

General Questions from RACEE Phase 2 Notice of Technical Assistance (NOTA) Webinar on Technical Assistance

Q1: What is meant by non-responsive?

A1: Applications that are outside the scope of the Notice of Technical Assistance (NOTA) are considered non-responsive. For example, an application from an entity that is ineligible to apply, or in a topic area outside the scope of the NOTA topic area. Non-responsive applications will not be reviewed or considered.

Q2: Does the Tech Assistance in Phase 2 provide funding for 3rd party providers to provide the assistance? Or is the assistance only from the Department of Energy (DOE) or Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)?

A2: Technical Assistance will be conducted with funding from DOE and coordinated with AEA. AEA may coordinate with other organizations to provide the technical assistance, subject to DOE approval. However, except in the instances identified above, funding for other 3rd party providers is not available.

Q3: If we already are doing renewable energy projects for our local public community buildings, are we still eligible?

A3: Energy efficiency improvements on buildings already being targeted for renewable energy projects would be eligible.

Q4: My issue was when submitting the initial pledge. We utilized the on-line form from the EERE Exchange website and it worked reasonably well; however, there was fairly limited space provided, so not all our information was included. When we downloaded the form, we were not able to edit the form. Is this an issue between the forms on the EERE Exchange website and Windows 10?

A4: Without knowing more details we cannot identify the issue with the previous form. However, for Phase 2, all applicants will respond to questions in the NOTA in a project summary file. As this format is self-generated, the responses can be captured in any format you choose, including a Microsoft Word document.

Q5: Are there any geographic requirements for this NOTA (i.e. if there are four awards made will they be the four best or will they be one from North Slope, one from SE, one from Interior, etc.)

A5: There is not a specific set of geographical requirements for the selections under Phase 2 of the NOTA. However, geographical diversity is a Program Policy Factor, which may be applied by the Selection Official in making his/her decision on those applications that will receive Technical Assistance.

Q6: Who is the community efficiency champion for our community?

A6: In the context of the Remote Alaska Competition for Energy Efficiency (RACEE), the term "Community Efficiency Champion" refers to the entire community that pledged to improve their energy use, not necessarily just the person who submitted the pledge. Also, it is not prohibited for additional

entities within the community to partner on achieving the pledged reductions. For instance, even if the city and school district submitted the pledge and now the local tribal entity or electric utility are interested in partnering, those entities would not be prohibited from being a part of the community partnerships.

Q7: Is the ANCSA Corporation considered a qualified applicant?

A7: The organizations eligible to apply for Phase 2 of the NOTA are only the communities that have been designated as Community Efficiency Champions. Other organizations, such as regional organizations, may apply on behalf of those communities or may join the community partnership (see question #6 above). If, however, the Alaska Native Regional Corporation is applying on behalf of the designated community, documentation of authority to submit on behalf of the community, as well as, letters of support from the other community partners is desired.

Q8: How will the menu of TA Resources that Katie Conway from the Alaska Energy Authority was talking about be distributed?

A8: – DOE and AEA will distribute the TA resources Guide by email to the person who submitted the pledge.

Q9: If an organization submits one application on behalf of multiple communities, and elements of one community's plan are non-responsive, would the other communities submitted under the application automatically be ineligible as well?

A9: Per the NOTA, there is a ten page limit per application and DOE recommends submitting one separate application per community in order to be responsive to the Project Summary file questions. Each application should be a separate document.

Q10: When responding to the question on the "retail rate" of electricity in a community are you looking for residential, commercial or both? If both are being requested how would you factor in demand charge, could we use our last utility billing (our community has a substantial demand charge)?

A10: Please provide as much information as possible about energy use across the community, including both residential and commercial use, and their appropriate rates. Information about demand charges should also be included. When possible, copies of the utility bills should also be provided as part of the application.

Q11: Will you be posting on the website the primary contact person for each of the 20 participating communities?

A11: No, only the Names of the Communities that have been designated at Community Efficiency Champions will be posted. DOE will not post specific contact information of the participating communities.

Q12: For an organization to apply for Phase 2 on behalf of a participating community, who from the participating community must sign that formal agreement to allow an organization to submit on the community's behalf?

A12: If another organization is applying on behalf of a participating community, the application should provide evidence of the authority to submit on behalf of the community, as well as letters of support from the other community partners. The evidence of the authority to submit the application on behalf of the pledgee would depend on the type of entity. Evidence might include a Tribal Council Resolution, letter or declaration from leadership such as Mayor, Governor, First Chief and that letters of support and approval for allowing another entity to submit the application included as part of the letters of support. At a minimum, the organization applying for a community must include a signed letter from the same individual in the community that signed the original Pledge Form.

Q13: Our company is under the municipality organization, would the city organization be disqualified to submit an application if it is not a federally recognized organization? Does our company need to apply through the tribe in order to be eligible?

A13: The organizations eligible to apply for Phase 2 of the NOTA are the communities that DOE designated as Community Efficiency Champions in Phase 1 of the NOTA. Other organizations, such as regional organizations or associations or similar organizations, may apply on behalf of those communities, and must provide evidence of the authority to do so (see Question #6 above).

Q14: If an organization applies on behalf of the Community Efficiency Champion organization who is considered the main point of contact and deals with the paperwork and any future financial work?

A14: An organization applying on behalf of a designated Community Efficiency Champion must receive written authority to submit the application on their behalf from the entities who signed and submitted the Phase 1 pledge form. The entities who made the pledge would also need to designate the single points-of-contact to act on behalf of the Community Efficiency Champion as part of the application. The points-of-contact may be designated as part of the evidence of authority to submit the application and may be designed as the individual to be contacted on matters involving this application under block 8.f of the Application for Financial Assistance (SF 424). However, Application for Financial Assistance (SF 424) must be completed by the lead entity for the designated Community Efficiency Champion as the Authorized Representatives of that entity must sign the form as they are making certifications and assurances on behalf of the Community.

Q15: For the SF424 line item 18 requires us to list estimated funding that we are requesting. How do we determine the monetary value of the technical assistance we are requesting so we can accurately fill out the SF424?

A15: The Application for Financial Assistance (SF 424) is a standard form that is used for all financial assistance awards, and includes sections that are not relevant to this NOTA, including the Estimated Funding section (Block 18). This section can be left blank as the scope of technical assistance and associated value will be determined after the selection of recipients of technical assistance. The

following fields on this form can also be left blank as they are either Not Applicable or DOE will complete those fields: 5A, 5B, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 18 A,B,C,D,E,F,G, 19.

Q16: Question specifically for AEA: are you aware of any precedents in Alaska where communities have installed building-level heating fuel meters? Economics of EE are very compelling but obviously granularity of usage data is big obstacle. Seems RACEE could help with that.

A16: AEA's response: The installation of day tank flow meters are a relatively common practice by some building energy auditors in Alaska.