



DISTRESSED CITIES & PERSISTENT POVERTY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



DCTA Program Overview

Established in 2018 to build capacity of relatively small local governments that may not otherwise have direct access to HUD programs and TA resources

Primary goal to help local governments improve their fiscal health so they may be more successful in securing additional resources, completing projects, and meeting goals

TA may be available for a range of topics – including governance, management and administration; inclusive community engagement; program and grant administration and compliance, and partnership building

Focus on building capacity in ways that are sustainable (long-lasting) for the local government

What is technical assistance?

HUD Definition: Guidance which enables recipients to overcome a lack of specific skills or knowledge and, by doing so, become more successful in meeting the needs of their communities. TA is the transfer of skills and knowledge to entities that may need, but do not possess, such skills and knowledge.

What does this mean in terms of DCTA?

- The TA provider works directly with program recipients (local governments and sometimes their partners) to make progress in identified focus areas.
- The recipient must be actively involved throughout the process. If the recipient is unresponsive, the TA must pause or terminate.
- Typical recipients are very low capacity and successful recipients decide to make DCTA a priority.
- The DCTA program cannot help a recipient if the recipient does not have capacity to engage and work with the TA provider.

DCTA Team

TA Providers Bring Expertise and Resources* to Local Governments

- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
<https://www.lisc.org/>
- Enterprise Community Partners
<https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/>
- BCT Partners
<https://www.bctpartners.com/>
- PFM <https://www.pfm.com/>



BCT PARTNERS
Your Partner in Solutions that Matter

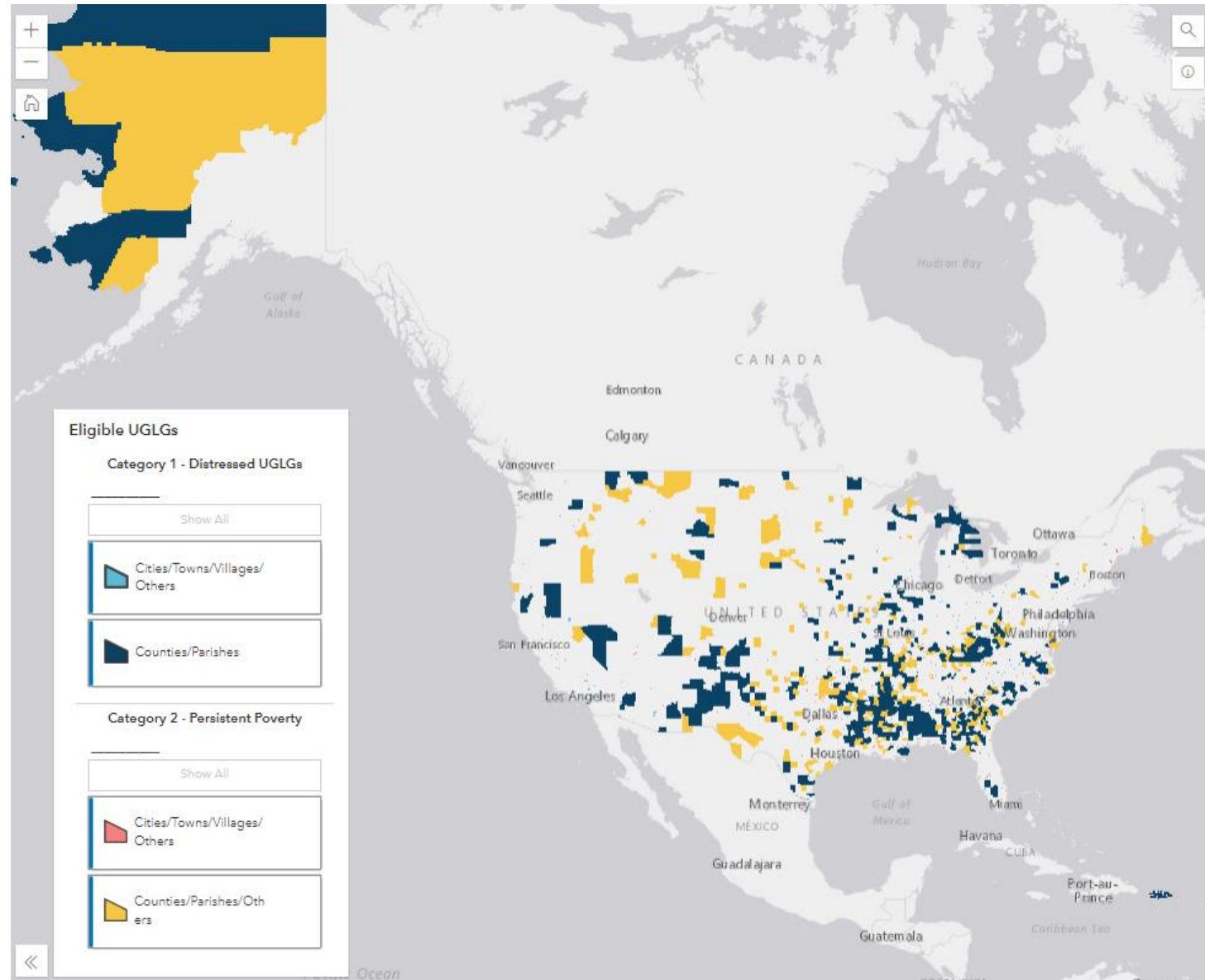
HUD Funds, Directs,
and Oversees TA
Providers

*A recipient typically receives TA from one primary provider. HUD determines the most appropriate provider based on local government needs and program resources.

Eligibility Map

Navigate to your jurisdiction of interest or you can search for a jurisdiction in the search box in the upper right.

Only local governments that have been found eligible by HUD are included on the map.



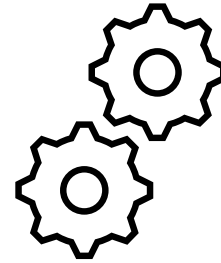
Economically Distressed

Local governments that meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible to receive assistance under the DCTA program.

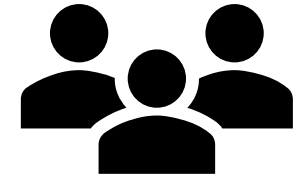
Reminder: not all eligible local government requests will be approved due to limited program capacity



An annual average unemployment rate of 9 percent or more over the past 3 years



A noncollege poverty rate of 20 percent or more as of the most recent 5-year ACS survey



A population decline of 5 percent or more between 2010 and the most recent 5-year ACS survey

Experiencing Persistent Poverty

Local governments with census tract(s) experiencing persistent poverty are eligible to receive assistance under the DCTA program.

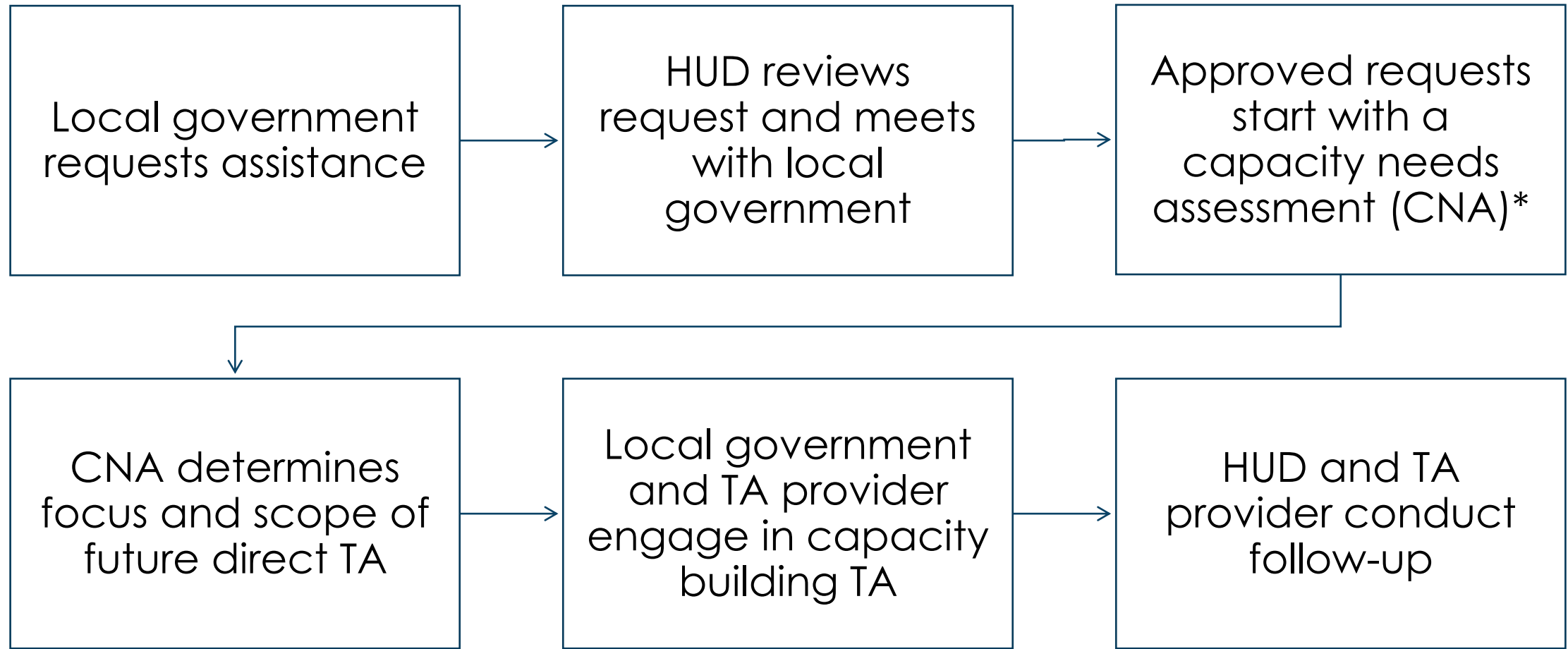
Nonprofit partners of local governments are also eligible to receive technical assistance.



A census tract with a poverty rate of 20% or higher over the past 30 years.

This is currently calculated using poverty rate estimates from the 2000 Decennial Census, the 2006-2010 5-Year ACS, and the 2015-2019 5-Year ACS datasets. HUD uses a crosswalk to translate the 2000 estimates into the 2010 census tract geographies, as some census tracts have been altered.

DCTA Process



*Some local governments have very specific and targeted TA needs when they request TA. If this is the case, it may be possible to receive direct TA without a completed CNA.

Example Table

Challenge or Opportunity	Assessment	TA Activities	Desired Outcome
<i>Identified by recipient (local government)</i>	<i>TA Provider assesses capacity in specific areas based on the identified challenge or opportunity</i>	<i>Tailored capacity building support is provided to pursue the opportunity or address the challenge</i>	<i>A goal the recipient is working towards with the TA</i>
Opportunity: state CDBG-DR funds will be made available through a competitive process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiscal health Financial management practices Community background 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support in remedying recent adverse financial audit findings. Training in grant management. Support in reviewing funding opportunities and drafting a competitive application. 	Local government receives CDBG-DR funds for identified project.
Challenge: chronic disinvestment in downtown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing partnerships Community assets Demographics Planning documents Economic development history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in development of local program to support small business owners. Provide guidance on strategy for attracting larger employers. 	<p>Establish a coalition of local businesses and organizations invested in improving downtown.</p> <p>Secure funding for main street store façade restoration.</p>


Local governments may learn more and request TA via the DCTA webpage on HUD.gov and the HUD Exchange

hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cpdata/dcta

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Home / Program Offices / Community Planning and Development / Community Compass TA and Capacity Building Program / DCTA

Distressed Cities and Persistent Poverty Technical Assistance Program



New Castle, Pennsylvania – DCTA Recipient

What is technical assistance (TA)?
Guidance which enables recipients to overcome a lack of specific skills or knowledge and, by doing so, become more successful in meeting the needs of their communities. TA is the transfer of skills and knowledge to entities that may need, but do not possess, such skills and knowledge.

DCTA Resources
Current recipients of DCTA and others looking for resources for economically distressed communities, visit the [DCTA HUD Exchange](#).

Sampling of Current Recipients
City of Banning, California
City Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania
City of Blythe, California
Municipio of Cayey, Puerto Rico

Download the DCTA Program Informational Handout here

Overview
[^ Top]

The Distressed Cities and Persistent Poverty Technical Assistance (DCTA) program is designed to build capacity of local governments experiencing economic distress and assist local governments and their nonprofit partners in alleviating persistent poverty in specific areas (census tracts). Through DCTA, HUD provides technical assistance (TA) directly to entities serving smaller communities with populations under 50,000.

DCTA considers good fiscal health, strong financial performance, and effective financial

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cpdata/dcta

hudexchange.info/programs/dcta/

HUD EXCHANGE

Home > Programs > Distressed Cities and Persistent Poverty Technical Assistance

Distressed Cities and Persistent Poverty Technical Assistance

The Distressed Cities and Persistent Poverty Technical Assistance (DCTA) program is designed to improve fiscal health and build administrative capacity of relatively small units of general local government (UGLGs or local governments) and their nonprofit partners in places experiencing persistent poverty and economic distress. A community's needs may be attributable to multiple factors *including but not limited to* changing market dynamics, emigration, and/or natural disasters.

DCTA considers good fiscal health, strong financial performance, and effective financial management practices to be the foundation for local governments and nonprofits to successfully obtain funding, implement projects, and accomplish goals. These are viewed as the central components of the technical assistance (TA) offered through this program. Other possible areas of TA under this program include governance and management, leadership development, data and research, building partnerships, community engagement, strategic planning, plan implementation, and program evaluation.

Engagement Spotlight

Each quarter, a new Engagement Spotlight will showcase some of the exciting achievements by local governments and nonprofits participating in the DCTA program. Watch this space as we uplift and share positive outcomes in communities actively engaging with the DCTA program!

Current Spotlight: Hannibal, MO



[View Spotlight](#)

What are the benefits of participating in the DCTA Program?

This program is designed to help small local governments and their nonprofit partners:

- Improve Financial Management:** Adopt effective, efficient, and sustainable (long-term) financial management practices that improve fiscal health
- Improve Internal Processes:** Based on the local government and nonprofit's needs, improve internal processes, such as:
 - Developing financial policies and procedures
 - Gathering and analyzing data that is representative of the community
 - Implementing or tracking progress of recently adopted planning documents
 - Building cross-sector partnerships
 - Establishing equitable community engagement practices
- Build Program Capacity:** Based on the local government's interests, build capacity program areas, such as:
 - Creating opportunities for economic revitalization and growth
 - Planning for economic stabilization and recovery post disaster (including prolonged disasters and public health crises)
 - Strategizing around housing and community development projects, including identifying funding
 - Leveraging federal development programs such as opportunity zones

Resources, Tools, Webinars, and Guidance

In addition to direct support from field

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/dcta>

Questions and Discussion

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