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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

[Docket No. RHS-21-CF-0001]

Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant for Fiscal Year 2021

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Solicitation of Applications.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces that the Rural Housing Service (Agency) is accepting Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 applications for the Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant program. The Agency will publish the amount of funding received in the final appropriations act on its website at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/newsroom/notices-solicitation-applications-nosas>. Awards will be made from available funding on or before September 15, 2021.

DATES: The Agency must receive applications in paper postmarked and mailed, shipped, or sent overnight by 4:00 PM local time on **[INSERT 75 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. Electronic applications must be submitted via grants.gov by Midnight Eastern time on **[INSERT DATE 70 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. Prior to official submission of applications, applicants may request technical assistance or other application guidance from the Agency, as long as such

requests are made prior to **[INSERT DATE 65 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. Technical assistance is not meant to be an analysis or assessment of the quality of the materials submitted, a substitute for agency review of completed applications, nor a determination of eligibility, if such determination requires in-depth analysis. The Agency will not solicit or consider scoring or eligibility information that is submitted after the application deadline. The Agency reserves the right to contact applicants to seek clarification information on materials contained in the submitted application.

ADDRESSES: Applications will be submitted to the USDA Rural Development State Office in the state where the applicant's headquarters is located. A listing of each State Office can be found at https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/CF_State_Office_Contacts.pdf. If you want to submit an electronic application, follow the instructions for the TAT funding announcement on <http://www.grants.gov>. For those applicants located in the District of Columbia, applications will be submitted to the National Office in care of Shirley Stevenson, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 0787, Washington, DC 20250. Electronic applications will be submitted via <http://www.grants.gov>. All applicants can access application materials at <http://www.grants.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Rural Development office in which the applicant is located. A list of the Rural Development State Office contacts can be found at https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/CF_State_Office_Contacts.pdf. Applicants located in Washington D.C. can contact Shirley Stevenson at (202) 205-9685 or via email at Shirley.Stevenson@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Agency encourages applications that will help improve life in rural America. (See information on the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity found at www.usda.gov/ruralprosperity.) Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic investments.

Key strategies include:

- Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America
- Developing the Rural Economy
- Harnessing Technological Innovation
- Supporting a Rural Workforce
- Improving Quality of Life

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/pwid/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.

State Director and Administrator discretionary points will be awarded to applications that address these Agency Goals.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The paperwork burden has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0575-0198.

Overview

Federal Agency: Rural Housing Service.

Funding Opportunity Title: Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant.

Announcement Type: Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 10.766.

Dates: To apply for funds, the Agency must receive mailed-in applications by 4:00 p.m. local time on **[INSERT 75 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. Electronic applications must be submitted via grants.gov by Midnight Eastern time on **[INSERT 70 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. The Agency will not consider any application received after this deadline. Prior to official submission of applications, applicants may request technical assistance or other application guidance from the Agency, as long as such requests are made prior to **[INSERT DATE 65 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. Technical assistance is not meant to be an analysis or assessment of the quality of the materials submitted, a

substitute for agency review of completed applications, nor a determination of eligibility, if such determination requires in-depth analysis. The Agency will not solicit or consider scoring or eligibility information that is submitted after the application deadline. The Agency reserves the right to contact applicants to seek clarification information on materials contained in the submitted application.

Availability of Notice: This Notice is available through the USDA Rural Development site at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/newsroom/notices-solicitation-applications-nosas>.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Purpose

Congress authorized the Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant program in Title VI, Section 6006 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79). Program regulations can be found at 7 CFR part 3570, subpart F, referenced in this Notice. The purpose of this Notice is to seek applications from entities that will provide technical assistance and/or training with respect to essential community facilities programs. It is the intent of this program to assist entities in rural areas in accessing funding under the Rural Housing Service's Community Facilities Programs in accordance with 7 CFR part 3570, subpart F. Funding priority will be made to private, nonprofit or public organizations that have experience in providing technical assistance and training to rural entities.

II. Award Information

Type of Awards: Grants will be made to eligible entities who will then provide technical assistance and/or training to eligible ultimate recipients.

Fiscal Year Funds: FY 2021 Technical Assistance Training (TAT) Grant funds.

Available Funds: The Agency is publishing the amount of funding received in the appropriations act on its website at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/newsroom/notices-solicitation-applications-nosas>. Up to ten percent of the available funds may be awarded to the highest scoring Ultimate Recipient(s) as long as they score a minimum score of at least 70.

Award Amounts: Grant awards for Technical Assistance Providers assisting Ultimate Recipients within one state may not exceed \$150,000. Grant awards made to Ultimate Recipients will not exceed \$50,000. The Agency reserves the right to reduce funding amounts based on the Agency's determination of available funding or other Agency funding priorities.

Award Dates: Awards will be made from available funding on or before September 15, 2021.

III. Eligibility Information

Both the applicant and the use of funds must meet eligibility requirements. The applicant eligibility requirements can be found at 7 CFR 3570.262. Eligible project purposes can be found at 7 CFR 3570.263. Ineligible project purposes can be found at 7 CFR 3570.264. Restrictions substantially similar to Sections 744 and 745 outlined in Division C, Title VII, "General Provisions - Government-Wide" of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Pub. L. 116-93) will apply unless noted on the Rural Development website (<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-technical-assistance-and-training-grant>).

Any corporation that has been convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the past 24 months; or has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with

the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability; is not eligible for financial assistance provided with full-year appropriated funds, unless a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

IV. Application and Submission Information

The requirements for submitting an application can be found at 7 CFR 3570.267. All Applicants can access application materials at <http://www.grants.gov>. Applications must be received by the Agency by the due date listed in the “DATES” section of this Notice. Applications received after that due date will not be considered for funding. Paper copies of the applications will be submitted to the State Office in which the applicant is headquartered. Electronic submissions should be submitted at <http://www.grants.gov>. A listing of the Rural Development State Offices may be found at https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/CF_State_Office_Contacts.pdf. For applicants whose headquarters are in the District of Columbia, they will submit their application to the National Office in care of Shirley Stevenson, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, STOP 0787, Washington, DC 20250. Both paper and electronic applications must be received by the Agency by the deadlines stated in the **DATES** section of this Notice. The use of a courier and package tracking for paper applications is strongly encouraged. An applicant can only submit one application for funding.

Application information for electronic submissions may be found at <http://www.grants.gov>.

Applications will not be accepted via FAX or electronic email.

V. Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and System for Awards Management (SAM)

Grant applicants must obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and register in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to submitting an application pursuant to 2 CFR 25.200(b). In addition, an entity applicant must maintain registration in SAM at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by the Agency. The applicant must ensure that the information in the database is current, accurate, and complete.

Applicants must ensure they complete the Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations in SAM. Similarly, all recipients of Federal financial assistance are required to report information about first-tier subawards and executive compensation in accordance to 2 CFR part 170. So long as an entity applicant does not have an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b), the applicant must have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements should the applicant receive funding. See 2 CFR 170.200(b).

An applicant, unless excepted under 2 CFR 25.110(b), (c), or (d), is required to:

- (a) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application;
- (b) Provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and
- (c) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information

at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

The Federal awarding agency may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the Federal awarding agency is ready to make a Federal award, the Federal awarding agency may determine

that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

As required by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), all grant applications must provide a DUNS number when applying for Federal grants, on or after October 1, 2003. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free number at 1-866-705-5711 or via Internet at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. Additional information concerning this requirement can be obtained on the Grants.gov Web Site at <http://www.grants.gov>. Similarly, applicants may register for SAM at <https://www.sam.gov> or by calling 1-866-606-8220.

The applicant must provide documentation that they are registered in SAM and their DUNS number. If the applicant does not provide documentation that they are registered in SAM and their DUNS number, the application will not be considered for funding.

VI. Application Processing

Applications will be processed and scored in accordance with this NOSA and 7 CFR 3570.273. Those applications receiving the highest points using the scoring factors found at 7 CFR 3570.273 will be selected for funding. Up to 10% of the available funds may be awarded to the highest scoring Ultimate Recipient(s) as long as they score a minimum score of at least 70. In the case of a tie, the first tie breaker will go to the applicant who scores the highest on matching funds. If two or more applications are still tied after using this tie breaker, the next tie breaker will go to the applicant who scores the highest in the multi-jurisdictional category.

Once the successful applicants are announced, the State Office will be responsible for obligating the grant funds, executing all obligation documents, and the grant agreement, as provided by the agency.

VII. Federal Award Administration Information

1. Federal Award Notice. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the awarding official of the Agency shall make grants in ranked order to eligible applicants under the procedures set forth in this Notice and the grant regulation 7 CFR 3570, subpart F.

Successful applicants will receive a letter in the mail containing instructions on requirements necessary to proceed with execution and performance of the award. This letter is not an authorization to begin performance. In addition, selected applicants will be requested to verify that components of the application have not changed at the time of selection and on the award date, if requested by the Agency.

The award is not approved until all information has been verified, and the awarding official of the Agency has signed Form RD 1940-1, "Request for Obligation of Funds" and the grant agreement.

Unsuccessful and ineligible applicants will receive written notification of their review and appeal rights.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements. Grantees will be required to do the following:

- (a) Execute a Grant Agreement.
- (b) Execute Form RD 1940-1.
- (c) Use Form SF 270, "Request for Advance or Reimbursement" to request reimbursement. Provide receipts for expenditures, timesheets, and any other documentation to support the request for reimbursement.
- (d) Provide financial status and project performance reports as set forth at 7 CFR 3570.276.
- (e) Maintain a financial management system that is acceptable to the Agency.

(f) Ensure that records are maintained to document all activities and expenditures utilizing CF TAT grant funds and any matching funds, if applicable. Receipts for expenditures will be included in this documentation.

(g) Provide audits or financial information as set forth in 7 CFR 3570.277.

(h) Collect and maintain data provided by ultimate recipients on race, sex, and national origin and ensure Ultimate Recipients collect and maintain this data. Race and ethnicity data will be collected in accordance with OMB Federal Register notice, “Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity,” (62 FR 58782), October 30, 1997. Sex data will be collected in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. These items should not be submitted with the application but should be available upon request by the Agency.

(i) Provide a final performance report as set forth at 7 CFR 3570.276(a)(7).

(j) Identify and report any association or relationship with Rural Development employees.

(k) The applicant and the ultimate recipient must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Executive Order 12250, Executive Order 13166 Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and 7 CFR part 1901, subpart E. The grantee must comply with policies, guidance, and requirements as described in the following applicable Code of Federal Regulations and any successor regulations:

(1) 2 CFR parts 200 and 400 (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards).

(2) 2 CFR parts 417 and 180 (Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement)).

3. Reporting

Reporting requirements for this grant as set forth at 7 CFR 3570.276.

VIII. Federal Awarding Agency Contact

Contact the Rural Development state office in the state where the applicant's headquarters is located. A list of Rural Development State Offices can be found at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/CF_State_Office_Contacts.pdf. For Applicants located in Washington DC, please contact Shirley Stevenson at (202) 205-9685 or via email at Shirley.Stevenson@wdc.usda.gov.

IX. Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at

http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) By mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Elizabeth Green,
Acting Administrator,
Rural Housing Service.

