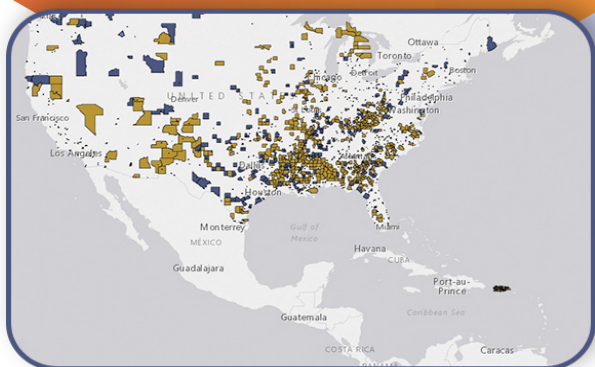


DISTRESSED CITIES AND PERSISTENT POVERTY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



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. Through DCTA, HUD provides technical assistance (TA) directly to entities serving smaller communities with populations under 50,000.

Visit HUD's interactive eligibility map to see if your local government is eligible!



Click [HERE](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cpdta/dcta) to view the map

Or locate the map on the program website available here

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

For this program, **"economically distressed"** local governments have:

MINIMUM: 9%



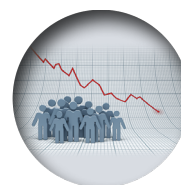
- an average **unemployment rate** of 9 percent or higher over the past three years using American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates;

MINIMUM: 20%



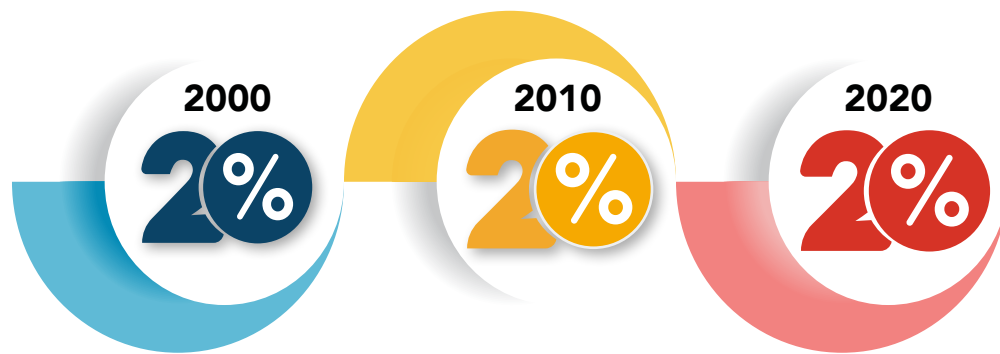
- a **poverty rate** of 20 percent or higher among individuals not enrolled in higher education as of the most recent ACS 5-year estimates, or

MINIMUM: 5%



- a **population decline** of 5 percent or higher between the 2010 Decennial Census and most recent ACS 5-Year estimates.

For this program, areas experiencing ***"persistent poverty"*** means:
A census tract with a poverty rate of 20 percent or higher over the past 30 years.



Examples of local governments:

- Tribes
- Villages
- Towns
- Cities
- Counties
- Municipalities

DCTA considers good fiscal health, strong financial performance, and effective financial management practices to be the foundation for successful implementation of projects and progression towards goals. Therefore, these are central components of the TA offered through this program.

Other possible areas of TA under the DCTA program include governance and management, leadership development, data and research, building partnerships, community engagement, strategic planning, plan implementation, and program evaluation.



What is technical assistance (TA)?

In TA, the recipient entity actively participates in capacity building activities alongside the assigned TA provider. The purpose is for the TA recipient to be more able to independently pursue goals and sustainably overcome challenges both during and after the conclusion of the TA engagement.

To relate this to a common saying, TA teaches the recipient to catch and prepare fish—from the preparatory stages of acquiring lures and bait, to the final stages of seasoning the fillet in the sauté pan—instead of simply handing them a nicely plated salmon dinner.

REQUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Local governments may submit requests via the online form available at:

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



There is currently no deadline to request assistance. Requests are considered as they are submitted and TA is offered to eligible recipients on a first come first served basis. Submitting a request early is highly encouraged to better ensure HUD has resources and capacity to approve the request. **Requests for financial management technical assistance will be prioritized.**

Some non-profit organizations may receive technical assistance in partnership with their local government. The local government must submit a request and will be the lead entity for the technical assistance engagement. Non-profit organizations may submit a request separately to provide information on their organization and its partnership with the local government. Partner nonprofit organizations must be 501(c)3 organizations with a history of working to alleviate poverty in the local government's jurisdiction.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE DCTA PROGRAM

This program supports small communities by providing local governments and their nonprofit partners access to expertise that may enable them to lay the foundation for the following:

- Improved Financial Management: Based on the local government's needs, recipients may implement effective, efficient, and sustainable (long-term) financial management practices that improve fiscal health, such as:
 - ─ Budgeting and forecasting cash flow for more than one year,
 - ─ Developing a capital improvement plan (CIP),
 - ─ Adopting comprehensive financial policies and procedures for grant management, and
 - ─ Implementing a collaborative process where all department managers engage with the budget,
- Improved Internal Processes: Based on the local government's needs, recipients may improve internal processes, such as:
 - ─ Gathering and analyzing data that is representative of the community,
 - ─ Implementing or tracking progress of recently adopted planning documents,
 - ─ Building cross-sector partnerships, and
 - ─ Establishing equitable community engagement practices.
- Increased Community Development Capacity: Based on the local government's priorities, recipients may build capacity to address challenges and seize opportunities for community improvement, such as:
 - ─ Creating opportunities for economic revitalization and growth,
 - ─ Planning for economic stabilization and recovery post disaster, and
 - ─ Strategizing around housing and community development projects, including identifying funding.

PHASES OF THE DCTA ENGAGEMENT

Intake

- Eligible recipient requests TA in DCTA focus area(s).
- HUD and recipient meet to confirm TA needs and discuss expectations.
- Recipient articulates specific goals to be supported by TA.

Assessment: Discovery and Exploration

- Recipient and TA provider (1) establish collaborative relationship, (2) delve into the circumstances relevant to goals, and (3) explore options for realistic progress.
- In consultation with HUD, recipient and TA provider map out subsequent direct TA that may be provided through the DCTA program.

Direct TA: Execution

- Recipient initiates activities as determined in the previous phase with the support of the TA provider.
- TA provider develops templates, guidance, tools, and other resources to help support the recipient.

Close Out

- Recipient feels prepared to follow through with priorities and activities established during Direct TA phase.
- TA provider memorializes next steps based on recipient status.
- Supportive materials developed during the engagement made accessible via online portal.

Follow Up and "On-Call" TA

- HUD will contact the recipient to learn about their experience in the program.
- TA provider will check-in with recipient at least twice after close-out, at the six-month and one-year mark.
- Recipient may access "on-call" TA for up to one-year after close-out. This "on-call" TA may be used to continue progress or troubleshoot challenges that arise relevant to the direct TA activities as the recipient proceeds on their own.

GOAL UGLG articulates priority goals during intake process.	ASSESSMENT UGLG provides contextual information and learns about options for TA support.	DIRECT TA Engages in specific activities with support of the TA provider.	TA OUTCOME UGLG achieves outcomes, or meaningful steps, towards goals.
Improve long-term fiscal stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review recent audits and financial statements. • Review funding applications (unsuccessful and successful). • Review organizational chart and sample time sheet. • Interview elected leaders and financial director. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review best practices and provide templates and guidance for future grant applications. • Implement cost saving initiatives, such as phone line audits and dependent eligibility audits. • Incorporate multi-year revenue forecasts and priority-based budgeting into the City's existing budget process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to align budget line items to city's performance and community impact. • Established open communication between finance and other departments. • Identified funds to purchase software for priority-based budgeting.
Retain qualified staff in essential positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview city manager or mayor, department managers, and human resources staff. • Look for trends in departures and vacancies. • Review employee incentive and growth opportunities. • Identify previous employees' areas of frustrations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with peer cities to learn about their employee incentives. • Review and revise pay schedule of UGLG compared to similar employers in area to increase competitiveness. • Design a local hiring policy for future adoption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive relatively high number of applicants for recently posted position that describes workplace flexibilities (an employee incentive). • Retain quality employees and attract new talent to maintain optimal staffing levels.

MORE INFORMATION/QUESTIONS

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

Email: distressedcities@hud.gov

