

Topic	Number	Question	Response	Date Published	Date Revised
Eligibility	1	How do I calculate the unemployment distressed eligibility criterion for my local government?	Your local government must have an estimated unemployment rate of 9 percent or more in the 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates to meet this criterion. Instructions: View the "Employment Status" Table, click on the "Geography" filter above or next to the table and navigate to your community. Make sure you find the data for the 2021 ACS 5-Year tables. The year will be displayed under the table name and can be changed using the dropdown menu. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2021.S2301?q=unemployment		3/7/24
Eligibility	2	How does HUD calculate the poverty distressed eligibility criterion for my local government?	Your local government must have a poverty rate of 20 percent or more among individuals not enrolled in higher education (undergraduate or graduate school), as of the 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates to meet this criterion. Instructions: View the "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by School Enrollment by Level of School for the Population 3 Years and Over" Table, click on the "Geography" filter above or next to the table, and navigate to your community. The calculation of the poverty rate should not include individuals enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs, which are listed under their own columns. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2021.B14006?q=B14006	7/23/21	3/7/24
Eligibility	3	How do I calculate the population decline distressed eligibility criterion for my local government?	Your local government must have a population decline of 5 percent or more between the 2011 and the 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates to meet this criterion. Instructions: View the ACS 5-Year Estimates for your community. The year will be displayed under the table name and can be changed using the dropdown menu. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2021.B01003?q=B01003	7/29/21	3/7/24
Eligibility	4	How does HUD determine whether census tracts are experiencing persistent poverty?	This is currently calculated using poverty rate estimates from the 2000 Decennial Census, 2011 5-Year ACS Estimates, and 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates. We use a crosswalk to translate the 2000 and 2011 estimates into the 2021 census tract geographies, as some census tracts have been altered. If you believe we have not included a community that should be included, please contact us at distressedcities@hud.gov	7/29/21	3/7/24
Eligibility	5	Why does DCTA focus on local governments serving communities with less than 50,000 people?	Local governments with 50,000 or more people are entitlement communities and tend to receive resources directly from the federal government and HUD. DCTA intends to directly provide capacity building technical assistance to smaller local governments that typically do not receive resources directly from the federal government.	7/29/21	N/A
Eligibility	6	How do I determine my local government's total population?	Please visit https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/data-profiles/2021/ and navigate to your community profile using the search options to locate the total population for your community according to the latest American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.	7/29/21	3/7/24
Eligibility	7	What types of activities are eligible under the DCTA Program?	Needs assessments, direct technical assistance (TA) and capacity building, development and maintenance of tools and products, self-directed and group learning, peer learning, and cohort learning are examples of eligible activities. The DCTA program does not provide grant funding or direct service to TA recipients.	7/29/21	3/7/24

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Eligibility	8	I believe my community meets the economically distressed threshold(s) for unemployment, poverty, population decline, or inclusion of persistent poverty census tracts. May I provide alternate data to demonstrate eligibility for this program?	If you have alternate state or local data from a reputable data source, you may use this data to demonstrate your Unit of General Local Government's (UGLG's) eligibility for this program. Email distressedcities@hud.gov with information about the alternate data source and the statistics calculated by this alternate source.	7/29/21	4/15/24
Eligibility	9	Does a community need to meet all three distressed criteria to be considered eligible under Category 1?	A community only needs to meet the economically distressed criteria for one of three areas (unemployment rate, poverty rate, or population decline). Meeting more than one criterion will not impact prioritization.	7/29/21	8/9/23
Eligibility	10	Is there a minimum population size for a local government to be eligible for Distressed Cities and Persistent Poverty Technical Assistance (DCTA)?	DCTA prioritizes communities with populations between 8,000 and 50,000 people. There may be flexibility with communities with populations under 8,000 if the local government demonstrates the capacity to engage in the DCTA Program. This is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Please contact distressedcities@hud.gov for more information. Please note, the direct recipient of the TA must be a local government (e.g. county, city, or tribe). If the community does not have a local governing body, this program is likely not an option.	7/29/21	3/24/23
Eligibility	11	What types of entities or organizations are eligible to receive technical assistance under the DCTA program?	The primary recipients of DCTA will be Units of General Local Government (UGLGs or local governments) (cities, townships, counties, parishes, villages, etc.) and tribal governments. UGLG equivalents in U.S. territories (e.g. districts, counties, or municipalities) may also be eligible to receive DCTA. Local governments that receive technical assistance may be asked to submit a copy of their charter or other supporting documentation as proof of status as an UGLG. As of HUD fiscal year 2022, nonprofit organizations may receive technical assistance through this program by partnering with their associated local government.	7/29/21	11/20/23
Eligibility	12	Can tribal governments be eligible for DCTA?	Yes. Tribal governments that meet Category 1 (economically distressed) and/or Category 2 (experiencing persistent poverty) criteria that have fewer than 50,000 people are eligible for DCTA. Tribal governments with populations over 50,000 may still be eligible if the focus of the TA will benefit specific sub-communities that meet these requirements within the tribal territory. We strongly encourage tribal representatives to email distressedcities@hud.gov for further guidance.	7/29/21	8/9/23
Eligibility	13	Are local governments in the U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa) eligible for the DCTA?	All local governments in U.S. territories may be considered for this technical assistance. We recognize that many of the local governments in these territories are not included in the Eligibility Map or Excel Workbook. HUD will work with representatives of these communities to determine eligibility. Please contact distressedcities@hud.gov for further guidance.	7/29/21	8/9/23
Outreach	14	I work in a HUD Field Office and want to share DCTA Program opportunities with local governments in my service area, what should I do?	You may wish to work with your Field Office Director, Public Housing Director, and Community Planning and Development Director to reach out to local government leaders in your service area. Remember, DCTA is prioritized for local governments whose population is between 8,000 and 50,000. The DCTA Team strongly encourages you to visit the DCTA pages on HUD User and the HUD Exchange, where the most up-to-date information may be found about this program. If you would like to request a briefing for your HUD office on this program, please send an email to distressedcities@hud.gov.	7/29/21	4/15/24

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Process	15	How will HUD determine who gets technical assistance?	The DCTA Team reviews requests for assistance on a case-by-case basis. This begins with determining whether the primary applicant represents a Unit of General Local Government (UGLG or local government) or tribal government, and whether the community meets the selection criteria (economically distressed or experiencing persistent poverty, and population size). For more information on these criteria, as well as instructions for submitting requests for technical assistance, please visit the Distressed Cities and Persistent Poverty Technical Assistance page on the HUD User. The DCTA Team will also evaluate the local government's capacity to receive and benefit from DCTA in a sustainable way, the tenure and priorities of local/tribal government leadership, and the local/tribal government's previous interactions with HUD. These previous interactions with HUD may include conversations with the local HUD office. Please note that the funding for this program is limited and not every request from eligible applicants will be selected for technical assistance under the DCTA program.	7/29/21	4/15/24
Process	16	Is there a deadline for applying for DCTA?	There is no deadline for applying. We will continue to review applications for assistance until the funding runs out. Please note that not all requests for assistance will be approved. We encourage you to submit your application at a time when you have the capacity to work with HUD's technical assistance (TA) provider(s). Communities with stable management and staff that are committed to engaging with HUD and the TA provider will be prioritized for TA.	7/29/21	8/9/23
Eligibility	17	Is a match required for recipients of DCTA?	No, a match is not required for recipients of DCTA. No funding is provided to units of general local government or non-profit organizations that receive support through DCTA.	3/24/23	N/A
Eligibility	18	Is this TA available to public housing authorities?	DCTA is available to units of general local government (UGLGs). As a quasi-governmental entity, public housing authorities (PHAs) are not eligible to request DCTA. However, if a PHA's affiliate UGLG requests and receives DCTA, the PHA may receive TA indirectly as it relates to the UGLG's technical assistance priorities and goals.	3/24/23	N/A
Eligibility	19	What role can Metropolitan Planning Organizations play in DCTA?	DCTA is available to units of general local government – such as cities, counties, or townships. A metropolitan planning organization (MPO) is not eligible to receive DCTA directly as it is not a UGLG. DCTA may support a local government's work with regional organizations, nonprofits, philanthropy, and other cross-sector partnerships as it relates to the UGLG's technical assistance priorities and goals.	3/24/23	N/A
Process	20	How does an eligible entity submit a request for DCTA?	Units of general local government (UGLG) may request TA by submitting information via the online template linked on HUD User. Nonprofit partners may also submit information via the online template but it will not be processed until the associated UGLG has submitted their information.	3/24/23	4/15/24