

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides federal affordable housing and community development resources to communities across the country. These resources are essential to catalyzing opportunity, however many recipients of this funding often need assistance to properly manage their HUD-funded programs and achieve their programmatic goals. HUD's Technical Assistance (TA) programs are designed to help recipients of HUD funding overcome challenges by equipping them with the knowledge, skills, tools, and capacity to ensure successful program implementation.

What is HUD Technical Assistance?

HUD provides technical assistance to grantees by contracting with organizations known as TA providers. TA providers are awarded cooperative grant agreements through a competitive funding process. HUD chooses TA providers for their subject matter expertise on the diverse array of HUD programs and for their skills and experience in affordable housing and community development. As needs for technical assistance arise, HUD assigns TA providers to work with grantees to alleviate these programmatic issues.

Traditionally, HUD TA has been provided through the **Community Compass Technical Assistance program**. The Community Compass program includes TA funding from a wide array of HUD programs, in addition to departmental TA resources. HUD assigns technical assistance to grantees, such as public housing authorities, states, cities, tribal governments and nonprofits. Recipients of Community Compass technical assistance can receive needs assessments; direct technical assistance; products and tools; training; data analysis; and knowledge management activities.

HUD's **Distressed Cities and Persistent Poverty Technical Assistance (DCTA) program** is a more recent initiative at HUD and is designed to build the capacity of local governments experiencing economic distress and assist them and their nonprofit partners in alleviating persistent poverty in specific areas. DCTA helps small local governments improve their financial management, build program capacity, and strengthen their work. This allows these communities to adopt financial management practices that improve fiscal health; build capacity to achieve economic development and disaster recovery goals; improve data analysis; and establish community planning engagements.

What has been LISC's involvement in Community Compass?

LISC's Community Compass TA work covers a wide range of HUD programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and CDBG-Disaster Recovery programs, as well as cross-cutting federal regulations and financial management guidance. Technical assistance is delivered to HUD grantees through a variety of mechanisms including products and tools, needs assessments, on-call assistance, and direct TA.

As part of the Community Compass TA program, LISC is working with HUD to develop trainings for local governments and community organizations on how to utilize the CDBG Section 108 Loan

Guarantee program in conjunction with federal tax credits to build affordable housing and economic development projects. This entails conducting educational webinars and drafting companion case study documents on how to best utilize the CDBG Section 108 program with the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, New Markets Tax Credit program, Historic Tax Credit program, and the Opportunity Zone program.

What has been LISC's involvement in DCTA?

As the lead technical assistance provider for the DCTA program as well as serving as a Community Compass TA provider, LISC utilizes interdisciplinary teams of subject matter experts to carry out HUD TA assignments. Some examples of our work in both programs include:

- Providing TA to help the town of Paradise, California with its rebuilding after the devastating Camp Fire of 2018. The Camp Fire destroyed much of Paradise's housing and infrastructure and caused an 80 percent population decline. Through the DCTA program, LISC is working with Paradise's local government staff to support their rebuilding efforts, including developing housing and economic development strategies to create more housing and attract businesses. In addition, LISC is working to strengthen the town's financial management policies and procedures to more effectively deploy their disaster relief funds, including both federal and private resources.
- Partnering with New Ecology, Inc., through our HUD Community Compass TA program, to conduct a two-day maintenance training for the HUD Northern Plains Office of

Native American Programs (NPONAP) at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North and South Dakota. The training, which was free and open to all tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE) in the NPONAP region, focused on educating tribes/TDHEs on best practices regarding property maintenance and inspections. Attendees were also able to get hands-on training in basic electrical wiring, furnace and water heater maintenance, and basic plumbing. LISC and New Ecology, Inc. have conducted similar trainings with the Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority in Ukiah, CA and the Isleta Pueblo Housing Authority in Isleta, NM for tribes and TDHE staff to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to manage their housing units.



What can Congress do?

- Congress should provide robust funding for the Community Compass Technical Assistance program and at least **\$5 million** for the Distressed Cities and Persistent Poverty Technical Assistance program to meet the needs of small, persistently poor cities.

LISC is a national nonprofit housing and community development intermediary with offices in 38 different cities and a national rural network of 146 organizations.

For more information about HUD Technical Assistance, please contact Mark Kudlowitz at mkudlowitz@lisc.org.