



**Limitless Vistas, Inc.**  
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*"The greatest opportunity coincides with the greatest need."*

*26-JT-22-R06*

**FY26 Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grant  
Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-25-01  
Narrative Information Sheet**

**i. Applicant Identification**

Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LVI)  
1215 Prytania Street, Suite 103, New Orleans, LA 70130-4365  
Phone: 504-529-4301  
EIN: 75-3213594  
UEI: N2TSVNU9F9K5

**ii. Grant Type**

Brownfields Job Training Grant

**iii. Project Period and Funding Request**

- a. Length of Proposed Project:** 5 years (October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2031)  
**b. Amount of Federal Funds Requested:** \$500,000

**iv. Coalition Members**

Not Applicable

**v. Website URL**

<https://www.limitlessvistas.org/>

**vi. Population/Target Area Data**

- General Population of the Greater New Orleans Area: 966,230
- General Population of the Defined Target Area which is Orleans Parish (county): 383,997
- Target Area: Orleans Parish (county)
- Training Facility Location: 1215 Prytania Street, Suite 103, New Orleans, LA 70130-4365

**vii. Contacts**

**a. Project Director**

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**b. Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Official**

Matilda Tennessee, Executive Director  
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 Cell: 504-939-9984  
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 Address: 1215 Prytania Street, Suite 103, New Orleans, LA 70130-4365

**viii. Releasing Copies of Applications**

LVI does not have any current CBI claims within this application.

**ix. Other Factors**

Information on Other Factors		Page #
	Applicants that propose to serve a community population of 15,000 or less.	
	Whether the applicant is new (i.e., has not received an EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant since 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.	
X	Applications that seek to serve veterans.	1, 2, 4, 8, 14
	Whether the target area is located within a community in which a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2016 or later) or is closing.	
	None of the above apply.	

**LVI Signatory**

Matilda Tennessee  
Signature

Matilda Tennessee  
Typed Name

Executive Director  
Title

09/25/2025  
Date

## **A. Community Need**

Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LVI) will use the FY26 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant to train dislocated workers, unemployed or severely underemployed individuals, veterans, formerly incarcerated individuals, individuals with little to no advanced education past high school level, and opportunity youth from New Orleans. LVI chose the entirety of New Orleans to enable all of those affected by persistent environmental and socio-economic challenges to participate in the proposed program. In researching demographics, New Orleans' statistics do not compare favorably to either the state of Louisiana or the nation.

### **i. Community Description**

New Orleans/Orleans Parish has been selected as the target community for this proposal because of the community challenges including environmental, socio-economic, health concerns, and environmental impact issues found throughout the city. New Orleans is a community rich in history, natural, and cultural resources. However, with that richness comes many environmental and socio-economic issues, including impacts from "sea level rise, subsidence, hurricanes, storm surges, disconnection of the Mississippi River from coastal marshes, and human impact."<sup>1</sup> The City of New Orleans and Orleans Parish (county) share the same boundary lines. New Orleans encompasses almost 350 square miles and although it is not directly located on the Gulf of America, the water bodies found throughout New Orleans are connected to the Gulf. With the impacts listed above, the Gulf is creeping closer to New Orleans as evidenced by comparing historical and current photographs and satellite images. Building a sustainable city will take a lot of effort and a trained workforce. LVI's proposed Brownfields Job Training (BJT) program will provide a means to train that workforce. Louisiana has historically relied on and continues to rely on the petrochemical industry for economic support. The refineries and chemical plants lining the Mississippi River from New Orleans to Baton Rouge is such a large environmental and health concern that it has earned the well-known nickname of Cancer Alley<sup>2</sup>. There are also environmental impacts from offshore, near shore, and land-based oil and gas drilling. The petrochemical industry requires trained environmental and conservation field technicians to help monitor and report environmental impact to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). LVI's proposed program can help provide the training required for those field technicians.

The unemployment rate and poverty rate for Orleans Parish is higher than State and National statistics. The poverty rate in Orleans Parish is almost 11% higher than the National poverty rate. Per the Census Bureau, Orleans Parish is experiencing persistent poverty with rates of 24.7% in 1990 and 27.9% in 2000. Additionally, the median household income in Orleans Parish is \$22,783 less than the National median household income. In addition, the EPA's Cleanups in my Communities Map include one Superfund site, 11 Superfund Non-NPL sites, and more than 60 identified Brownfield sites located within Orleans Parish. Significant environmental issues and poverty continue to impact communities located throughout Orleans Parish.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://coastal.la.gov/our-plan/2017-coastal-master-plan/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.propublica.org/article/welcome-to-cancer-alley-where-toxic-air-is-about-to-get-worse>

**Table 1 – Demographic Information**

	<b>Target Community – New Orleans/ Orleans Parish</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>National</b>
Population:	383,997 <sup>1</sup>	4,657,757 <sup>1</sup>	331,097,593 <sup>1</sup>
Unemployment:	4.8% <sup>2</sup>	4.4% <sup>3</sup>	4.3% <sup>4</sup>
Poverty Rate:	23% <sup>5</sup>	18.7% <sup>6</sup>	12.1% <sup>6</sup>
Median Household Income:	\$58,821 <sup>6</sup>	\$60,986 <sup>6</sup>	\$81,604 <sup>6</sup>
% Homeownership:	52.8% <sup>7</sup>	68.1% <sup>6</sup>	65.3% <sup>6</sup>
Median Gross Rent:	\$1,310 <sup>7</sup>	\$1,064 <sup>6</sup>	\$1,487 <sup>6</sup>
Veterans:	4.5% <sup>7</sup>	6.0% <sup>7</sup>	5.9% <sup>8</sup>
<sup>1</sup> Data are from the 2022 American Community Survey data profile and are available at <a href="https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2022.DP05">https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2022.DP05</a> . <sup>2</sup> Data are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and are available at <a href="https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.la_neworleans_msa.htm">https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.la_neworleans_msa.htm</a> . <sup>3</sup> Data are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and are available at <a href="https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.la.htm">https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.la.htm</a> . <sup>4</sup> Data are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and are available at <a href="http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf">http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf</a> . <sup>5</sup> Data are from The Data Center and are available at <a href="https://www.datacenterresearch.org/data-resources/who-lives-in-new-orleans-now/">https://www.datacenterresearch.org/data-resources/who-lives-in-new-orleans-now/</a> . <sup>6</sup> Data are from the United States Census Bureau and are available at <a href="https://data.census.gov/profile/Louisiana?g=040XX00US22">https://data.census.gov/profile/Louisiana?g=040XX00US22</a> . <sup>7</sup> Data are from the United States Census Bureau and are available at <a href="https://data.census.gov/profile/Orleans_Parish,_Louisiana?g=050XX00US22071">https://data.census.gov/profile/Orleans_Parish,_Louisiana?g=050XX00US22071</a> . <sup>8</sup> Data are from the United States Census Bureau and are available at <a href="https://data.census.gov/profile/United_States?g=010XX00US">https://data.census.gov/profile/United_States?g=010XX00US</a> .			

**ii. Labor Market Demand**

Limitless Vistas, Inc. conducted a labor market assessment using current data gathered from the Louisiana Workforce Commission’s Long-Term Employment Project by Industry reports for Regional Labor Market area (RLM) 1, and a survey of Louisiana environmental contractors. RLM1 includes the following parishes: Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany. Although the Louisiana Workforce Commission’s Long-Term Employment report does not specifically identify environmental field technicians, there are several industry sectors that include field technicians as part of their staffing. These sectors all indicate a significant positive percent change from 2016-2026. Those sectors and positive percent changes include: Utilities at 19.4%, Construction at 7.6%, Manufacturing at 9.2%, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services at 14.9%, and Administrative and Waste Services at 9.3%. The skills taught and certifications earned through LVI’s program are transferrable across any of these industries and therefore do not limit graduates to one specific industry. The utilities sector shows a very large increase in employment opportunities, most likely due to the need to replace a large portion of our aging workforce and infrastructure. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services also indicate a large increase in employment opportunities. That increase is most likely due to two broad, emerging

sectors including an increase in coastal and water management industries focused on water infrastructure and flood mitigation, and environmental jobs that focus on restoration.<sup>3</sup>

A labor market survey conducted by Limitless Vistas, Inc. was sent to Louisiana environmental consultants and other known Brownfields contractors. The questions were developed by LVI to learn what training and certifications would be beneficial for new employees to obtain. Table 2 shows the top 10 trainings or certificates that employers would like new employees to receive. LVI has used the results of the labor market assessment and survey to develop our curriculum by providing 40-hour HAZWOPER certification, CPR/First Aid certificates, general knowledge of environmental and conservation work, instilling safety culture by offering OSHA Construction Outreach training, and improving work ethics by participating in LVI’s program. Professional development (aka soft skills) is offered through another program or provider and is incorporated into everyday training and community service-learning projects. Microsoft Office skills are increased through research, preparing reports and giving presentations related to community service-learning projects, research projects related to Brownfields, and other environmental activities. LVI works with many project partners to develop community service-learning projects, job shadowing and internships that allow students to practice what they have learned in class and apply it to the real world. These activities also allow for further professional development.

**Table 2 – Labor Market Results**

<b>Training/Certification</b>	<b>% Employers Who Indicated Training or Certification is Important for New Employees</b>
40-Hour HAZWOPER	100%
CPR/First Aid	100%
General Knowledge About Environmental and Conservation Work	100%
Safety Culture	100%
Work Ethics	100%
Excel	66%
OSHA Construction Safety	66%
Professional Etiquette	66%
Teamwork	66%
Word	66%

**B. Training Program Description**

LVI’s curriculum provides comprehensive, achievable training that equips students with transferable skills, certifications, and knowledge needed for environmental career. These jobs are in high demand in Orleans Parish and Southeast Louisiana due to urgent community needs such as infrastructure improvements, flood protection, and stormwater management. By preparing entry-level workers, LVI helps meet these needs while expanding career opportunities for local residents. Historically, LVI offered a 6-month environmental and conservation technician program for opportunity youth ages 18-24. Recognizing that many adults (particularly veterans and formerly incarcerated individuals) need a shorter, more flexible

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<sup>3</sup> (Teller and Habans 2022)

option, LVI streamlined its programs under the FY23 Brownfields Job Training grant. We now offer two tracks: a daytime Opportunity Youth Program and an Evening Training Program for adults who are underemployed or unemployed. Both programs have been further refined for this proposal to shorten completion time and align seamlessly with LVI’s other offerings. Sustainability is embedded in both operations and curriculum. LVI reduces waste through digital learning, recycling, non-toxic products, and energy conservation. Students are trained in these practices and assigned materials and equipment to reinforce responsibility and environmental stewardship.

The Opportunity Youth Program (ages 18-24) provides 158 hours of training over six weeks. It introduces Brownfields assessment and cleanup while building skills for entry-level environmental careers. The program also emphasizes ecological restoration, community service-learning, and field-based experiences while also providing participants with a \$125 stipend. The Evening Training Program (ages 18+) serves adults, especially veterans and formerly incarcerated individuals. This four-week course (45 in-class hours plus an online 40-Hour HAZWOPER certification through CCCHST) mirrors the Opportunity Youth curriculum in condensed form. While it does not include community service-learning due to time limits, it integrates practical in-class activities, is offered at neighborhood-based sites for accessibility, and provides participants with a \$400 stipend. Both programs were developed using labor market research and employer surveys to ensure relevance. The Opportunity Youth Program offers extended professional development, while evening participants are referred to partner providers for additional support. All students receive free resume writing and review services (offered separately from this grant), strengthening their ability to secure employment.

**Table 3 – Training Table**

Course Name	Level of Training	Type of Certification	# of OY Hours	# of Evening Hours	Start Date – End Date	# of Times Offered	Training Provider	Cost of Course	% of Grant Budget
Environmental Stewardship	Awareness	Other	8	1	Nov & Jun	16	Alison + LVI	\$ 11,200.00	2.24%
Risk Assessments	Awareness	LVI	8	1	Nov & Jun	16	LVI	\$ 7,200.00	1.44%
General Industry	Awareness	LVI	12	1	Nov & Jun	16	LVI	\$ 10,400.00	2.08%
GIS for Environmental Tech	Awareness	LVI	4	2	Nov & Jun	16	LVI	\$ 12,800.00	2.56%
Toxicology and Geology	Awareness	LVI	4	1	Nov & Jun	16	LVI	\$ 4,000.00	0.80%
Sampling Monitoring and Reporting	Awareness	LVI	8	2	Nov & Jun	16	LVI	\$ 8,000.00	1.60%
OSHA 10/30 Hour	Intermediate	Federal	30	10	Nov & Jun	16	LVI	\$ 40,000.00	8.00%
HAZWOPER	Intermediate	Federal	40	10	Nov & Jun	16	LVI	\$ 56,000.00	11.20%
HAZMAT	Intermediate	Federal	8	8	Nov & Jun	16	LVI	\$ 19,200.00	3.84%
AAI (All Appropriate Inquiries)	Awareness	Other	8	4	Nov & Jun	16	LVI	\$ 11,200.00	2.24%
Lead and Asbestos Awareness Training	Awareness	LVI	16	1	Nov & Jun	16	LVI	\$ 13,600.00	2.72%
Ecological Restoration and Revegetation of Brownfields	Awareness	LVI	8	1	Nov & Jun	16	LVI	\$ 7,200.00	1.44%
CPR/First Aid	Intermediate	Other	4	2	Nov & Jun	16	LVI	\$ 12,800.00	2.56%

**Environmental Stewardship** – Students will learn about their impact on nature and the responsibility that everyone must protect the environment through conservation and sustainable practices. Community and ecosystem resiliency will also be discussed. An Environmental online course will be completed and a certificate earned through Alison, a free learning platform for education and skills training, with a mission of seeking positive social change, creating opportunity prosperity. Certificates from Alison cost \$40 each. The Evening

Training Program will be given the opportunity to earn this certificate; however an in-class version will be offered by LVI in the interest of time.

Risk Assessments – Trains participants in the process of identifying, evaluating, and mitigating potential hazards on environmental and construction sites. Covers hazard recognition techniques, qualitative/quantitative risk analysis, and the development of effective control measures to reduce risks to workers, the public, and environment. Emphasizes compliance with OSHA/EPA regulations, documentation practices, and communication of findings. Equips participants with practical skills to support safe site planning, remediation activities, and environmental management, promoting a culture of safety and informed decisions.

General Industry – An awareness of the overall EPA Brownfields programs will be introduced to both classes. Opportunity Youth students will delve further into what Brownfields sites are and the processes used to assess and remediate those sites. A research project and presentation will be part of the Opportunity Youth course.

GIS for Environmental Tech – Knowing how to read a map and create site maps is an important skill to have for entry-level technical employees. This transferable skill will help students better understand geology, contamination and hazardous waste topics. Students will receive a topographic map and compass as part of this course.

Toxicology & Geology – Environmental technicians will need to understand the geology of their sites to better understand how contamination can migrate.

Sampling Monitoring and Reporting – The principles of how water and soil contamination occurs, migrates, and the basics of remediation. This will include information about UST contamination and research in local Brownfields sites.

OSHA 10/30 – This course builds hazard recognition awareness and stewardship and includes safe work practices that may be used in site remediation. An OSHA Outreach card will be received by each student successfully completing this course.

40-Hour HAZWOPER – The 40-Hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) course provides enhances environmental site remediation including how to use safety data sheets (SDSs), exposure guideline limits, chemical hazards, isolation of workspaces, safe storage and handling of chemicals, prevention of spills, etc. This course will include an exercise in which students must determine how to approach, assess, and remediate an unknown spill and/or abandoned hazardous waste.

HAZMAT – The 8-Hour Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) course will provide information about manifesting, shipping, and securing hazardous materials. Students will receive an Emergency Response Guidebook, DOT placard poster, and a Hazardous Materials Compliance manual.

All Appropriate Inquiries – All Appropriate Inquiry (AAI) reports will be developed by students to learn how to assess a site to determine if there is a potential real or perceived contamination. This will be done either by using a site that has already had an AAI performed on it or by job shadowing with an environmental consultant. Students will learn how to use an AAI checklist, research historical information, read aerial and Sanborn maps, and perform a site inspection.

Lead and Asbestos Awareness Training – Provides participants with essential knowledge to recognize, avoid, and safely work around lead and asbestos-containing materials commonly found in older buildings and remediation sites. Covers the health effects of exposure, regulatory requirements, and hazard identification techniques. Includes safe work practices to minimize

disturbance, basic containment strategies, and proper use of personal protective equipment. Emphasizes the importance of complying with OSHA, EPA, and local guidelines to protect workers, occupants, and environment. Equips trainees to support safe renovation, demolition, and environmental cleanup projects while reducing risks of contamination and exposure.

Ecological Restoration and Revegetation of Brownfields – Wetlands and Brownfields contractors will present mini seminars on their restoration projects and discuss how their projects directly affect the public and nature. They will discuss how the sites were chosen, the processes used to determine how to restore each site and the outcome and impact of the restoration. Also included in the section is a discussion about the impact of invasive species and how native species help protect our ecosystems.

CPR/First Aid – This is a basic first aid and CPR course that is required by most environmental employers. Each student who successfully completes the course will receive a certificate/card.

### C. Budget

The proposed \$500,000 budget was developed with care to ensure eligibility of all charges. LVI’s experiences staff has systems and procedures in place that will ensure the proposed training program will be completed within the cost parameters of the funding in a timely and effective manner, as evidenced by previous EPA Brownfields Job Training grants. This budget will provide training for 160 individuals from the targeted populations and locale. The budget was divided into the four project tasks of 1) Outreach and Recruitment, 2) Instruction/Training, 3) Program Management, and 4) Placement and Tracking. For each project task, the budget is allocated to the appropriate budget categories. Table 4 illustrates how the budget will be distributed across the project tasks and budget categories.

**Table 4 – Budget Summary**

Project Funding	Project Tasks				Total
	Outreach and Recruitment	Instruction/ Training	Program Management	Placement and Tracking	
Personnel	\$ 32,425.00	\$ 177,180.00	\$ 40,153.00	\$ 26,725.00	\$ 276,483.00
Fringe Benefits	\$ 3,243.00	\$ 17,718.00	\$ 4,016.00	\$ 2,674.00	\$ 27,651.00
Travel	\$ 1,721.00	\$ 1,252.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,565.00	\$ 14,538.00
Equipment	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00
Supplies	\$ 950.00	\$ 65,245.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 67,895.00
Contractual	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00
Other	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 14,217.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 79,217.00
<b>Total Direct</b>	<b>\$ 42,339.00</b>	<b>\$ 286,012.00</b>	<b>\$ 115,069.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,764.00</b>	<b>\$ 476,184.00</b>
Indirect Costs	\$ 2,119.00	\$ 14,303.00	\$ 5,754.00	\$ 1,640.00	\$ 23,816.00
<b>Total EPA Funds</b>	<b>\$ 44,458.00</b>	<b>\$ 300,315.00</b>	<b>\$ 120,823.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,404.00</b>	<b>\$ 500,000.00</b>
	<b>% Total Grant</b>	60%	<b>Total Budget</b>	\$ 500,000.00	

Outreach and Recruitment – Personnel with fringe benefits, mileage, and supplies will all be used to create and implement an outreach and recruitment plan. This plan will include working with employers and community partners, social media posts, development of marketing

materials, and attending community events to reach and recruit targeted populations. This budget will also be used to further develop new and existing community and employer partnerships that will directly benefit the outputs and outcomes of the program. Living stipends used to assist students to attend the Evening Training Program are included in this category and will be used as an incentive in recruiting. Living stipends for the Opportunity Youth Program will be provided by other programs. Indirect costs of 5% have been applied to cover eligible administrative costs associated with outreach and recruitment efforts. This project task, Outreach and Recruitment, is 9% of the \$500,000 budget.

Instruction/Training – LVI provides its curriculum using trained LVI staff allowing us to be able to offer a large variety of certifications, skills, and knowledge. This project task includes personnel with fringe benefits, travel costs for field trips and community service-learning project sites, contracts for renting classroom spaces enabling LVI to make the courses easily available to more students, supplies such as sampling equipment, health and safety materials, tablets, and books. With a more in-depth curriculum, the Opportunity Youth Program accounts for 62% of the instructor/training task, and the Evening Training Program accounts for 38%. Indirect costs of 5% have been applied to cover eligible administrative costs associated with instruction and training efforts. Items placed in the “Other” budget category include monies to purchase video conferencing services, CPR/First Aid training costs, and other course fees. Additional hours for instructors have been added for the preparation of training materials. The Instruction/Training project task makes up 60% of the total budget.

Program Management – Program management is taken very seriously by LVI and its staff. This project task includes costs for personnel and fringe benefits, travel to the annual all grantee’s meetings, and office supplies. Program Management includes deliverables such as quarterly and annual reporting. Items placed in the “Other” budget category includes an evenly distributed portion of LVI’s insurances, rent, and telecommunications. Indirect costs of 5% have been applied to cover eligible administrative costs associated with program management. Program management makes up a total of 24% of the total budget.

Placement and Tracking – Placement and tracking will be conducted to place graduates in appropriate jobs and track the impact the EPA Brownfields Job Training program has on their careers and education. This project task includes time for personnel and the associated fringe benefits. It also includes some office supplies and mileage for working with graduates and employers. The “Other” one year of living stipends for the Evening Training program. Indirect costs of 5% have been applied to cover eligible administrative costs associated with Placement and Tracking. Placement and Tracking make up 7% of the overall grant costs.

## **D. Program Structure, Anticipated Outputs, and Outcomes**

### **i. Outputs and Outcomes**

Opportunity Youth Program outputs will include 25 recruits each year for the first four years with 20 graduates, of which 15 will become employed in environmental positions and five will pursue further education. This equates to an estimated placement rate of 75%. The Evening Training Program will include the following for each year of training: 25 recruits, 20 graduates with 15 placed in environmental positions or have increased environmental responsibilities at

their current job and five will pursue further education. This equates to an estimated placement rate of 75%. In Year 5 of this grant, LVI will work with all graduates for job placement.

**Table 5 – Outputs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Overall #'s of Participants Enrolled in Program</b>	<b># of Graduates Completing the Program</b>	<b># of Graduates Placed in Environmental Positions</b>	<b>Average Anticipated Wage for Trainees Obtaining Employment</b>	<b># of Graduates Not Placed, but Pursuing Further Education</b>
Opportunity Youth	100	80	60	\$18 - \$20/hour	20
Evening	100	80	60*	\$18 - \$20/hour	20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>40</b>

\*Either enters environmental positions or assumes additional environmental duties at current job.

A timeline illustrating the tasks and milestones anticipated for the proposed project is attached. This timeline will be utilized to help ensure all project outputs are achieved. LVI will conduct the following activities: recruiting, outreach, training, certification, community service-learning projects, develop and monitor internships, and placement services. We will reach 160 Opportunity Youth and individuals. Short-term outcomes include learning, certifications, knowledge, skills, environmental stewardship awareness, increased employability, and increased knowledge of trained workers (for employers). Medium-term outcomes include ability to earn a living wage, increased environmental stewardship, environmental or conservation job, pursuing environmental or conservation career, hiring LVI graduates (employers). Long-term impacts include increased participation in resolving environmental and conservation concerns by graduates, ability for local employers to hire those impacted by the work they are doing, a cleaner/healthier environment, revitalized lands, and reduction in new contamination.

**ii. Recruitment, Screening, and Retention**

LVI will recruit for the EPA Brownfields Job Training Program through AmeriCorps, social media, word-of-mouth, career fairs, and referrals from community partners such as the Urban League of Louisiana, Louisiana Workforce Commission-Job1, National Fish & Wildlife, New Orleans City Park Conservancy, and the Greater New Orleans Foundation. Employer and job-readiness partners will also support recruitment. Target participants include unemployed or underemployed individuals ages 18+ with a focus on veterans, formerly incarcerated individuals, and opportunity youth not currently in school. Eligibility requires adequate reading and math skills, ability to perform required work, and compliance with drug testing. Evening Program applicants must complete an application, attend orientation, and commit to the 4-week course. Opportunity Youth applicants must also undergo a background check, orientation, random drug testing, and a two-week probationary period to qualify for a \$125 stipend. LVI supports retention by working closely with each student, partnering with social service providers, and offering stipends to reduce financial barriers. The Evening Program accommodates daytime obligations through hybrid learning. Opportunity Youth participants may also join other LVI program for additional training, hands-on experience, and potential scholarships. All programs are free of charge, saving participants at least \$500 in certification costs. LVI’s main facility is on a public transit route with free parking, and evening sessions may also be hosted at vetted

partner sites. Opportunity Youth training includes community service-learning projects, with transportation provided to project locations.

**iii. Program Support for Job Placement**

Upon graduation, LVI provides support to graduates by assisting them with job applications, updating their resume, informing them of local job fairs and job openings, aiding with college applications and FAFSA, and proving support for entering a new career. LVI works closely with employers to provide training and certifications that will reduce the cost of hiring an entry-level employee. LVI also works with the Regional Planning Commission to award additional points for Brownfields contractor proposals when they agree to work with local EPA Brownfields job training programs.

**iv. Program Sustainability**

Limitless Vistas, Inc. is currently applying to the Louisiana Workforce Commission (Job1) to participate in their on-the-job training and work experience internship programs which will help fund this program once the EPA grant is closed. We have also partnered with the City of New Orleans and the Greater New Orleans Foundation to execute specific environmental initiatives. LVI is also working to build an advisory board that will help create sustainable training programs similar to the EPA Brownfields Training program.

**E. Partnerships**

LVI has a variety of partners who are committed to supporting the proposed project. Partners include environmental entities, community organizations, employers, and those who can provide job readiness, professional development, and life skills. The attached partnership letters show the extent to which LVI’s partners understand the overall goal of the Brownfields Program. The State of Louisiana and the Regional Planning Commission understand the global impact of Brownfields as it relates to communities, projects, proposals, and the need for training programs. Potential employers understand the significance of recruiting training and placing qualified participants in meaningful, productive careers. Community organizations are eager to provide services for those within their communities. Other partners understand the impact job readiness, professional development, and life skills have on our communities. Below is a summary of those communities.

**Table 6 – Partnerships**

<b>Partner &amp; Contact</b>	<b>Partner Type</b>	<b>Partner Commitments</b>
APTIM Environmental and Infrastructure	Collaboration with Employers	Committed to job shadowing and mentorship.
*BFA Environmental	Collaboration with Employers	Hire and mentor participants and provide staff for the duration of the grant.
Environment & Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program	Collaboration with Employers	Committed to accepting referrals to their apprenticeship program.
*Greater King Solomon Baptist Church	Collaboration with Community	Host job fairs; usage of facility.

Epic Network	Collaboration with Job- Readiness	Provide professional skills development, mentoring, networking, curriculum & training development, technical and logistical support.
*L. Turner and Associates	Collaboration with Employers	Committed to job shadowing, mentorship and hiring.
Leaaf Environmental, LLC	Collaboration with Employers	Commit to hire, provide forklift, asbestos, lead, and project related hands-on-training associated with environmental restoration and remediation.
Neel-Schaffer, Inc.	Collaboration with Employers	Job Shadowing, mentorship, training opportunities, field trips, interview graduates or support networking for job placement.
New Orleans Regional Planning Commission	Collaboration with Environmental Entities	Provide incentives to environmental consultants and contractors who apply to RPC for Brownfields contracts and include LVI in their proposal. Include LVI in Brownfields events and outreach activities.
Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans	Collaboration with Employers	Coach participants on attaining qualifications for employment, internships, facility access and presenters for field trips and on-site enrichment learning.
*State of Louisiana Department of Quality Office and Environment Assessment	Collaboration with Environmental Entities	Connect LVI with environmental consulting firms and contractors for field trips, learning and placement. Distribute information throughout Brownfields channels, recruit. participants/students and hiring employers. Provide guest lecturers.
*The Corps Network	Collaboration with Community	Will provide scholarships through the Corporation of National and Community Services.
*City of New Orleans, Planning Commission's Brownfield Program (CPCBP) – Office of Business and External Services	Collaboration with Environmental Entities	Committed to supporting our efforts to prepare residents for careers in Brownfields remediation and environmental restoration
*City of New Orleans – Office of Resilience & Sustainability	Collaboration with Environmental Entities	Committed to supporting our efforts to prepare residents for careers in Brownfields remediation and environmental restoration
*HBI Construction Group Inc.	Collaboration with Employers	Committed to job shadowing, mentorship, providing internships leading to permanent employment.
Urban League of Louisiana	Collaboration with Job- Readiness/ Collaboration with Community	Recruitment, host job fair, outreach activities, professional development training, referral of graduates to employers.

\*Partnership letter received and included in attachments.

### **i. Collaboration with Environmental Entities**

The New Orleans Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is a board of local elected officials and citizen members from eight parishes in Southeast Louisiana, appointment to represent the public on regional issues. The RPC's Brownfield Redevelopment Program provides technical guidance and environmental assessments to facilitate the redevelopment of Brownfield sites in Southeast Louisiana. The RPC has provided incentives in their requests for proposals for Brownfields Environmental Assessments to area environmental contractors to collaborate with

local EPA Brownfields programs such as LVI. When responding to a Brownfields Request for Proposal from the RPC, environmental consultants and contractors are given points towards their overall score if they commit to including LVI participants in their fieldwork. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Assessment (LDEQ) has committed to connecting LVI with environmental consulting firms and contractors to provide learning opportunities. LDEQ will leverage resources in the form of staff time and services.

### **ii. Collaboration with Job Readiness/Life Skills**

LVI has had a long-standing relationship with the Urban League of Louisiana, which has a Center for Workforce and Economic Development. Urban League will assist LVI in preparing participants for job readiness, professional development training, and life skills through their available resources. Urban League will provide recruiting services through job fairs and outreach activities, professional development training, and referral of graduates to a variety of employers and apprenticeships. Working in collaboration with Epic Network, LVI has helped introduce participants to careers in the geography, infrastructure, water and wastewater industries, and many other industries through a series of “Emerging Scholars Programs.” Participants receive stipends, attend conferences, speak with professionals, conduct community services activities alongside industry professionals, and tour infrastructure facilities in and around the City of New Orleans.

### **iii. Collaboration with Community**

LVI works closely with many community organizations and churches that work with our target population. Greater King Solomon Baptist Church and Urban League are longtime partners. Both organizations have vowed to assist us in recruitment by hosting job fairs, passing out fliers, and announcing our programs on their social media platforms. LVI has been in a productive partnership with The Corps Network since 2006. Through this collaboration, over 2,000 participants have received National Education Award (EAP) scholarships. The Corps Network has committed to allowing eligible adults to participate in the National Education Award Program through the Corporation for National and Community Services.

### **iv. Collaboration with Employers**

In total, eight firms have committed to providing LVI with services. HBI Construction Group Inc. has committed to job shadowing, mentorship, and providing internships leading to permanent employment. Neel-Schaffer can provide job shadowing and mentorship opportunities for LVI graduates, training opportunities and field trips, interview graduates for open positions, and/or support networking for job placement. Leaaf Environmental LLC will provide project-related hands-on training, forklift training, and Asbestos and Lead Awareness Training. Over the past years, and in collaboration with, Leaaf has hired 10 graduates and has committed to interview and hire more. BFA Environmental can provide the LVI team with technical support for training and will continue to provide mentoring and incentives for LVI participants. They commit to hiring or helping to place 5 to 10 LVI graduates and will also commit their staff scientists, geologists, surveyors, engineers, construction inspectors, and other professionals to assist LVI on an as-needed basis for the duration of the grant. L. Turner & Associates, Inc. will provide

training on reading blueprints, job shadowing, and mentoring. They have agreed to vet participants for job interviews and agreed to hire. The Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans has committed to coaching LVI participants on understanding the minimum qualification for hire. It will allow LVI participants to apply for an internship (paid and unpaid). They will allow participants to access the facility and have presenters for field trips and on-site enrichment/learning opportunities. The Sewerage and Water Board has hired at least 10 of our participants over the years. APTIM Environmental and Infrastructure have committed to providing job shadowing and mentorship. APTIM participated with LVI's Emerging Scholar Program introducing participants to the various careers in water quality, storm water management, and utilities. Environmental & Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program have committed to accepting referrals from LVI graduates and interviewing graduates for entrance to the program. LVI's Board of Directors consists of individuals who are environmentalists, professional geologists, and other industry leaders. These members assist LVI twice a year in developing, designing, and approving the curriculum. They assist instructors in understanding and keeping LVI updated on the needs of employers. Yearly, LVI submits a labor market survey to over 50 related employers. This labor market survey is used to evaluate our existing program and develop new training modules to meet labor market demands.

## F. Leveraging

LVI has a well-established leveraging network from which it can draw support for its proposed Brownfields Job Training program. LVI has worked closely with vendors to provide nonprofit discounts for many items such as office supplies, copying services, free Google Gmail and GSuite services, etc. LVI draws for the expertise of its partners to provide leveraged services and monies to support all four proposed project tasks. Additionally, LVI has a long-standing partnership with the Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST). CCCHST provides training for our instructors as well as an online version of the 40-Hour HAZWOPER that LVI uses to supplement in-person training.

**Table 7 – Leveraged Funding**

Project Funding	Status of Funds: Anticipated / Confirmed	Project Tasks				Total
		Outreach, Recruitment, and Retention	Instruction / Training	Program Management	Placement and Tracking	
CCCHST	Confirmed	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000
Job Readiness Partners	Confirmed	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,500
Employer Partners	Confirmed	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 10,000
Community Partners	Confirmed	\$ 100,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 105,000
Environmental Entity Partners	Confirmed	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
<b>Total Non-EPA Funds Leveraged:</b>		<b>\$ 107,500</b>	<b>\$ 33,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,500</b>	<b>\$ 2,500</b>	<b>\$ 150,500</b>

## G. Programmatic Capability

### i. Grant Management System

LVI has demonstrated the ability to manage large federally funded grants. In 2019, LVI underwent accreditation by the Corps Center of Excellence (CCE) Advisory Committee. This included an in-depth review of general operations, financial management, risk management, governance standards, and (Corps) operations. By completing the accreditation process, LVI demonstrated their accountability to both their participants and their communities. This independent accreditation provides the assurance of quality that partners, particularly publicly funded foundations, government agencies, and donors look for, and recognizes LVI's ability to provide safe, appropriate, and meaningful experiences completing service that meets community and conservation needs. A copy of the accreditation is available upon request.

Our organization has experienced environmental and conservation professionals to build and lead our training program. Executive Director, Matilda Tennessee, co-founded LVI in 2006 and has held many jobs within the organization. Using her MBA and bachelor's degree in administration and management, she is responsible for managing all funding received by LVI and ensuring all funding and programs are executed properly. She has over 15 years of experience managing federal grant funding. Project Manager & Instructor, Jasmine Poole, is a skilled environmental technician with extensive experience in conservation efforts. As conservation crew leader, she manages projects focusing on habitat restoration, invasive species mitigation, and endangered species protection. She holds multiple industry-recognized certifications, including HAZWOPER and OSHA safety training. She was also an AmeriCorps Member of the Year and was a Limitless Vistas participant who graduated from our programming in her youth. Field Manager & Instructor, Taylor Burns, specializes in the field of Environmental Science including laboratory research, lab management, and field research within marine and estuarine ecology. She is a published co-author, naturalist, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a concentration in Biological Sciences. LVI Advisor, Kim Chapital, is the Technical Training Director for Deep South Center where she directs, plans, and organizes environmental, health, and safety training activities in the disciplines of asbestos and lead worker, supervisor, inspector, management planner, risk assessor and designer initial and refresher courses per EPA model Accreditation Program (MAP) requirements, HAZWOPER, mold remediation, lead RRP, and OSHA 10 and 30 Hour training.

## **ii. Organizational Experience**

LVI is well known throughout the community and has worked with many New Orleans' organizations such as the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center, Friends of Lafitte Greenway, City Park of New Orleans, Urban League of Louisiana, OXFAM of America, Evacuteers, Greater New Orleans Iris Society, and many others. The community service-learning projects completed by our Opportunity Youth Program also help LVI build strong relationships with community members and leaders. LVI's strong ties to the Greater New Orleans area will continue to be developed through this proposed grant. LVI has been providing environmental training since its inception in 2006. Our senior staff have attended the National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (PETE), Community College Consortium for Health and Safety (CCCHST), and Great Environmental Safety Training (GreatEST) for instructors. This training provides train-the-trainer instruction for a variety of health and safety courses including HAZWOPER,

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT), Hazard Communications, and includes adult education techniques. LVI’s senior instructors are also trained to teach OSHA Outreach courses. Instructors attend additional training each year to help increase LVI’s offerings. LVI has been a grant recipient or sub-grantee of more than 13 various workforce development and job training grants. Our overall mission has always been to train young adults to be environmental technicians. However, we have expanded that to include unemployed and underemployed individuals, veterans, and formerly incarcerated individuals. Since our inception, over 900 individuals have been trained with an average placement rate of 80% in the environmental, construction, water and wastewater, coastal/wetland restoration and/or related industries, or graduates have continued their education. LVI’s programs are comprehensive and support students through high-quality technical certification classes, on-site experience, and community service opportunities. Our training programs are also attentive to the needs of the community and employers. LVI has recently included conservation training to provide skilled workers for the \$50 billion dollars targeted at local coastal restoration in Louisiana over the next 50 years.

**iii. Past Performance and Accomplishments**

LVI has been the recipient of six EPA Brownfields Job training grants and has successfully completed the first five grants. LVI’s active grant (4J02F26201) is currently still recruiting, training, and placing applicants. LVI is meeting its anticipated project performance measures and will meet its outputs before the active grant period is completed. LVI draws down funds typically once a month and completed an internal pay request that documents all charges for each draw down. Reports are submitted on the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the end of each quarter and EPA ACRES reporting is updated at the same time. LVI has met its recruitment, training, and placement metrics for each subsequent grant and is on target to meet its metrics for its current grant. Grant metrics or accomplishments are listed in Table 8.

**Table 8 – Accomplishments Data**

Grant #	Project Period	Funds Expended	# Participants Trained	# Participants Placed	% Placed in Full-Time Employment	Data Updated in Acres (Yes/No)
4J02F26201*	2023 - 2028	\$294,398	126	105	83%	Yes
JT-01F94001	2021 - 2023	\$200,000	47	39	83%	Yes
JT-01F53501	2018 – 2021	\$200,000	85	62	74%	Yes
JT-01F20201	2017 – 2019	\$200,000	29	22	81%	Yes
JT-00F94101	2014 – 2016	\$200,000	80	70	88%	Yes
JT-00F63301	2012 – 2014	\$200,000	51	41	82%	Yes

Limitless Vistas, Inc.

EPA Brownfield Job Training Program Timeline

TASKS & MILESTONES	FY26				FY27				FY28				FY29				FY30			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																
Grant Starts	█																			
Outreach & Recruiting		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█					
Training Preparation	█	█			█	█			█	█			█	█						
Collaboration with Partners	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Training			█	█			█	█			█	█			█	█				
Placement & Tracking				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Annual All Grantees Meeting				█				█				█				█				█
Acres Updates		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Quarterly Reporting (due 30 days after end of qtr)		30	30	30		30	30	30		30	30	30		30	30	30		30	30	30
Annual Reporting (due 30 days after end of FY)				30				30				30				30				
Closeout Report (due 90 after end of grant period)																				90

**Quarters:**

Q1: Oct-Dec	Q2: Jan-Mar	Q3: Apr-Jun	Q4: July-Aug
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Ms. Matilda A. Tennessee, MBA  
Executive Director  
Limitless Vistas, Inc  
1215 Prytania Street, Suite 103  
New Orleans, LA 70130

September 10, 2025

**Subject: Letter of Commitment for LVI's Application for the EPA's FY26 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant (EWDJT)**

Dear Ms. Tennessee,

Barnes, Ferland and Associates, Inc. (BFA Environmental) supports the Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LVI) application for EPA's FY26 EWDJT Grant. BFA shares a Founder with LVI and a philosophy of casting a wide net to provide those most vulnerable to environmental impacts with opportunities to participate in environmental careers. We know that through their Environmental Conservation Workforce Development and Job Training programs, LVI introduces urban, often at-risk individuals, to environmental assessment/remediation, the natural world, ecosystem restoration and trains them for non-traditional careers in the environment, which helps meet the long-term Gulf Coast restoration employment needs. As in past years the work LVI will be performing under the EWDJT will be essential to exposing our young adults to job opportunities in fields that are typically closed to them while helping to build the knowledge necessary in marginalized communities to fight environmental in-justice while building critical local community capacity.

Beginning with Hurricane Katrina/Rita when BFA hired scores of LVI trained young adults. BFA has been an ardent supporter of this unique program from inception.

Accordingly, BFA commits to providing the team with technical support related to training LVI participants about environmental awareness and skills that support the environmental industries. BFA will continue to provide mentorship and incentives for LVI participants.

As an employer, BFA will commit to hiring or helping to place 5-10 LVI graduates who have participated in the activities provided through this grant opportunity. BFA is very engaged in various environmental projects across the region and we, and our partners, will continue to need skilled entry-level employees.

We will also commit our staff scientists, geologists, surveyors, engineers, construction inspectors and other professionals to assist LVI on an as needed basis for the duration of grant.

Sincerely,  
**Barnes, Ferland and Associates, Inc.**



Patrick A. Barnes, P.G.  
Chief Executive Officer

# HBI CONSTRUCTION GROUP INC.

427 Jackson Ave. 602, New Orleans, LA 70130 504-382-1113

September 24, 2025

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

,

**Subject: Letter of Support for Limitless Vistas, Inc. – EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant**

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of HBI, I am pleased to provide strong support for Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LVI) in their application for the EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant.

HBI is committed to advancing green infrastructure and sustainable development across New Orleans and the Gulf South. Our current and upcoming projects include stormwater management systems, LEED-certified building construction, and energy-efficient **retrofits**. Each of these projects requires a skilled workforce trained in environmental practices, construction safety, and sustainability standards. Preparing local residents for this work is essential to our success and to the resilience of our region.

Through this grant, LVI will train at least 160 participants in environmental and technical skills and provide them with industry-recognized certifications such as HAZWOPER, OSHA safety, and environmental restoration. Their proven track record, including a 75% placement rate into jobs or further education, gives us confidence that participants will graduate ready to meet employer needs.

At HBI, we are committed to strengthening this pipeline by:

- Offering 5–10 annual internships for LVI participants on green building and infrastructure projects, including those working toward LEED certification.
- Providing job readiness support and mentorship to help participants transition into the workforce.
- Considering qualified graduates for permanent employment on our stormwater management, LEED construction, and energy-efficiency projects. Based on our upcoming project portfolio, we anticipate being able to hire graduates annually

This program will not only advance environmental restoration and sustainable development but also ensure that local residents benefit directly from federally funded projects through training, employment, and career pathways.

For these reasons, HBI strongly supports Limitless Vistas, Inc. and respectfully encourages the EPA to fully fund their application.

Thank you

*Michael L. Farley*

Michael L. Farley  
CEO



# L. TURNER & ASSOCIATES, INC.

## GENERAL CONTRACTING

New Construction ♦ Structural Remodeling ♦ Repair

2817 Pine Street | New Orleans, LA 70125 | 504. 865-8042 Office | [lynellturner@bellsouth.net](mailto:lynellturner@bellsouth.net)

September 25, 2025

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Subject: Letter of Support for Limitless Vistas, Inc. –  
EPA Environmental Workforce  
Development and Job Training Grant\*\*

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of Lynell Turner & Associates, I am honored to provide this letter of support and commitment for Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LVI) in their application for the EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant.

As a long-standing faith community in New Orleans, we recognize the importance of preparing our young people and neighbors for meaningful employment opportunities. Many of our neighborhoods, including Gert Town and surrounding communities, continue to be plagued with abandoned industrial sites, vacant lots, and contaminated properties left behind as Brownfields.

These sites not only create health and safety risks but also limit economic growth and quality of life. LVI's program will train 160 participants, provide industry-recognized certifications, and continue their strong 75% placement rate into jobs or higher education. This kind of workforce development brings real change to families and communities most directly affected by environmental challenges.

As part of our commitment, Lynell Turner & Associates has agreed to make our facilities available at a reduced cost for training activities, including the ability to conduct hands-on HAZWOPER instruction. This support will help ensure participants receive practical, applied training in a safe, accessible, and community-centered environment. In addition, we will assist with outreach and recruitment in the Gert Town and surrounding communities, helping connect participants to training opportunities and supporting pathways to job placement.

We are proud to stand with LVI in this effort and believe their program will strengthen both individuals and our community as a whole. We encourage the EPA to provide full consideration for this application, knowing the impact it will have on workforce development, environmental restoration, and local resilience.

Sincerely,

*Lynell Turner*

Lynell Turner,  
Owner/General Contractor



*Greater King Solomon*  
**MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

3305 Audubon Street † New Orleans, LA 70125  
ELDER GEROD K. MACON, SR., ED.D., SENIOR PASTOR/TEACHER

September 25, 2025

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Subject: Letter of Support for Limitless Vistas, Inc. –  
EPA Environmental Workforce  
Development and Job Training Grant\*\*

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of Greater King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church, I am honored to provide this letter of support and commitment for Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LVI) in their application for the EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant.

As a long-standing faith community in New Orleans, we recognize the importance of preparing our young people and neighbors for meaningful employment opportunities. Many of our neighborhoods, including Gert Town and surrounding communities, continue to be plagued with abandoned industrial sites, vacant lots, and contaminated properties left behind as Brownfields.

These sites not only create health and safety risks but also limit economic growth and quality of life. LVI's program will train 160 participants, provide industry-recognized certifications, and continue their strong 75% placement rate into jobs or higher education. This kind of workforce development brings real change to families and communities most directly affected by environmental challenges.

As part of our commitment, Greater King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church has agreed to make our facilities available at a reduced cost for training activities, including the ability to conduct hands-on HAZWOPER instruction. This support will help ensure participants receive practical, applied training in a safe, accessible, and community-centered environment. In addition, the church will assist with outreach and recruitment in the Gert Town and surrounding communities, helping connect participants to training opportunities and supporting pathways to job placement.

We are proud to stand with LVI in this effort and believe their program will strengthen both individuals and our community as a whole. We encourage the EPA to provide full consideration for this application, knowing the impact it will have on workforce development, environmental restoration, and local resilience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Casandra T. Wiltz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Casandra T. Wiltz,  
Church Secretary



**STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

August 15, 2025

Matilda Tennessee  
Executive Director, Limitless Vistas, Inc.  
1215 Prytania Street, Suite 103  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Via Email: [mtennessee@limitlessvistas.org](mailto:mtennessee@limitlessvistas.org)

RE: FY26 EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant Letter of Commitment

Dear Ms. Tennessee,

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is happy to express our commitment to support Limitless Vistas, Inc.'s (LVI) EPA FY26 Brownfields Job Training Grant application. This grant will allow LVI to continue providing quality training for environmentally impacted communities and support local environmental contractors with qualified entry-level workers.

LDEQ is the state environmental regulatory authority. Through our Brownfields Program, we support the reuse of vacant and underutilized sites by facilitating the environmental process by providing environmental assessments, cleanup funding, technical assistance, and support for local Brownfield Program and grantees. In partnership with that initiative, we are committed to assisting LVI with the continuation of their Brownfields Job Training program. If LVI is selected for funding, LDEQ is committed to providing the following in conjunction with the proposal submitted:

- Assist with connecting LVI with environmental consulting firms and contractors to provide opportunities for field trips, learning opportunities and placements.
- Distributing information through our Brownfield channels to help recruit participants/ students and hiring employers.
- Providing guest lecturers from LDEQ's experience staff as well as through our Brownfield network.

We will provide leveraged resources in the form of staff time for the services noted above. We believe our support and commitment will significantly impact those served by this grant and we look forward to working with you on this exciting endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Otte".

Rebecca Otte  
Statewide Brownfields Coordinator  
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment,  
Remediation Division

cc: Imaging Operations – IAS AI 178641

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION  
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

LATOYA CANTRELL  
MAYOR

ROBERT RIVERS  
DIRECTOR

September 16, 2025

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 6

**Subject: Letter of Support for Limitless Vistas, Inc. – EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant**

Dear Review Committee:

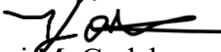
On behalf of the **City of New Orleans, Planning Commission’s Brownfield Program (CPCBP) – Office of Business and External Services**, I am pleased to express strong support for **Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LVI)** in their application for the **EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant**.

CPCBP has been actively engaged in advancing environmental restoration and community revitalization, partially through the **\$2M EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant** recently awarded to us. Limitless Vistas’ proposed workforce training program will directly complement our efforts by preparing local residents—particularly youth and young adults ages 17–26—for careers in brownfields remediation, environmental restoration, and related green industries.

With a proven track record of success, LVI has consistently achieved a **75% placement rate** for graduates entering employment or continuing education. Through this program, they propose to train at least **160 participants**, providing them with **industry-recognized certifications** that align with the needs of local employers and ongoing cleanup and redevelopment projects across the city. We recognize the importance of ensuring that community members benefit directly from federal investments in brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. LVI’s program provides exactly that pathway, ensuring that those most impacted by environmental challenges are trained, certified, and ready to participate in building stronger and more resilient communities.

For these reasons, the City of New Orleans strongly supports Limitless Vistas, Inc.’s application and encourages the EPA to provide full consideration for funding.

Sincerely,



Kari M. Godchaux  
Brownfields Program Director  
City of New Orleans Planning Commission, OBES  
1300 Perdido  
New Orleans, La 70112  
504-658-7013(o) 504-813-1934(m)



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

LATOYA CANTRELL  
MAYOR

GREG R. NICHOLS  
DEPUTY CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

September 16, 2025

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Subject: Letter of Support for Limitless Vistas, Inc. – EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of the City of New Orleans Office of Resilience & Sustainability, I am pleased to offer support for Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LVI) in their application for the EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant.

LVI has a long history of preparing young adults for careers in environmental fields, and their proposed program will train at least 160 participants while providing them with industry-recognized certifications that are critical to today's workforce. With a current 75% placement rate into jobs or higher education, their program is proven to connect participants with real opportunities while strengthening New Orleans' resilience goals.

The City of New Orleans has prioritized efforts to restore, redevelop, and protect communities impacted by environmental hazards. LVI's work directly complements these priorities by ensuring that local residents are prepared to participate in remediation, green infrastructure, and conservation projects. By combining workforce development with environmental stewardship, their program provides pathways to economic mobility and supports the City's long-term resilience and sustainability objectives.

For these reasons, the Office of Resilience & Sustainability strongly supports Limitless Vistas, Inc. and respectfully encourages the EPA to provide full consideration of their application.

Sincerely,

*K. Martin*

Kiksha Constantine Martin  
Project Manager  
Office of Resilience & Sustainability City of New Orleans  
1300 Perdido Street | Suite 7E05 New Orleans, LA 70112  
knconstantine@cityofno.com | (504) 658-8465 (o) | (504) 874-0188 (c)





[www.corpsnetwork.org](http://www.corpsnetwork.org)  
[@TheCorpsNetwork](https://twitter.com/TheCorpsNetwork)

September 19, 2025

Matilda Tennessee  
Executive Director  
Limitless Vistas, Inc.  
1215 Prytania Street, Suite 109  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dear Ms. Tennessee:

I am writing to express our continued support for Limitless Vistas, Inc. (LVI) as your organization pursues the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant.

Since our creation in 1985, The Corps Network has provided national leadership and promoted the growth and quality of its member Corps as they deliver education, workforce development, and a strong ethic of stewardship to disadvantaged youth while addressing critical community and conservation needs.

LVI and The Corps Network have established a long and successful collaboration that has resulted in more than 400 youth earning AmeriCorps scholarships, national/state certifications, and professional credentials that significantly enhanced their employability. The Corps Network remains committed to promoting national service and expanding both educational and workforce opportunities for underrepresented young adults. LVI continues to be a preferred partner for reaching youth in Brownfields-impacted communities. Additionally, we are committed to considering LVI participants for enrollment in our National Education Award Program (EAP) through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), as available slots and program requirements allow.

In summary, we look forward to continuing our partnership with Limitless Vistas, Inc. as they provide young people in the Greater New Orleans area with access to education, training, and pathways to promising environmental careers. We strongly encourage the EPA to support LVI through this Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Sprengel  
President & CEO



**Limitless Vistas, Inc.**  
1215 Prytania Street, Suite 103  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Phone: 504-529-4301  
Fax: 504-529-4303  
Website: www.limitlessvistas.org

"The greatest opportunity coincides with the greatest need."

**FY26 Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grant  
Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-25-01  
Threshold Criteria Responses**

**1. Statement of Applicant Eligibility**

LVI is eligible to apply for this cooperative agreement as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. LVI provides environmental and conservation training and uses net proceeds to maintain, improve, or expand the operation of the organization.

**2. Documentation of Applicant Eligibility**

A copy of LVI's IRS nonprofit determination letter is attached to the application.

**3. Statement of the Applicant's 501(c)(4) Status**

LVI is not a 501(c)(4), does not participate in lobbying activities, and is not a proprietary training organization or trade school.

**4. Coalition Agreement**

Not Applicable

**5. Demonstration that Proposed Project Does Not Duplicate Other Federally Funded Environmental Job Training Programs**

LVI is not listed on any of the following grants and LVI's proposed program does not duplicate any other federally funded programs for environmental job training in our target community.

- Superfund Job Training Initiative Programs – None listed for the Greater New Orleans area.
- NIEHS HAZMAT Programs – Two Hazardous Waste Worker Training Programs were located in the New Orleans area. However, neither are currently being funded.
  - The Center for Construction Research and Training program provides environmental health and safety training to construction workers through building trades unions. Most of our target population are not associated with trade unions and will not readily have access to this training. The funding for this program ended on May 31, 2025.
  - Deep South Center's program is similar to LVI's proposed program, but funding ended on May 31, 2025.
- DOL Grants – No similar DOL funding programs were found during an online search.
- HUD Grants – HUD offers several training programs, but they focus on becoming self-sufficient and do not include environmental job training.
- DOE Grants – There is one active DOE grant called Reaching an Advanced Computing Technologies Workforce through Education Initiatives in Quantum Information Science

and Engineering conducted by the Administrators of the Tulane Educational Fund in New Orleans. The training provided through this program does not duplicate LVI's proposed program.

- HHS Grants – No HHS training programs were found to be active in the Greater New Orleans area. However, they do offer many online courses, none that duplicate LVI's proposed program.

#### **6. Required HAZWOPER Training**

All trainees will be provided OSHA 40-Hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training. This can be found in the Narrative on pages 3, 4, and 5.

#### **7. Federal Funds Requested and Estimated Project Period**

- Federal Funds Requested: \$500,000
- Estimated Project Period: 5 years (October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2031)

#### **8. Training Curriculum Chart**

A training curriculum chart indicating the cost of each course can be found in the Narrative on page 4.

#### **9. Description of the Target Area**

Target Area: New Orleans, Orleans Parish (County), Louisiana

#### **10. Statement of When the Applicant was Last Awarded**

LVI was last awarded a Brownfields Job Training Grant in September 2023 for the budget period of 10/01/2023 – 09/30/2028.

#### **11. Documentation of Expenditure of Existing Brownfields Job Training Grant Funds**

As of September 25, 2025, LVI has spent down \$262,051.63 out of the \$500,000 grant we were awarded in 2023. Documentation of the available balance is attached.