

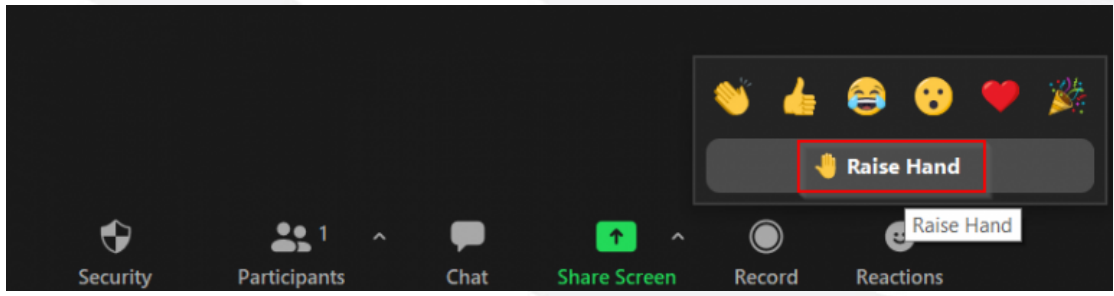
Drinking Water TA Provider RFQ Webinar



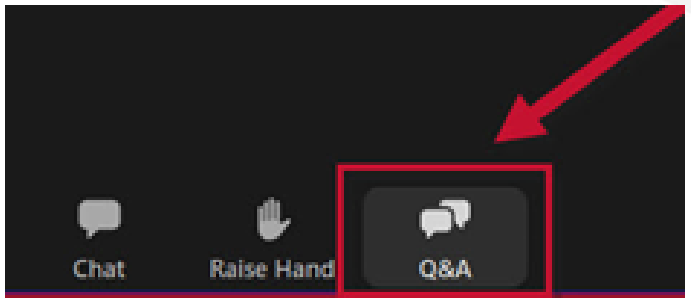
March 23, 2022

Ways to Participate

Raise Hand



Q&A



Meeting Logistics

- This meeting is being recorded
- Mute yourself when you are not speaking
- Make sure your screen name reflects your actual name
- Rejoin the meeting if you get disconnected
- If you need technical assistance, email OPP-Contact@waterboards.ca.gov or use Q&A
- Take breaks as needed

Agenda

- **Introduction – TA Funding Program**
- **Funding Partners / Administrators**
- **Drinking Water TA RFQ Guidelines**
- **Request for Qualifications Process**
- **Technical Assistance Funding Process and Timing**
- **General Program Requirements**
- **SOQ Instructions**
- **Q&A**

5 Introduction

Technical Assistance (TA) Funding Program

What TA Funding does:

- Addresses community drinking water and wastewater needs

Who may receive TA:

- Community & State Small Water Systems
- Non-Profit NTNC Water Systems
- Tribes
- Communities not served by a Public Water System

Who provides TA:

- TA Providers (organizations contracted by the Water Board whom the state board has determined is competent to assist a water system”
- Qualified TA Provider Pool is ONLY for Drinking Water TA Providers

Technical Assistance Funding Program (cont.)

How to apply for TA:

- Assistance Requests are continuously accepted and available on the [TA Funding Program webpage](#)

Potential Assistance Types:

- Project coordination and development
- Engineering and environmental analysis
- Legal assistance
- Additional eligible TA work

7 Regional Scale Funding Partners

What they are:

- TA Provider that coordinates with and funds Community Partners outreach and engagement activities.

* Learn More: Funding Partner Q&A Open House, April 11

How to become one:

- Submit application by April 15, 2022
- Meet TA Provider eligibility guidelines (Appendix C, Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Policy)
- Submit Drinking Water TA SOQs
 - Select “community engagement” category
 - Describe experience subcontracting and managing grants

8 Regional Scale Funding Partners (cont.)

Funding Partner Tasks:

- Liaise between Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resiliency (SAFER) program staff and Community Partners.
- Monitor and coordinate Community Partner progress and deliverables.
- Maintain Community Partners communication, relationships, and support.
- Alert Water Boards staff of drinking water issues.
- Liaise between local organizations and government agencies and report on progress and metrics.

9 Drinking Water Administrator Program RFQ Guidelines

What they do:

Provide managerial and technical support to water systems unable to consistently obtain these services.

Administrator Pool:

- RFQ is continuous advertisement; may be completed at any time.
- Administrator candidate pool will be maintained and continuously updated.
- Water Board may appoint an administrator to assume full managerial control over a designated water system.

Drinking Water Administrator Program RFQ Guidelines (cont.)

Applicants must be able to:

- Manage, operate, and perform long-term planning for failing water system.
- Transition water system to longer-term sustainable solution.

Learn more / Join Administrator Pool:

Water System Administrator: Information for Potential Administrators webpage

www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/future-administrator

Drinking Water TA Provider RFQ Guidelines

What they do:

Assist a water system by providing administrative, technical, operational, legal, or managerial services.

Assistance provided:

- Consistent with historically provided TA .
- Funded by SADW Fund and/or other TA funding sources for eligible entities.
- Additional service types to be added to TA Program portfolio.

Request for Qualifications Process

TA Provider Pool:

- Submit Statement of Qualifications (SOQs) to be considered for inclusion.
- RFQ is continuous advertisement; may be completed at any time.
- Pool will be maintained, updated, and available on Technical Assistance Funding Program webpage at:
www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/tech_asst_funding

RFQ process (3 phases):

1. SOQ submittal
2. SOQ evaluation
3. Approval or denial of candidates for the qualified TA Provider pool

Request for Qualifications Process (cont.)

PHASE 1: SOQ Submittal

- SOQs evaluated on applicant's ability to provide TA to multiple water systems.
- Partnerships with larger entities encouraged.
- Demonstrate administrative, technical, operations, legal, managerial, and/or community engagement qualifications.
- Provide resumes of key staff and subcontractors that would perform work.
- Submit maximum 30 pages.
- Submit attention James Garrett at:
DFA-TARequest@waterboards.ca.gov

Request for Qualifications Process (cont.)

PHASE 2: SOQ Evaluation

- Evaluation of administrative, technical, operational, legal, managerial, or community engagement categories.
- Additional criteria:
 1. Demonstrated knowledge and experience
 2. Number of systems assisted
 3. Demonstrated successful outcomes
 4. Demonstrated ability to provide TA to multiple water systems
 5. Demonstrated success in outreach and engagement
 6. Demonstrated experience working with DACs; multilingual communities; Black, Indigenous and communities of color; and under-resourced communities
 7. Demonstrated ability to establish equitable and inclusive community engagement
- Estimated 45-day evaluation and review period.

Request for Qualifications Process (cont.)

PHASE 3: SOQ Approval or Denial

DFA will provide a letter with Acceptance or Denial.

If Accepted:

- Added to pool for service categories and geographical area where serving.
- Placement to remain active for up to five years.

Reasons for denial or pool removal:

- 1) False or misleading information
- 2) Supplying inadequate services
- 3) Unresponsiveness and/or lacking timely completion of required tasks
- 4) Lack of transparency with or inadequate engagement of stakeholders
- 5) Not taking action required by SAFER Policy, FEP, or related guidance
- 6) Having current or pending Legal and/or enforcement actions

Technical Assistance Funding Process and Timing

1. Preliminary discussion(s) on service offerings, areas of need, and complete TA proposal submission
2. Preparation and execution of funding agreement
 - **Eligible, incurred costs may only be reimbursed after an agreement is executed.**
3. Referral of assistance requests (ARs) to specific or group of communities/water systems
4. Work plan development and approval
5. Work plan implementation

General Program Requirements

Qualified TA Providers receiving funding by the Water Board to provide TA services must meet the following program requirements:

- 1) Conflict of Interest
- 2) Confidentiality
- 3) Labor Code Compliance
- 4) Grants and Loans General Terms and Conditions

SOQ Instructions

- Submit a signed self-certification that:
 1. Information is being submitted by an authorized representative.
 2. Authorized representative is attesting to the truthfulness of the information.
- Demonstrate expected range of qualifications for each category and examples of tasks or services that may fall into each:
 1. Administrative
 2. Technical
 3. Operational
 4. Legal
 5. Managerial
 6. Community Engagement

SOQ Instructions (cont.)

- Attach explanation for each relevant category
- Include duration of applicant's experience
- Provide applicable licenses
- Examples of successes in Black, Indigenous, and communities of color will strengthen submission
- Provide specific examples to evaluate competency:
 - Names of systems assisted, along with reference
 - Projects or systems with significant delays or challenges, and what was done to address them
- Describe other applicable tasks not listed on pgs. 9-12

SOQ Instructions (cont.)

- If applicable, explain any adverse actions
- Identify area within California where you can provide services

How to Submit:

- Maximum 30 pages total
- Submit completed SOQ or Questions to:

James Garrett at:
DFA-TARrequest@waterboards.ca.gov (*preferred*)

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance
c/o James Garrett
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Questions and Answers Received from Email (cont.)

Q1:

What types of entities are eligible to be selected as TA Providers?

Eligible Drinking Water TA Providers can include various entity types, including but not limited to non-profits, universities, individuals, and private consulting firms whom the State Water Board has determined are competent to assist a water system by providing administrative, technical, operational, legal, or managerial services.

Questions and Answers Received from Email (cont.)

Q2:
Can individuals work with other entities to form a team, joint venture, or partnership in order to offer a comprehensive suite of TA services?

Yes. Interested entities are encouraged to pursue partnerships or subcontracts with other qualified individuals, consulting firms, or non-profits in order to provide a diverse set of tasks and services over a significant geographic area. Note that one lead entity will need to take the lead on submitting the SOQ and executing the funding agreement.

Questions and Answers Received from Email (cont.)

Q3:

What geographical locations have the largest need?

The 2021 Public Water System Risk Assessment identified 1,483 small community water systems with <3,300 connections that are either failing, at-risk, or potentially at risk of failing located in all regions of the state. The largest need is throughout the central valley and central coast regions, as well as Southern California. However, there is a need to provide technical assistance to water systems throughout the State.

Questions and Answers Received from Email (cont.)

Q4:

Under the six (6) TA service categories, is it acceptable to highlight sub-categories that a firm can complete if the entirety of that category is not applicable?

Yes. An applicant may demonstrate their qualifications in one or more of the six service categories (i.e., need not be qualified across all six areas).

Applicants may also describe other applicable tasks related to the six categories that are not listed in the guidelines. If the applicant is proposing to subcontract categories or tasks, that should be clearly indicated. Providing examples of subcontracting processes will support the application.

Questions and Answers Received from Email

Q5:

Can an applicant submit longer resumes of key staff members as an attachment to the SOQ rather than within the maximum 30-page total for the SOQ submittal?

Yes. You should include a brief resume within the SOQ (e.g., a couple sentences per person) of key staff members, but it is acceptable to include longer staff resumes (1 or more pages per person) as an attachment that does not count towards the 30-page total.

Questions and Answers Received from Email (cont.)

Q6:
If there are concerns that arise with respect to the Grants and Loans General Terms and Conditions, should those be addressed in the SOQ response?

These conditions are included in all funding agreements with the DFA and must be accepted as written. All applicants must comply with DFA's standard contract language for general terms and conditions for grants available at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/docs/gtc_2019_nov.pdf

Questions and Answers Received from Email (cont.)

Q7:

If an entity is selected, what is the process for being assigned to work on specific systems? How is the referral process handled? Is this a competitive process or simply by assignment?

Assistance Requests (AR) for TA are accepted on a continuous basis. Once an AR is received, DFA staff will review it for eligibility and will assign it to an appropriate TA provider. This is not a competitive process. If the AR is assigned to a TA Provider, the Provider will schedule a kick-off meeting as needed with the DFA Project Manager, the TA Recipient, regulatory staff, and other stakeholders. Following the kick-off meeting, the TA Provider will submit a work plan, detailing a system specific scope, for DFA approval.

Questions and Answers Received from Email (cont.)

Q8:

May interested TA providers apply now?

Yes. The TA Provider Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is available now and is a continuous advertisement. The State Water Board will be continuously accepting SOQs and applicants may submit at any time.

More Information / Stay Informed

SAFER Funding Partners

www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/outreach

Water System Administrator

waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/administrator

Technical Assistance Funding Program

waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/tech_asst_funding

Sign up for e-notifications

waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe

- SAFER Drinking Water
- Drinking Water Program Announcements