



Superfund Job Training Initiative

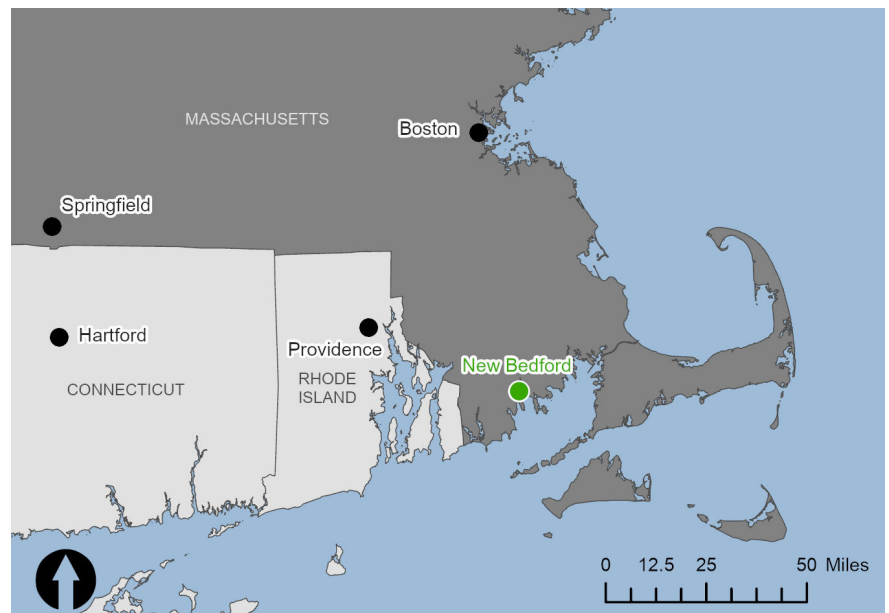
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Introduction

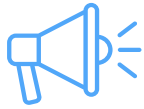
The New Bedford Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI) is an environmental remediation job readiness program that provided career development opportunities for 21 trainees living in or near the community of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Through a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and local partner John “Buddy” Andrade, New Bedford SuperJTI provided local job seekers with new skills, certifications and hands-on training linked to construction and cleanup.

EPA’s goal is to help identify employment opportunities available for affected communities during the cleanup and redevelopment process, and to provide workforce development skills needed to take advantage of those opportunities.



New Bedford was once the world’s largest whaling seaport. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri



Outreach and Screening: September – October 2023

New Bedford SuperJTI and community partner Buddy Andrade reached out to the community through local and regional stakeholders, unemployment offices and non-profits, and by advertising on area radio stations and social media as well as in local newspapers.

New Bedford SuperJTI hosted information sessions about the program at the main branch of New Bedford Public Library. In September and October 2023, over 60 people attended the program's 15 information sessions. After these sessions, 21 people returned, submitted required documents and were welcomed into the program. The first day of training featured a program kickoff event that included leadership, team building and role-playing activities, and a physical fitness component facilitated by a team of evaluators from the program's partners. Twenty-one trainees went on to complete various parts of the program.



Training and Job Placement: October – November 2023

The 3.5-week New Bedford SuperJTI training program was held in a conference room at the New Bedford Harbor Hotel. EPA contractor Skeo provided the Work Readiness training. T.I.G.E.R. Training provided the 40-Hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER), OSHA 10-hour Construction Safety and Health, and Construction and Traffic Flagger Awareness trainings. The Institute of Environmental Education provided the Lead Worker Initial and Asbestos Operations & Maintenance trainings. Paul Gomes, a local trainer, provided the CPR/First Aid training. Courses consisted of:

Work Readiness Training: Trainees completed courses in environmental justice, interpersonal communication, building cultural competence, finance management and effective work habits. EPA contractor Skeo provided the training.

40-Hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER): Trainees earned their HAZWOPER certification and learned about cleanup and safety topics such as environmental legislation and standards, toxicology, hazardous material site/spill control and containment, decontamination and isolation. Trainees participated in hands-on training scenarios using actual equipment and protective gear.

OSHA 10-hour Construction Safety and Health: Trainees earned their OSHA-10 certification and learned about topics such as hazard communication, personal protective equipment, electrical safety and excavation process safety management.



New Bedford City History

The New Bedford harbor and seaport have been active since the 17th century. In the 1800s, New Bedford was the largest whaling port in the world. Portuguese and Cape Verdean immigrants were vital parts of the whaling industry and, later, textile mills, in New Bedford. Today, the port supports commercial fishing and offshore wind energy.

Construction and Traffic Flagger Awareness:

Trainees earned their Traffic Flagger Awareness certification and learned about topics such as safety requirements, traffic control basics, traffic control plans, equipment used in traffic control, elements of the traffic control zone and record keeping.

Lead Worker Initial: Trainees earned their Lead Worker Initial certification and learned about topics such as identifying and evaluating lead-based hazards, health effects of lead exposure, regulations and standards of lead abatement, containment and controlling of lead hazards, soil abatement, and disposal.

Asbestos Operations & Maintenance: Trainees earned their Asbestos Operations & Maintenance certification and learned about topics such as regulations and standards of asbestos abatement, proper asbestos-related work practices, proper handling and disposal of asbestos-containing materials, respirator use, protective equipment and decontamination procedures.

CPR/First Aid: Trainees earned their CPR/First Aid certification and learned about topics such as soft tissue injuries, burns, shock, rescue breaths, methods to stop bleeding, bloodborne pathogens, poisoning, CPR, and injuries to muscles, bones and joints.

After completion of the program, SuperJTI partnered with MassHire Career Centers to assist trainees with their job placement efforts. Through SuperJTI, trainees are provided with the marketable skills needed to begin a successful career in environmental remediation, helping empower communities affected by Superfund sites.

GRADUATE PROFILES



Acen Neves

Acen Neves was looking for a new career when her father forwarded her a SuperJTI flyer he found on Facebook. Interested in learning more, Acen attended an information session and came out excited. She knew her previous lab experience in environmental science meant she was likely well suited for environmental remediation work. Following the initial steps of the SuperJTI process, Acen was welcomed as one of the program's trainees. Looking back, Acen said that "it was rewarding to encourage one another during the process. I was really proud of myself and my peers." Acen says the program has given her the confidence and ability to do anything she puts her mind to. She plans on furthering her education and wants to research the effects of environmental issues on mental health, noting that "I want to learn how we can take better care of our environment and our people."



Mark Madden

Before SuperJTI, Mark Madden, a military veteran, had been working as a high-voltage electrician. Mark came across the SuperJTI flyer on Facebook and was interested in the range of trainings offered by the program. "I wanted to take this opportunity to better myself," he said. After attending one of the information sessions and submitting the required documents, Mark was welcomed as one of the program's trainees. Mark felt the training was interesting and that the trainers were knowledgeable. His favorite part of the training was building a negative pressure enclosure during the hands-on section of the asbestos training. At the end of the program, Mark said he felt accomplished. Since graduating from SuperJTI, Mark has continued his work as a high-voltage electrician, where his duties include preventative maintenance, follow-up and making sure "the lights are on and there is always an adequate power supply."



Douglas Murillo

Douglas Murillo came across SuperJTI while seeking out new career and education paths. His mother saw a SuperJTI flyer on Facebook. Thinking Douglas would be interested, she forwarded it to him. Douglas felt that SuperJTI offered a great opportunity to renew his OSHA-10 and CPR/First Aid certifications and earn new ones. After attending an information session and submitting the required documents, Douglas was welcomed as one of the program's trainees. Reflecting on his time in the program, Douglas said he enjoyed the hands-on part of the HAZWOPER and asbestos trainings. He also felt that the work readiness section was informative and prepared him for interviews and what to expect at a job site. Douglas's favorite part of the program was graduation and the feeling of everything coming together and being celebrated. At the end of the program, Douglas said, "I felt prepared and happy that things worked out the way they did. I feel ready for things to come." Since graduation, Douglas has been focused on continuing his education.



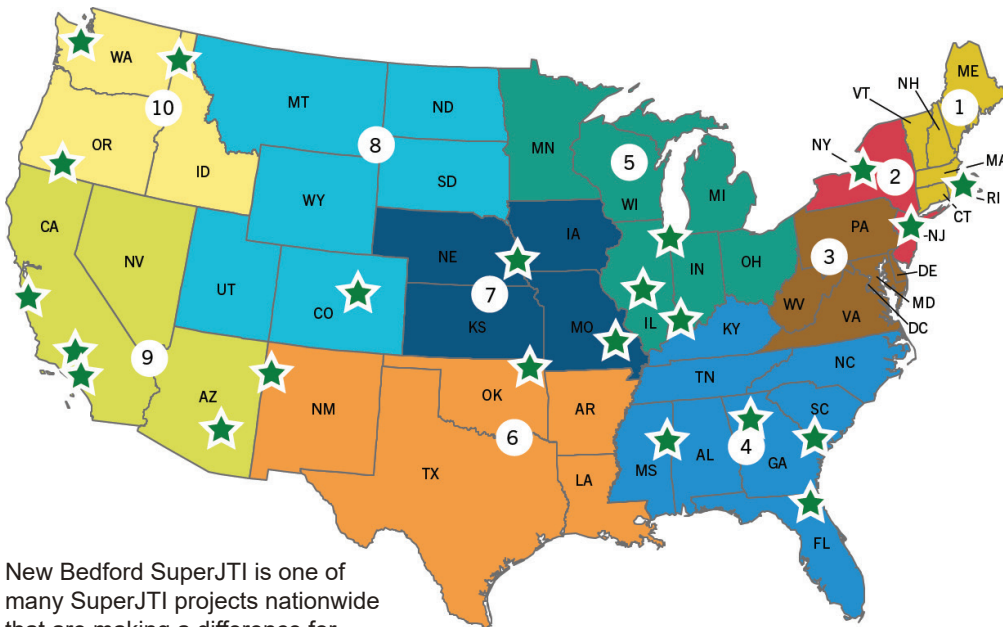
Graduation for the program's 21 trainees took place at Fort Taber Community Center in December 2023. EPA Headquarters SuperJTI National Program Manager Chelsea Sebetich attended and spoke at the ceremony and EPA Region 1 Administrator David W. Cash handed out certificates to the graduates. The ceremony included remarks from program partners as well as the graduates.

NEW BEDFORD SUPERJTI TRAINEES:

Live on or near the New Bedford site: 76% of the trainees (16 people) live in New Bedford. The other five trainees live in neighboring areas.

Include a wide range of ages: Trainees ranged from people in their late teens to people in their 60s.

What is the SuperJTI Program?



New Bedford SuperJTI is one of many SuperJTI projects nationwide that are making a difference for people living in communities affected by Superfund sites.

The Superfund Job Training Initiative, or SuperJTI, supports job readiness programs in communities affected by nearby Superfund sites and encourages the employment of trainees at local site cleanups.

The SuperJTI program combines extensive classroom instruction with hands-on exercises for each participant. Upon completion of the program, each participant possesses the marketable skills required to become a valuable member of the community's workforce.

EPA offers SuperJTI training at no cost to training participants.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:
www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-job-training-initiative

Or contact SuperJTI's National Program Managers:

Devon Martin
 (202) 566-0976
martin.devon@epa.gov

Chelsea Sebetich
 (202) 566-1151
sebetich.chelsea@epa.gov