

Nye County

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Nye County, Nevada received its first grant award in 2008 and received additional funding in 2012. Nye County and NyE Communities Coalition, as grant recipient partners, deliver a comprehensive, county-wide environmental job training program.

Perhaps the most difficult workforce development programs are those located in Tribal and rural areas. Nye County provides an example of an excellent program working in a diverse rural community.

Below is an overview of the Nye County environmental workforce program.

Targeted community

Nye County is the third largest county (18,150 square miles—200 miles north to south) in the contiguous U.S. with only 44,000 people. It is located in southern Nevada about 60 miles from Las Vegas. Yucca Mountain and the test site are located in Nye County, as are numerous ghost towns, gold mines, and national historic and protected areas. As much as 97 percent of the county's land is federally controlled. Median family incomes in Pahrump are more than \$10,000 below the national average, and methamphetamine production is a growing local concern.

This rural and dispersed community first received a Brownfields assessment grant in 2002, with five additional grants to assess and remediate 25 polluted sites. Potential employers include mining operations, fuel handling, power generation, bio medical facilities, water/wastewater, and waste management facilities. The NyE Communities Coalition training center is located in Pahrump, NV (centrally located and a major county hub). Participants of the program include:

- Unemployed or severely under-employed residents of Nevada
- Displaced workers
- Ex-offenders
- Veterans

Training Objectives

- Three cohorts. The first cohort in September graduated 22 participants.
- Three cycles include a day session, an evening and Saturday session, and a third session which begins in January.

Core Training Program

- NyE Communities Coalition provides 157 hours of training. The curriculum was developed from guidance and discussions with potential employers and includes:
 - 40-hour HAZWOPER
 - MSHA Part 48 (mine safety)
 - OSHA 10-hour Construction
 - OSHA Confined Space Entry
 - Asbestos Abatement
 - Lead-Based Paint Abatement
 - CPR/First Aid/AED
 - Fire Safety
 - Bloodborne Pathogens
 - General Hazardous Materials Awareness
 - Numerous workforce readiness classes

Training Delivery and Curriculum

Training delivery and curriculum must be tailored to a diverse student population. Unlike larger communities with many applicants who are filtered to a select group, rural programs recruit and train with less selectivity and filtering. Some students may not have been in a classroom for many years. Work and study skills may be limited. Training delivery accommodates day classes as well as evening and Saturday classes. Instructors must accommodate a large diversity in experience, life skills, and learning abilities.

Student Services, Retention, and Placement

NyE Communities Coalition is an established community organization whose goal is building healthy communities across Nye and Esmeralda Counties. The coalition is made up of individuals, organizations, and agencies that are focused on joining together in cooperative and collaborative efforts to increase prevention services and opportunities.

With multiple partner organizations, Nye County can bring all available social and financial services to qualified applicants. Students are able to qualify for benefits including gas and transportation reimbursement as well as other traditional support.

Student Recruitment

NyE Communities Coalition recruits county-wide unemployed and disadvantaged residents. (The Coalition is an established organization providing support and training for a wide variety of occupations with an emphasis on prevention and support.) The recruitment process procedure and qualifications include:

- Orientation day—general introduction to program.
- Interviews—clear understand of commitment and determination.
- Must be 18 years of age.

- A resume is requested.
- Must be a Nevada resident.
- Must have high school diploma or high school equivalency certification.
- Drug-free—mandatory drug testing
- Physically able to participate in training.
- Must commit to attending every hour of every class.
- Final panel selection of candidates.
- Ex-offenders accepted.

Job Placement

On the second Friday of each month, NyE Communities Coalition hosts a monthly Job Fair. Fair days allow participants to meet with employers and explore career opportunities. Environmental workforce and job training grantees have a special sticker identifying them as potential candidates for environmental jobs.

Key partners

NyE Communities Coalition, by its nature, is a coalition of all community groups in Nye County, Nevada. As such, there is a close relationship with civic, governmental, educational, and religious organizations. NyE Communities Coalition works closely with the Workforce Investment Board, insuring benefits to all who qualify.