Establishment of the TAT Grant

- Established by the Farm Bill
- Farm Bill language outlined eligible applicants and uses of funds
- Farm Bill language required priority be given for experience
- Funding is to be no less than 3% nor more than 5% of the annual CF Appropriated funds. Actual amount decided by Secretary.
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant

Development of the TAT Grant Program

- Final Rule with Comments published on January 14, 2016
- Correcting Amendment published May 6, 2016
- FY 2017 Funding Notice was published on May 23, 2017.
- FY 2018 Funding Notice was published on May 3, 2018
- FY 2019 Funding Notice was published on April 1, 2019
- FY 2020 Funding Notice was published on February 20, 2020
- FY 2021 Funding Notice was published on January 11, 2021
- TAT Website: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-technical-assistance-and-training-grant
The Agency will make grants to public bodies and private nonprofit corporations, and Federally recognized Indian Tribes and Tribes on Federal and State reservations to provide technical assistance and/or training with respect to essential community facilities programs. The technical assistance and/or training will assist communities, Indian Tribes, and Nonprofit Corporations to identify and plan for community facility needs that exist in their area. Once those needs have been identified, the Grantee can assist in identifying public and private resources to finance those identified community facility needs.
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant

Overview of TAT Grant Program Regulations

- The Grant Regulations were drafted using both RCDI and WEPTAT as a guide.
- Matching funds are not required, but used as a scoring priority. Matching funds must be in form of cash.
- There are two types of Applicants – Technical Assistance Providers (TAP) and Ultimate Recipients (UR).
- Eligible project purposes are directly from the Farm Bill. They were intentionally left generic in order to accommodate as many types of projects as possible.
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant

Overview of TAT Grant Program Regulations

- Ineligible Project Purposes give specific examples of what type of projects are not eligible.
- A Notice is published annually in the Federal Register outlining the amount of funds available, where to apply, and other pertinent information.
- Application package is primarily narrative.
- Successful grantees will be required to submit quarterly reports.
**Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant**

**Definitions (3570.252)**

- Definitions are similar those we use in the CF and RCDI Programs
- Note definition of Indian Tribe. It is different that the language in the Farm Bill. Tribes do not have to be located on recognized reservations.
- This program encourages multi-jurisdictional type projects so definition of Jurisdiction and Multi-Jurisdictional was added.
- Technical Assistance is defined.
- The two types of Applicants – Technical Assistance Provider and Ultimate Recipient are defined.
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant

Matching Funds (3570.255)

- Matching funds are not required
- Priority is given to those applicants that demonstrate matching funds
- Per 3570.273(g) in order to get points for matching funds, those matching funds must be in the form of cash.
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant

Applicant Eligibility (3570.262)

- There are two types of applicants:
  - Technical Assistance Provider (TAP)
  - Ultimate Recipient (UR)
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant

Technical Assistance Provider (3570.262)(a)

- Legal Entities
  - Public Bodies
  - Nonprofit Corporations
    - Must be designated tax-exempt by the IRS
    - Do not have to demonstrate ties to the local community
  - Indian Tribes

- Must have proven background, experience, legal authority and capacity to carry out project
- May contract with a nonaffiliated organization for no more than 49% of the proposed technical assistance.
- Must provide assistance to eligible Ultimate Recipients. Cannot be the direct recipient of the services provided by the grant funds.
# Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant

**Ultimate Recipient (3570.262)(b)**

- Legal Entities
  - Public Bodies
  - Nonprofit Corporations with community ties
  - Indian Tribes
- Ultimate Recipient eligibility requirements are the same as our regular CF Loan Programs.
- Can be the direct beneficiary of the services provided. For example, funds could be used to contract with an Architect to complete a PAR.
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant

Eligible Project Purposes (3570.263)

• Eligible project purposes are copied directly from the Farm Bill
• They are meant to be open to capture as many types of projects as possible
• Ultimate Recipients can only apply under #3 Prepare reports and surveys necessary to request financial assistance to develop community facilities.
• Technical assistance (TA) must be related to an eligible CF Purpose for CF Funding. For example, Technical Assistance Provider could not provide TA for a recreational type facility nor for a project that will not seek CF Funding.
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant

Ineligible Project Purposes (3570.264)
- Cannot purchase hard assets, real estate, vehicles, etc.
- Cannot be used to go out and recruit or generate leads for possible applicants for the CF Program
- Can be used to assist entities in making application to USDA for CF Funding.
- Cannot be used to conduct income surveys
- Administrative expenses cannot exceed 10% of the grant amount
- Funds can be used to prepare environmental assessments (See Correcting amendment dated May 6, 2016)
- Cannot duplicate services. **Grantees must increase total FTE’s with grant funds if grant funds or matching funds are to be used to pay salary expense.**
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant

Applications (3570.267)

- The same forms are required for both TAP and UR applicants
- Supporting information is different for TAP and UR applicants
- TAP applicants do not have to identify the UR(s) they plan to assist. If they do not identify the UR(s) in the application they must describe how they will select the UR(s) they will assist.
- UR will have to demonstrate they have community ties
- All applicants will provide documentation for the scoring factors.
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant

Scoring (3570.273)
- Experience: This is weighted heavily due to Farm Bill requiring preference be given to applicants with experience. It is the highest rated factor.
  - In order for UR’s to receive points in this category, they must demonstrate they have the experience in the work to be completed
- Population and MHI: Use the average for the areas the Applicant will serve.
- Soundness of Approach: This is the same as the RCDI Grant
- Matching funds: Once again this has to be in form of cash in order to award points
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant

Scoring (3570.273)

- State Director may award up to 10 points for top priority project, 7 for second priority and 5 for third priority
  - Points must be awarded based on unforeseen exigencies or emergencies such as loss of a facility due to an accident or natural disaster
- Administrator may award up to 20 discretionary points for things such as geographical distribution of funds, emergency conditions, or other initiatives identified by the Secretary
- The Agency is encouraging application that address the Opioid Crisis and the Rural Prosperity Task Force
- All projects will be scored and funded based upon ranking
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant

Reporting (3570.276)

- The Grantee will provide periodic (quarterly) reports which consist of the SF 424 and a narrative.
- The narrative is outlined at 3570.276
- A final report is also required and additional information outlined at 3570.276(a)(7) is required.
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant

- Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA)
- NOSA was published January 11, 2021.
- Electronic Applications are due via Grants.gov by Midnight EDT on March 22, 2021
- Paper Applications are due by March 29, 2021 at 4:00 PM local time.
- Applicants may request technical assistance or application guidance prior to March 17, 2021
- Amount of funds available for FY 2021 is $1,500,000.
- Funds not obligated by September 15, 2021 can be converted back to CF Guaranteed or Grant Funds.
### Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant
**NOSA Changes for 2021**

- *No significant change made for 2021*
- **Changes made in 2020**
  - Applications are due 4:00 PM local time rather than 5:00 EDT
- **Changes made in 2019**
  - Up to 10% of the available funds ($150,000) may be awarded to the highest scoring UR’s as long as they score at least 70 Points
  - Applicants may only submit one application for funding
- **Changes made in 2018:**
  - Maximum award amount for UR’s is $50,000
  - An additional tie breaker was added. First tie breaker is based upon matching funds. Second tie breaker is based upon multi-jurisdictional
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant
Areas of Interest

The Agency encourages applications that will support recommendations made in the Rural Prosperity Task Force report to help improve life in rural America (www.usda.gov/rural/prosperity). Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic investments in infrastructure, partnerships, and innovation. Key strategies include:

• Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America
• Developing the Rural Economy
• Harnessing Technological Innovation
• Supporting a Rural Workforce
• Improving Quality of Life
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant
Areas of Interest

To combat a key threat to economic prosperity, rural workforce and quality of life, the Agency also encourages applications that will support the Administration’s goal to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with Substance Use Disorder (including opioid misuse) in high-risk rural communities by strengthening the capacity to address prevention, treatment and/or recovery at the community, county, state, and/or regional levels. See [https://www.cdc.gov/pwd/vulnerable-counties-data.html](https://www.cdc.gov/pwd/vulnerable-counties-data.html). Key strategies include:

- **Prevention**: reducing the occurrence of Substance Use Disorder (including opioid misuse) and fatal substance-related overdoses through community and provider education and harm reduction measures, such as the strategic placement of overdose reversing devices;
- **Treatment**: implementing or expanding access to evidence-based treatment practices for Substance Use Disorder (including opioid misuse), such as medication-assisted treatment (MAT); and
- **Recovery**: expanding peer recovery and treatment options that help people start and stay in recovery.
Application Guide
Thanks to Amy Dati (MO), Chelsea Morris (KS), and Charlene Hale (IN) for their assistance in creating the Application Guide.
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant Application Guide

This guide provides information to help you:

- Understand the Agency’s Key Strategies
- Assess your eligibility for grant assistance.
- Understand how and when to apply.
- Create a successful application
  - Application requirements, to include examples.
  - How the application is to be reviewed and scored.
  - Application Submission Process
- Contact your State Point-of-Contact.
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant Application Guide

- Appendix A – Helpful Resources
  - Useful links
  - Definitions

- Appendix B – Optional Checklist for Applications
  - One page checklist to ensure a complete application

- Appendix C – System for Award Management (SAM) quick reference guide to assist new applicants in registering.
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant
NOSA

Application Submission

• Applications will be submitted to the State Offices
• Applicants with headquarters in DC will submit applications to Shirley Stevenson
• Applicants may submit applications electronically via Grants.gov
• No faxes or e-mailed electronic copies are to be accepted.
• Applications are due by 4:00 local time on March 29, 2021 if submitted by hard copy to office or midnight EDT on March 22, 2021 if submitted via Grants.gov
• Grants for TAP’s will be limited to no more than $150,000
• Grants for UR’s will be limited to no more than $50,000
• Anticipated award date is September 15, 2021
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant
NOSA

**Application Processing**
- State Offices will make eligibility determinations
- State Offices will complete the score sheet and submit score sheets to the National Office.
- National Office will review score sheets and seek Administrator Discretionary points if requested
- National Office will rank projects and make funding recommendation to the Administrator
- National Office will notify States once selections are made
- State Offices will issue Letters of Conditions and obligate funds.
- More information regarding the obligation process will be issued at a later time.
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant NOSA

Grant Closing and Distribution of Funds

- Grantee and Agency will execute the 1940-1
- RD Form 3570-4 Grant Agreement will be executed to close the Grant
- SF 270 “Request for Advance or Reimbursement” will be completed to request funds
- All reporting requirements should be up to date before funds are released to the Grantee.
**Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant**

**Additional Resources**
- TAT Website: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-technical-assistance-and-training-grant
- CF Sharepoint Site:
  - Processing Checklist
  - Score sheet
  - Power Point Presentations
  - Application Guide
- Contact Nathan Chitwood or Shirley Stevenson if you have questions
Questions??
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