green" Business Advisory Council (BAC), (4) mentoring and/or internship opportunities and cultivate job opportunities for Fortune's graduates, and/or (5) participation in a Green Speakers Series to educate Fortune's participants on key environmental industry concepts.

Sincerely,

Seth Bornstein
Executive Director

ROBIN HOOD



February 17, 2017

JoAnne Page, Esq.
President and CEO
The Fortune Society
29-76 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Ms. Page,

The Robin Hood Foundation would like to offer its support to **The Fortune Society** (Fortune) in response to the **2017 US EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) RFP**. This funding will meet an essential need for unemployed and underemployed individuals with criminal justice histories who reside in communities throughout New York City that are affected by economic disinvestment, health disparities, and environmental contamination.

This letter confirms that we have awarded Fortune a grant of **\$400,000** in 2016 to support their robust menu of workforce developing offerings that are tailored to meet the needs of formerly incarcerated jobseekers. This funding supports the costs of personnel involved in providing job readiness training, job placement, and job retention assistance – a vital in-kind contribution that Fortune is making to the proposed project that will maximize job placements. Notably, \$25,000 of this award has been allocated to the expansion of Fortune's transitional work opportunities, which provide an important bridging function for some of their hardest to serve clients.

Since 2003, the Robin Hood Foundation has provided Fortune with nearly \$5,000,000 to support their growing workforce development offerings, and in that time, they have met or exceeded all of their contract goals. Now more than ever, it's critical that the US EPA continue to invest in Fortune's Employment Services programs, so that they may further advance this invaluable resource for formerly incarcerated jobseekers who are being released from prisons and jails to NYC neighborhoods.

I strongly recommend that the US EPA fund The Fortune Society's proposed program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Lee', written over a white background.

Steven Lee
Managing Director, Income Security

ROBIN HOOD 826 BROADWAY 9TH FLOOR NEW YORK NY 10003 T: 212 227-6601 F: 212 227-6698 ROBINHOOD.ORG

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