CDFI Program - Technical Assistance

CDFIs and Certifiable CDFIs can receive monetary awards that enhance their ability to meet the needs of the communities they serve. These competitive awards enable CDFIs and Certifiable CDFIs to build their organizational capacity and contribute to the revitalization of the economically distressed communities they serve.

Technical Assistance (TA) awards provide up to $125,000 for capacity building activities to help Applicants achieve CDFI Certification or to build the CDFI's capacity to further its strategic goals and achieve impact within its Target Market.

ELIGIBILITY

Certified and Emerging CDFIs are eligible to apply for Technical Assistance awards. Emerging CDFIs must demonstrate that they have the ability to become a Certified CDFI within three years of receiving a Technical Assistance grant. Certified CDFIs must not exceed the maximum asset threshold of $250 million or have begun operations as of a date specified in the CDFI Fund's Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) published in the Federal Register (typically within most recent three fiscal years).

To be eligible for an award, an insured depository institution applicant must have a CAMELS rating by its federal regulator of at least 3.

AWARD USE

TA monetary awards can be expended for salaries and fringe benefits of the applicant's personnel for work performed directly related to carrying out the purpose of the TA grant; travel costs of related personnel; professional service costs; training and education costs; and supplies and equipment.

The TA award program helps organizations develop the capacity to become CDFIs or expand their lending activities. TA awards are for start-up or existing CDFIs and are used to build capacity to underwrite loans and provide other services to the target market through the acquisition of goods and services such as consulting services, technology purchases and staff or board training.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

TA Awards are competitive, subjective applications. Not all completed, qualified applications will receive funding since a typical round attracts many more requests than funding available.

- **NARRATIVE RESPONSES**
    - Uncertified TA Applicants must describe how they currently meet and/or intend to meet five of the CDFI Fund's seven CDFI certification requirements within the required timeframe.
    - All TA Applicants must describe their business strategy including an organization overview, their management and staff, their community coordination plan, their financial performance, and their organizational impact.
- **APPLICATION FINANCIAL DATA** - Three Historic Fiscal Years, Current Fiscal Year, Three Projected Fiscal Years
- **ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS** – Key Staff Resumes, Organizational Charts
- **NEW TARGETED POPULATION** – Applicant must propose to serve a New Targeted Population that it is not certified to serve (e.g., Low-Income).

COMPLIANCE & REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Technical Assistance Awards (TA) have a four-year Period of Performance if not Certified and a two-year Period of Performance if Certified. All Applicants receiving a TA Award will be required to expend 90% of their award within the first 12 months and 100% of the award by the end of the Period of Performance (4 or 2 years). Emerging CDFIs must submit a Certification Application by the end of year 3.

TA Awardees will be required to submit the following reports annually:
- Financial Statement Audit Report
- Annual Certification Report
- Performance Progress Report
- Uses of Award Report

FINDINGS FROM FY22 TA AWARDEES
- For the FY 2022 funding round, the CDFI Funds received applications from 242 organizations requesting $30.1 million in Technical Assistance (TA) awards.
- A total of 202 organizations received awards totaling $25.2 million.
- Organizations receiving funds included Loan Funds (92), Credit Unions (104), Banks/Bank Holding Companies (5), and Venture Capital Funds (1). Geographic markets receiving awards included Major Urban (76), Micropolitan (18), Minor Urban (74), and Rural (34).