

Are you a small jurisdiction that is building back from a disaster and looking for additional help? Do you know there are resources and strategies for getting on the right track but not sure where to start? The Distressed Cities Technical Assistance Program from HUD may be able to provide the guidance you need.

HUD's Distressed Cities Technical Assistance Program

The Distressed Cities Technical Assistance (DCTA) program is intended to build the capacity of small units of local government (UGLGs) who serve economically distressed communities that have recently felt the impact of natural disasters. DCTA's main objective is to provide local governments facing long-term economic challenges with accessible and comprehensive technical assistance that will help them adopt effective, efficient, and sustainable financial management practices that in turn will better position them to access additional resources and more effectively implement housing and community development programs.

DCTA considers good fiscal health, strong financial performance, and effective financial management practices to be the foundation for local governments to successfully implement projects and goals. These are viewed as central components of the technical assistance (TA) offered through this program.

In conjunction with financial management assistance, other areas of TA under this program include economic stabilization and recovery, understanding and use of federal development programs, affordable housing finance, community engagement practices, cross-sector partnerships, and program implementation.

Basic Criteria

To be eligible for DCTA, communities must be distressed based on poverty rate, unemployment rate, or population decline. To be prioritized, communities must have a population between 8,000 and 40,000 residents and be located in a county with a major natural disaster declaration in 2015 or later (excludes COVID-19). Please note, there are limited resources for this program and not all requests for assistance will be approved. If your community is not eligible for DCTA, you may still qualify for HUD's Community Compass TA, which you can find more information about here:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/technical-assistance/>

Technical Assistance Process

DCTA will be delivered in three phases. Phase One is the assessment phase where TA Providers will work with UGLGs and HUD staff to better understand financial management and programmatic capacity needs and priorities. Phase Two is the technical assistance delivery phase that will provide the guidance to address the needs identified in the assessment phase. Phase Three is the engagement closeout phase where the UGLG, HUD staff, and the TA Provider will finalize the project and identify next steps for program improvements and/or implementation.

For More Information

UGLGs interested in learning more about the program should refer to HUD's DCTA website at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/dcta/>