



August 1, 2022

Lisa F. Garcia
Regional Administrator
US EPA – Region 2
290 Broadway, 18th fl.
New York, NY 10007

Dear Administrator Garcia:

I submit this letter on behalf of the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporations' (SoBro's) application for an EPA Brownfields Job Training grant. SoBro is proposing to train 125 unemployed and underemployed residents 18-years and older from the South Bronx over the five-year life of the grant.

SoBro will offer a menu of certifications, including 40-hour HAZWOPER; training in confined spaces, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), HAZMAT, commercial driver's license (CDL), training in Environmental Stewardship and Environmental Justice and construction safety training. The curriculum offers a well- rounded combination of remediation concepts and standards along with practical skills and site safety certifications. Graduates of the program will be well positioned to find work in the brownfields industry.

SoBro's proposed program is especially important; SoBro serves primarily the south Bronx. The south Bronx has the highest poverty rates in the City. The Bronx is 90% minority with more than half of whom report family income of less than \$30,000. Since brownfields tend to cluster in low- income areas, the training will empower participants to make meaningful contributions to their community.

The NYC Brownfield Partnership (NYCBP), the Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast (BCONE), and the Licensed Site Remediation Professionals Association (LSRPA) are three leading brownfield organizations on the east coast. These organizations will work in collaboration with the SoBro job training program by providing the following:

- Host Virtual and in-person job fairs for the graduates of the job training program.
 - The Partnership, LSRPA, and BCONE's members include the major environmental consulting firms, contractors, laboratories, and other service providers in the NY metropolitan area. These are the future employers for the job trainees; several of the members will provide testimonials about the successes they have had hiring job trainees as technicians over the years. Matching the graduates of the training programs with the companies that are hiring is necessary for the training program's success.
- Provide In-the-field Training
 - Working with the Aspiring Professionals Committees of BCONE and the LSRPA, in-person, hands on field techniques will be offered to the job trainees. Examples of what could be offered include: surface geophysics; ground penetrating radar, soft-digging; drilling techniques and equipment; soil logging; and excavation safety.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with SoBro as they provide relevant and comprehensive training for local residents. I encourage you to find favor in their proposal.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Boyle
Executive Director
BCONE, LSRPA, and NYCBP