Technical Assistance (TA) Funding Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Who is administering the TA Funding Program?

TA is implemented by the State Water Resources Control Board's Office of Sustainable Water Solutions (OSWS) within the Division of Financial Assistance (DFA). The OSWS promotes permanent and sustainable drinking water and wastewater treatment solutions to ensure effective and efficient provision of safe, clean, affordable, and reliable drinking water and wastewater treatment services, focusing on addressing financial and technical assistance needs.

What is a small disadvantaged community?

A small disadvantaged community is defined as having a population ≤ 10,000 people or ≤ 3,300 service connections with a median household income (MHI) of less than 80% of the statewide MHI and no more than 50% second homes.

Who may receive TA?

TA is available to help small disadvantaged communities (small DACs) develop, fund, and implement capital improvement projects. This includes communities served by public water systems (PWS), state small water systems, or private wells. For non-PWS, TA may be provided to evaluate options and help develop an eligible project (to connect them to a PWS). Priority is given to small DACs, but larger DACs or non-DACs may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

What types of projects are eligible for TA?

TA efforts will be focused on development of projects for the following:

Drinking Water

More information can be found on the [State Water Board's Drinking Water Program](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/SRF.html) website: (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/SRF.html)

Infrastructure improvements to correct system deficiencies & improve drinking water quality:
- Treatment systems
- Distribution systems & water storage
- Interconnections, extension of service, consolidation
- Water sources
- Water meters

Wastewater

More information can be found on the [State Water Board's Clean Water Program](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/) website: (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/)

Infrastructure improvements to correct system deficiencies & prevent pollution:
- Wastewater treatment & discharge facilities

- Replacement or rehabilitation of local sewers
- Septic to sewer projects

Groundwater Quality

More information can be found on the State Water Board's Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program website: (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/groundwater_sustainability.html)

Projects that prevent or cleanup the contamination of groundwater that serves or has served as a source of drinking water:
- Wellhead treatment
- Installation of extraction & treatment systems
- Source removal
- Groundwater recharge to prevent contamination of wells
- Groundwater injection to prevent seawater intrusion

Note: Proposition 1 funding is limited. The TA program is not currently accepting new communities for groundwater TA.

Storm Water

More information can be found on the State Water Board's Storm Water Grant Program website: (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/swgp/ prop1/)

Multiple benefit projects designed to infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, treat, or retain storm water or dry weather runoff:
- Green infrastructure
- Rainwater & storm water capture projects
- Storm water treatment facilities

Note: Storm water TA resources are limited. The TA program is not currently accepting new communities for storm water TA. However, requests may still be submitted; the Office will keep requests on file for future consideration as resources allow.

How do I apply for TA?

The TA request form can be found at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/docs/2022/ta-request-form.pdf

The completed TA request form and a copy of the service area map should be emailed to DFA-TARequest@waterboards.ca.gov. A confirmation email will be sent to confirm receipt of the TA request form.

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What types of TA services can be provided with TA?

Project Coordination and Development

- Application assistance
- Rate studies
- Income surveys
- Technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity assessment
- Facilitate discussions with regulatory agencies, funding agencies, & between nearby communities

Legal Assistance

- Entity formation or ownership issues
- Agreements for the transfer of facilities or provision of water supply sources
- Review of existing debts & preparation of bond counsel opinions
- Negotiations on behalf of small systems to consolidate into a nearby system, buy water, purchase land, secure access agreements, etc.

Engineering and Environmental Analysis

- Preliminary engineering & project report preparation
- Plans & specifications
- Water quality testing
- California Environmental Quality Act documents

Leak Detection/Water Audits

- Identify water loss problems

Which entities are providing TA?

The OSWS has executed grant agreements with the following TA Providers:
- California Rural Water Association
- California State University, Sacramento
- Community Water Center
- Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability
- Pueblo Unido Community Development Corporation
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation
- Self-Help Enterprises
- University of California, Davis

What happens after a TA request is submitted?

Once a TA request form is received, TA staff will review it for eligibility. It can take up to three weeks for a TA request to be reviewed and a decision to be made.

If eligible and there is capacity, the TA request will be assigned to an appropriate TA

Provider. The TA Provider will schedule a kick-off call as needed with the TA Project Manager (PM), the TA Recipient, and all other parties involved (ex. staff from the Division of Drinking Water, Local Primacy Agency, Regional Board, and/or DFA). Following the kick-off meeting, the TA Provider will submit a work plan for TA PM approval.

If ineligible, TA staff will notify the requestor by email the reason for not assigning to a TA provider.

Who do I contact with Questions or Comments?

Please reach out to one of the contacts listed below:

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