

## Thriving Communities: FAQ

11/1/2022

### How is HUD's Thriving Communities Program related to the Department of Transportation's (DOT's) Thriving Communities Program?

The two are separate programs, each with its own Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The two programs share a common vision: supporting jurisdictions in designing and deploying their infrastructure investments in ways that support equitable development and benefit residents and businesses. The HUD and DOT technical assistance programs focus on different components in helping jurisdictions use infrastructure investment to create thriving communities and therefore have different eligibility requirements and rating factors.

### What type of funding is available under the Thriving Communities program?

The Thriving Communities TA program provides reimbursable project funding to selected TA providers through cooperative agreements covering a three-year period of performance. All awards will be administered pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards found in 2 CFR Part 200.

### Is my organization eligible to apply for funding under HUD's Thriving Communities NOFO?

Eligible Applicants are listed in Section III.A. on page 14.

### Can Alaskan Native Corporations be TA providers?

For profit and non-profit organizations are eligible applicants, as are Native American tribal organizations. Government entities, including federally recognized tribal governments, are not eligible applicants.

### Can an entity submit an application as prime and be on another application as a subrecipient?

An entity that submits an application as prime may be a subrecipient on another application. However, as stated in Section III.D.4, an organization that applies under this NOFO is prohibited from being listed as a contractor or consultant on any other application under this NOFO. If an entity submits an application as prime and is on another application as a subrecipient, the entity should ensure it has the resources to perform in both capacities should both applications be awarded.

### Do applicants have to have experience as a HUD-funded TA Provider?

Applicants are not required to have experience as a HUD-funded TA provider, but should have expertise and experience across a range of issues, such as: governance in UGLGs; planning that integrates transportation and housing; economic and community revitalization and development; cross-sector partnerships; project planning, implementation and monitoring; participation in federal, state and local housing and transportation programs; meaningful community engagement, especially with groups that have faced barriers to participation in local planning and resource allocation; new construction and rehabilitation; affordable housing

preservation and production; prevention of displacement of residents and businesses; community wealth-building; and tools for identifying, tracking, and developing underutilized land.

Is HUD's Thriving Communities Technical Assistance NOFO part of HUD's comprehensive "Community Compass Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program"?

No. This HUD Thriving Communities Technical Assistance NOFO is not part of the comprehensive "Community Compass Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program." Applicants for HUD's Thriving Communities NOFO should thoroughly review the NOFO to ensure they have the necessary skills to provide the TA described in this NOFO.

Can an applicant that is eligible to apply for both HUD's and DOT's Thriving Communities NOFOs apply to both?

Yes. An applicant that is eligible under HUD's Thriving Communities Technical Assistance NOFO and is also eligible under DOT's Thriving Communities Program NOFO is eligible to apply to both.

Will an applicant that applies to both DOT's and HUD's NOFOs be required to describe how the two programs they are proposing will work together in their applications?

The DOT and the HUD Thriving Communities NOFOs each provide separate evaluation criteria for rating individual applications for each agency's NOFO. Each application should be prepared with the understanding that these are separate NOFOs and that if an applicant is awarded under one agency's NOFO that does not mean it will be awarded under the other agency's NOFO.

Can organizations applying for funding under HUD's Thriving Communities NOFO apply to provide technical assistance through other HUD or Federal opportunities? Can applicants be selected for more than one?

Yes. There is no restriction from or prohibition to applying or providing technical assistance through other HUD or Federal opportunities. Eligible and interested applicants, for instance, can also apply to DOT's Thriving Communities NOFO. However, application for one program does not constitute application for another.

How does an eligible entity apply?

Eligible organizations must submit their application by **11:59 PM EDT on Tuesday, November 22, 2022**, via grants.gov. You can find the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=343955> or search Opportunity Number FR-6600-N-85 on grants.gov. To apply via Grants.gov, applicants must register with SAM.gov and Grants.gov. **Registration can take between three to five business days or as long as four weeks.** To avoid delays, it is recommended that applicants start early and not wait until the approaching deadline date before logging in, registering, reviewing the application instructions, and applying.

Are partnerships encouraged or scored higher?

HUD is looking for TA providers that bring a diversity of experiences and perspectives to inform the range of TA engagements. HUD will evaluate each applicant according to the three Rating Factors specified in the NOFO. Partnerships are not required but may be a way for an applicant to bring together the set of required skills. Points are not awarded for partnerships, other than 2 preference points when an applicant partners with a Historically Black College or University.

#### Is there a funding match requirement for applicants?

No. There is no match requirement.

#### Does HUD offer preference points for applicants?

An applicant that is designated as a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) will receive up to two (2) Preference Points when the application includes documentation of the applicant's status as an HBCU.

An applicant partnering with an HBCU will receive up to two (2) Preference Points when the application includes a Letter of Commitment certifying that an HBCU Partnership is in place and signed by an authorizing official of the HBCU and documentation of the college or university's status as an HBCU.

The maximum number of HBCU Preference Points is two (2) points per application.

#### The NOFO discusses working with locally based organizations. How can the applicant address that issue when it is not yet known which communities will submit TA requests?

Under Rating Factor 3, Soundness of Approach, the applicant is asked to describe its program strategy, which includes "(5) partnering with locally-based organizations to address local challenges and support community engagement, while enhancing and sustaining the capacity building through the TA engagement being provided." This item enables the applicant to show its process for working with locally based organizations and does not require experience in specific jurisdictions.

#### What types of entities will be eligible to receive Thriving Communities technical assistance?

Beneficiaries must be units of general local government (UGLGs) that (a) will be receiving transportation funding, either directly or through a state pass-through, (b) want to address housing needs in Disadvantaged Communities, and (c) have a need for TA based on a needs assessment. The UGLG may be working with regional organizations (such as a Metropolitan Planning Organization), non-profits, philanthropy, or other cross-sector partnerships, but the request for TA must be made by the UGLG.

#### How will jurisdictions be identified?

Eligible beneficiaries of technical assistance will be identified by HUD at a later date.

#### Are UGLGs receiving TA under DOT's Thriving Communities program precluded from receiving TA funded through HUD's Thriving Communities technical assistance?

No. UGLGs receiving TA under DOT's Thriving Communities technical assistance program are not precluded from receiving TA funded through HUD's Thriving Communities technical assistance NOFO.

#### Are Alaskan Villages able to apply for TA?

Beneficiaries of technical assistance must be a unit of general local government, which is defined in the NOFO as, "Any city, county, town, township, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State or territory. For the purposes of this program, this includes tribal governments." Accordingly, Alaskan villages may be beneficiaries.

#### How many jurisdictions will receive the HUD TA?

The number of jurisdictions that receive HUD's Thriving Communities TA will be determined based on TA capacity and beneficiary needs. A specific number has not been established.

#### How does this program help rural communities?

Rural governments may qualify as eligible beneficiaries to receive technical assistance.

#### How are Technical Assistance providers paired up with communities?

Under HUD's Demand/Response system, once a jurisdiction's request for TA has been approved, HUD will identify which of the awardees has the appropriate expertise, capacity, and remaining funding under the award to provide technical assistance to that jurisdiction.

#### Can TA providers funded under this NOFO also be a beneficiary of activities carried out under the Cooperative Agreement?

No. A selected applicant who provides TA cannot also be a beneficiary of that TA or of other activities carried out under the Cooperative Agreement.

#### The NOFO focuses on investments in disadvantaged communities. What tools and parameters are being used to define disadvantaged communities?

HUD is using the same definition of disadvantaged communities as the Department of Transportation is using for its Thriving Community program: (1) Any Tribal land or any territory or possession of the United States and (2) those census tracts (a) experiencing disproportionate effects (as defined by Executive Order 12898); (b) that contain areas of persistent poverty as defined in 49 U.S.C. section 6702(a)(1); (c) that are historically disadvantaged as defined by DOT's mapping tool for Historically Disadvantaged Communities; or (d) other federally designated community development zones.

#### Will HUD and DOT work together to select the disadvantaged communities?

HUD and DOT are using different selection criteria to identify TA beneficiaries to reflect the different focus areas the two separate TA programs address.

#### I work for a nonprofit. Can we benefit from this funding to help with housing development?

A nonprofit that is not providing technical assistance under the NOFO may benefit indirectly from the Thriving Communities program by working with its local government to address issues at the intersection of housing and transportation. Alternatively, the TA provider may choose to connect with the nonprofit as a local resource that works with the TA provider to connect with community members.

[We have separate housing and transportation departments; is this grant available for both departments or as joint development?](#)

The funding will be given to technical assistance providers; no funds will be given directly to local jurisdictions under HUD's program. The TA providers will work with local governments. Under the TA focus areas, it is anticipated that the TA providers may work with multiple departments within the jurisdiction.

[Does technical assistance include grant scoping and writing services?](#)

HUD's Thriving Communities TA program does not fund grant scoping and writing services.

[Does HUD have its TA providers focus on specific geographic locations? If our capacity building team already serves a particular region, can we continue to do so through this program? Do HUD's TA providers assist only those in the region where they are located, or if they are just sent wherever and whenever needed by HUD as deemed necessary in the "demand-response system"?](#)

If you receive an award, you must operate within the structure of the "demand-response system" when applicable. Under the demand-response system, applicants will be tasked to deliver TA in geographic areas outside of where their organization may be based. When considering your capacity to deliver TA under the Thriving Communities program, you should also consider your organization's capacity to travel to various locations to address the TA needs of jurisdictions.

[When will HUD announce awards?](#)

HUD anticipates selecting TA providers early next year, at which time it will finalize scopes of work, budgets, and other project details through the negotiation of cooperative agreements. TA support to jurisdictions will follow.

[What is the period of performance?](#)

The period of performance is three years: 2023-2026.

[I was able to download the application package on grants.gov but am unable to access the application instructions that includes the Applicant Summary and Experience and Qualifications Workbook. How do I locate the instruction package with these attachments on grants.gov?](#)

On the announcement page on grants.gov, go to the Package tab, click on Preview, and then click Download Instructions. The .zip file will download to your computer.