

## Lewis and Clark County

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Lewis and Clark County includes Helena (population 30,000) and is the sixth most densely populated county in a sparsely populated state (slightly over 1 million). With a population density of 7 people per square mile, EWDJT must draw from a smaller base than urban programs. Smaller target communities bring with them a host of challenges for EWDJT programs:

- A smaller recruitment pool
- A potential for larger classroom disparities
- Transportation issues
- Lower acceptance standards needs
- Relocation issues related to placement

Lewis and Clark County is in the proximity of large Superfund sites primarily related to mining and drilling activities. Additionally, the historic city has many old buildings loaded with lead and asbestos. For these reasons, program managers correctly, in their needs assessment, identified major employers and training needs. The Lewis and Clark County curriculum has been oriented around lead and asbestos in addition to those certifications necessary to work at Superfund sites.

With their close relationship with the Montana Department of Labor, Helena Job Services and Anaconda Job Services will assist in recruitment/placement activities as will their connection to local community-based organizations. The Montana Business Assistance Connection will assist in linking graduates with employers. Helena College will provide instructors and technical support for the program.

While facing challenges associated with rural programs, Lewis and Clark County has done an excellent job in needs assessment and assembling partnerships to address all aspects of the EWDJT program.

An overview of the Lewis and Clark County program

Training goal

- Train 45 students
- Place 38 graduates in environmental jobs
- Track graduates for at least one year

Core curriculum (core training program includes 255 hours of instruction)

- 40-hour HAZWOPER
- Lead abatement

- Lead renovation, repair, and painting
- Asbestos abatement
- Emergency response
- Commercial driver's license (CDL)
- First aid
- Up to five federal certifications

#### Target population

- Unemployed and underemployed county residents
- Women
- Veterans
- High school dropouts
- Recent college graduates
- Ex-offenders

#### Key partners

- Helena College
- Lewis and Clark County Health Department
- Montana Department of Labor
- Montana Business Assistance Connection
- Helena Job Services
- Anaconda Job Services
- Community-based organizations
- Environmental employers