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NJIT TAB TIMES

October 30, 2019



NJIT TAB and EPA R4 Team to Conduct “Biggest Mistakes Applicants Make”, a Grant Writing Workshop

NJIT TAB and EPA R4 designed and conducted a grant writing workshop held on October 30, 2019 as part of the 2019 Southeast Brownfields Conference. Titled “Biggest Mistakes Applicants Make”, the workshop focused on ways applicants can strengthen their brownfields grant applications.

EPA R4 provided an overview of the FY20 Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup grant opportunities. A presentation of the FY20 guidelines was provided, including this year’s focus on Opportunity Zones. Additionally, EPA R4 discussed common issues found in the FY 19 proposals that led to a loss of points in the scoring of those proposals.

NJIT TAB focused on “tips and tricks” for strengthening FY20 applications. NJIT TAB provided tips for strengthening each section of the application, but mainly focused on the Project Area Description and Plans for Revitalization, and Community Need and Community Engagement sections. Based on extensive reviews, NJIT TAB noted that these sections provide applicants with the most challenges. NJIT TAB provided examples of “weak” narratives, and “strong” narratives, noting the elements that contributed to compelling narratives, as well as the information that the weak narratives lacked.

NJIT TAB encouraged attendees who planned to submit a FY20 EPA grant application to first send the draft to NJIT TAB for review.

The session was attended by approximately 40 people representing communities throughout Region 4. Some were already grantees, while others would be submitting an EPA brownfield application for the first time in FY20.