

Technical Assistance Opportunities

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Community Resources

- EPA provides assistance to communities through a variety of technical assistance and training resources.
- These resources help communities participate in Superfund decisions at sites in their community.



Technical Assistance Grants





What is a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)?

- A TAG provides money (\$50,000) to *community groups* so they can pay for technical advisors to interpret and explain technical reports, site conditions, and EPA's proposed cleanup proposals and decisions *at Superfund sites*
- One TAG at a time, per Superfund site



Who can get a TAG?

- You are eligible if your group
 - members live near and may be affected by a Superfund site
 - is representative of the affected community
 - is nonprofit and incorporated (made into a legal corporation in your state) or in the process of incorporating



Who can not get a TAG?

- You are not eligible if your group:
 - is a potentially responsible party (PRP), represents a PRP, or receives money or services from a PRP
 - is not incorporated (or willing to incorporate – form own 501(c) (3) group for the specific purpose of representing affected people
 - is an academic institution



Who can not get a TAG?

- You are not eligible if your group: (cont'd)
 - is a political subdivision (example: township or municipality)
 - is affiliated with a national organization that has direct or indirect control over your group



What can TAG funds be used for?

- TAG funds can be used to:
 - hire an independent technical advisor
 - pay a grant administrator to help manage and administer the grant
 - to purchase or rent office supplies
 - print newsletters or fact sheets to disseminate information about your site



Are there things we cannot spend TAG money for?

- Your TAG funds cannot be used for:
 - lawsuits or other legal actions
 - political activity and lobbying
 - social, ceremonial and amusement activities and related costs, including meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, and tips
 - group members' training and travel



Are there things we cannot spend TAG money for?

- Your TAG funds cannot be used for: (cont'd)
 - generation of new primary data such as sampling and well drilling and testing
 - reopening final EPA decisions such as the Record of Decision
 - resolving disputes with EPA, or
 - epidemiological or health studies, such as urine or blood testing



How do we apply for a TAG?

- Submit a Letter of Intent to the EPA's Region 2 Office
- The Letter of Intent should:
 - state that your group intends to apply for a TAG
 - identify the name of your group and the site
 - provide the name of a contact person with a daytime phone number



Application Process

The total application and award process typically takes between five and six months

1. The community group writes EPA a Letter of Intent
2. EPA informs the rest of the community through advertisement in a local newspaper that your group is interested in a TAG
3. Other interested groups have 30 days to coalesce with your group or write their own Letter of Intent if they choose to compete for the TAG funding
4. After the initial 30-day period, interested groups will have another 30 days to submit applications



How does EPA decide who gets the TAG?

- EPA reviews the TAG application
 - Goals
 - Plans for using the TAG funds
 - How the group plans to share information generated by the technical advisor with the community
- Workplan
- Budget (matching requirement)
- Timeline and existing resources



Finding a Qualified Technical Advisor

- Technical advisor must have the following qualifications:
 - Demonstrated knowledge of hazardous waste issues
 - College or university training in the relevant fields
 - Ability to communicate technical information to your community



Managing the TAG

- TAG recipient must:
 - Keep accurate financial records of how TAG funds and matching share are used
 - Ask EPA for reimbursement to pay technical advisor on time and in full
 - Prepare and give quarterly progress reports and other reports to EPA

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)





What Is TASC?

- **T**echnical **A**ssistance **S**ervices for **C**ommunities
- EPA-sponsored program
- Superfund sites as well as other hazardous waste cleanup actions
- Different than TAG program
- Services provided by E² Inc.



TASC Services

- Information Assistance
- Community Education
- Technical Expertise
- Technical Assistance Needs Evaluation and Plan Development
- Superfund Jobs Training Initiative



Examples of TASC Services

- Reviewing, interpreting, and explaining technical materials in an understandable way
- Preparing training materials for seminars and workshops and teaching these sessions
- Meeting with the community to answer questions and to listen to concerns
- Preparing understandable fact sheets, brochures, technical summaries, maps, diagrams, models, or other visual aids



Examples of TASC Services

- Translating educational, outreach, and technical documents into other languages
- Training community leaders on hazardous waste issues so they can explain them to the community
- Providing job training in communities affected by nearby Superfund sites



TASC Technical Advisors

- A full range of disciplines on staff
- A network of experts contracting with E² Inc.
- Searches conducted to identify additional skill sets as needed
- Nationally located



Using TASC Contract: Community Responsibilities

- Submit written request for assistance to region
- Participate and attend meetings with contractor
- Provide site background and current issues
- Help establish project deadlines
- Review contractor deliverables



Using TASC Contract: Contractor Role

TASC contractor may:

- Learn and represent the interests of community members
- Learn and foster community's trust and create collaborative environment
- Provide technical assistance to the community to facilitate or enhance the public's understanding



Community Resources Information Available Online

Superfund Community Involvement:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/index.htm>

CAG Information:

www.epa.gov/superfund/community/cag/resource.htm

TAG Information:

www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tag

TASC Information:

www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc/index.htm