



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services
Division of State Assistance

Pre-Application Technical Assistance Teleconference

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) – Training and
Technical Assistance Program:

Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium (RPIC)

HHS-2016-ACF-OCS-ET-1128

Thursday, May 19, 2016

2:00pm – 3:00pm (EST)

1-866-763-0127; access code: 7233795



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Agenda

- Welcome / Introductions – Andrala Walker, CSBG Operations Branch Chief
 - Overview of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium (RPIC) History
 - Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium (RPIC) Funding Announcement Overview
 - Closing Remarks





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Goals of Today's Call

- To provide potential applicants with an overview of CSBG and to provide information on the Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium (RPIC) FOA
- Please Note:
 - This presentation does not contain any information that is not presented in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). In the event that there is any discrepancy between this presentation and the FOA, the FOA controls/takes precedence.
 - Joining and participating in this teleconference is voluntary. Participants will remain anonymous on the teleconference. Opting not to participate in the teleconference will not affect the application scoring or selection process. Interested applicants unable to participate in the pre-application teleconference may access a recording of the teleconference and the PowerPoint presentation on the ACF website, following the teleconference.
 - This call will not be held in a webinar format; please print/follow along with the attached PowerPoint presentation
 - There will not be a question/answer (Q &A) portion to this call. For questions and comments relating to this Funding Opportunity Announcement, please contact: OCSgrants@acf.hhs.gov or (855) 792-6551.



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COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)



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CSBG and RPIC History

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. Territories, and federal and state-recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations, Community Action Agencies (CAA), migrant and seasonal farmworkers or other organizations designated by the states, funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities. The CSBG is a federal block grant administered by the Office of Community Services (OCS). CSBG funds support a range of services and strategies to assist the needs of low-income individuals and communities.

Since 2011, OCS has supported cooperative agreement grants to the Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium (RPIC) to serve as geographic focal points for coordination of Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) activities related to CSBG and the national network of CAAs. In this role, RPICs helped to build an integrated system of T/TA capacity-building activities coordinating the efforts of State Associations and CSBG State Lead Agencies. The activities supported through this funding announcement will build upon regional coordination of CSBG T/TA efforts.



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Current CSBG Training and Technical Assistance Activities

OCS currently funds five major T/TA activities to support the effective and efficient operations of the CSBG Network.

- The *CSBG Nationwide Performance Management System Development and Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting Project* is designed to enhance the Network's effectiveness by updating the CSBG National Theory of Change, its National Performance Indicators, and creating new data analysis tools to measure impact for the ROMA Cycle.
- The *CSBG Organizational Standards Center of Excellence (COE)* plays a critical role in federal efforts to develop and disseminate organizational standards. The Organizational Standards COE assists State CSBG Lead Agencies and local CSBG-eligible entities to set and meet organizational standards that can be used across the network.
- The *Strengthening the Capacity and Ability of CSBG-Eligible Entities to Address Legal Issues* cooperative agreement expands the capacity of CSBG-eligible entities to deal with legal issues, especially those that have been shown to significantly impact their administrative, fiscal, and programmatic policies and operating procedures.
- The *Learning Communities Resource Center* serves as a learning hub for the CSBG Network, providing bi-monthly peer learning opportunities for CSBG-eligible entity members and State CSBG Lead Agencies to identify effective, promising, and innovative practice models to address current causes and conditions of poverty.
- The *Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) State and Eligible Entity Technical Assistance Services (SEETAS)* cooperative agreement coordinates customized technical assistance to State CSBG Lead Agencies. Under this agreement, states are provided T/TA and consultation to develop action plans to address specific state concerns with eligible entities.



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***Regional Performance and
Innovation Consortium
(RPIC)***

Funding Announcement Overview



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Statutory Authority

This program is authorized by Sections 674(b)(2)(A) and 678A of the CSBG Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9903(b)(2)(A) and 9913)



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Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are eligible entities as defined by Section 673A(c)(2) of the CSBG Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9902(1), CSBG-eligible entities, or statewide or local organizations or associations, with demonstrated expertise in providing training to individuals and organizations on methods of effectively addressing the needs of low-income families and communities.

Applicant organization must be physically located in the ACF region it proposes to serve. For more information on ACF regions, please see *Section I. Program Description, RPIC Geographic areas*.

Individuals, foreign entities, and sole proprietorships are not eligible to compete for, or receive, awards under this announcement.



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How Many Awards Will be Made?

OCS expects to fund 11 cooperative agreements through this funding opportunity announcement.



Duration and Budget for Project

- **Duration**
 - The anticipated start date for this project is September 30, 2016

- **Budget and Budget Justification**
 - The budget shall reflect the 12-month budget period, not the 36-month project period



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Purpose of the Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium (RPIC)

OCS will fund 11 cooperative agreements for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium (RPIC).

- Through these new cooperative agreements, OCS will:
 - continue developing a comprehensive and integrated system of T/TA activities among State Associations that is fully coordinated with State CSBG Lead Agencies and
 - ensure that all State CSBG Lead Agencies, State Associations, and CSBG-eligible entities use and adhere to all aspects of the CSBG Performance Management Framework, including organizational standards and Results-Oriented Management and Accountability Next Generation efforts, thereby improving accountability and achieving the best possible results for low-income people and communities



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Collaboration/Coordination with Other OCS-funded Training and Technical Assistance Projects

The RPIC will work in close collaboration with the CSBG Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Program: Organizational Standards Center of Excellence (COE) funding opportunity number HHS-2016-ACF-OCS-ET- 1127, including participating in any regionally focused technical assistance convenings and initiatives sponsored via the OCS-funded COE cooperative agreement. RPIC grantees will be required to advise, consult with, and participate in regionally focused T/TA efforts conducted by the COE each year over a 3-year period.

The RPIC will also coordinate with the OCS-funded CSBG Nationwide Performance Management System Development and Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting Project to facilitate T/TA for ROMA Next Generation efforts.



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RPIC Goals

The RPIC will institute a regional approach for T/TA coordination and information dissemination, fostering collaborative efforts that promote partnership with OCS and its national CSBG T/TA providers. These cooperative agreements will assist State CSBG Lead Agencies, State Associations and CSBG-eligible entities with four goals:

- 1) ***Maximizing and Aligning T/TA Resources*** across State CSBG Lead Agencies, State Associations, CSBG-eligible entities, and national technical assistance grantees by:
 - a) Facilitating the development of a joint T/TA plan for each state that will be updated annually;
 - b) Organizing, implementing and participating in national or regional T/TA activities designed to address collaboration and capacity-building needs of the CSBG Network; and
 - c) Conducting regular conference calls among State Association and State CSBG Lead Agencies within the region to discuss and identify T/TA needs.



RPIC Goals (Continued)

- 2) *Helping State CSBG Lead Agencies and CSBG Eligible Entities Implement, Meet, and Exceed Organizational Standards*, including coordinating T/TA and identifying creative and innovating strategies for disseminating COE-developed organizational standards tools.

- 3) *Encouraging a Learning Culture that Embeds ROMA Next Generation in State CSBG Lead Agencies, State Association, and CSBG-eligible entities*, including coordinating with all partners on the most effective approaches for regional delivery of ROMA Next Generation efforts and considering mechanisms to share results and promote cross-learning about what works and how outcomes might be improved.



RPIC Goals (Continued)

- 4) *Disseminating Information in a timely manner to all State CSBG Lead Agencies, State Association, and CSBG-eligible entities*, including efficiently communicating information on relevant conferences, training, and working groups and other topics; exploring the use of varied communications strategies to disseminate information; and submitting required reports that are timely and accurate.

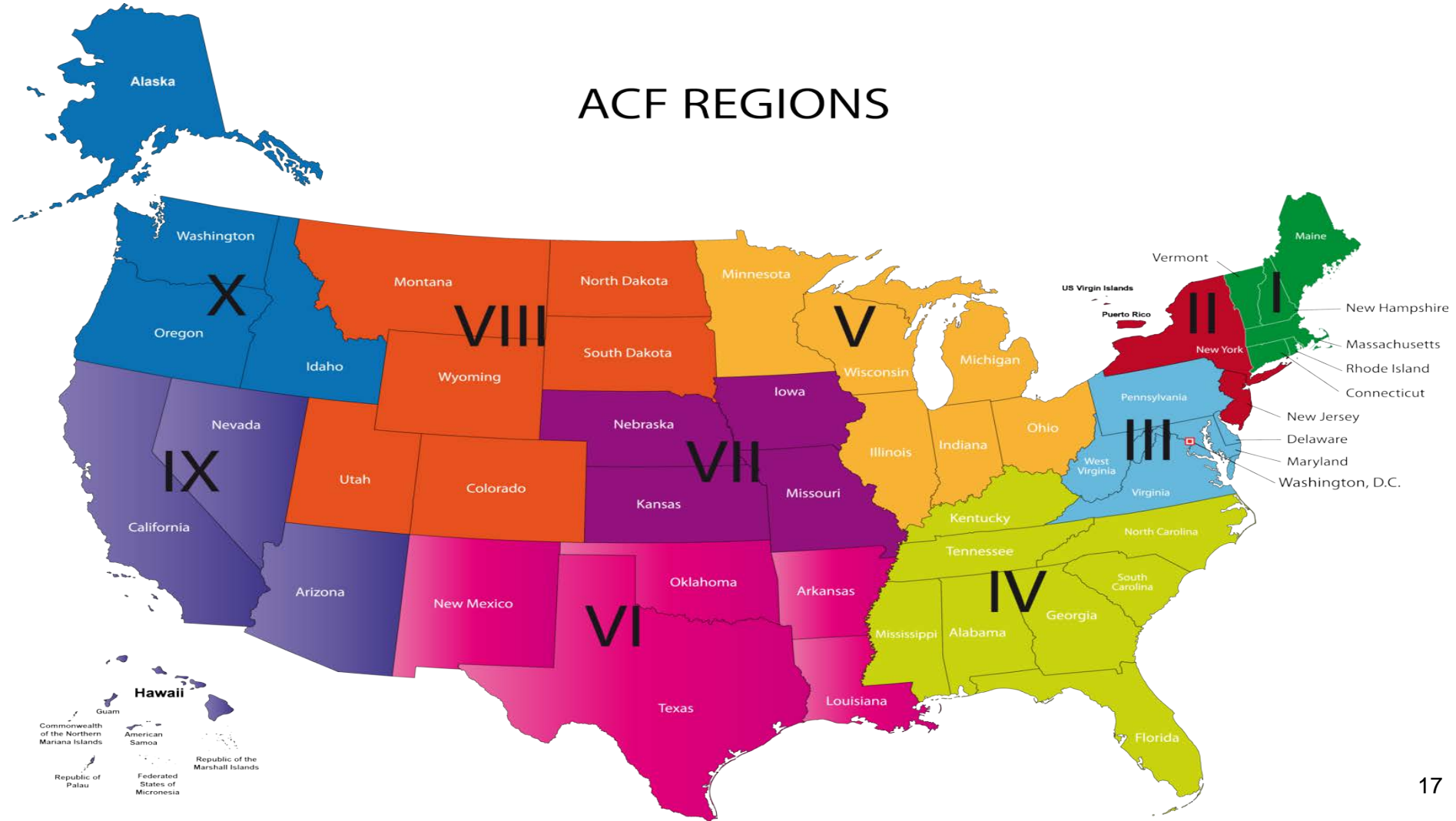


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ACF REGIONS





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RPIC REQUIREMENTS

- Promote regional coordination of State Association TA efforts
- Encourage, through T/TA, the implementation and achievement of organizational standards and ROMA Next Generation efforts
- Help facilitate the strengthened coordination and alignment of State CSBG Lead Agencies and State Association T/TA activities
- Coordinate and align federal T/TA resources, state T/TA support and local CSBG-eligible entity resources in an efficient and responsive manner
- Participate in regional and national work groups and learning communities supported by OCS



RPIC REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

- Facilitating the creation of a joint T/TA plan developed and executed collaboratively between the State Association and State CSBG Lead Agencies
- Conducting regional conference calls and information-sharing meetings
- Collaborating in partnership with OCS and other CSBG T/TA providers focused on performance management, customized technical assistance and legal compliance
- Funding activities conducted by State Associations through sub-awards
- Hosting webinars and training in partnership with various experts, the national COEs and other CSBG T/TA providers
- Attending required regional T/TA meetings held by the Organizational Standards COE (2 – 3 per year)



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ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE RPIC

- Each RPIC must meet the following requirements regarding allocation of funds:
 - ***Minimum Distribution to State Associations***
- Lead RPIC grantee must provide at least 40 percent of grant funds, through sub-awards, to other State Associations in defined geographic region
- Each State Association must provide a letter of support from the State CSBG Lead Agency committing to joint T/TA plan and letters of support from majority of eligible entities in State
- Each RPIC must meet the following requirement regarding allocation of funds:
 - ***Minimum Allocation for Performance Management Efforts***
- Required to demonstrate that at least 25 percent of grant funds will support the regional input and implementation of the CSBG Performance Management framework
- This includes participating in national work groups; coordinating training on organizational standards; and participating in ROMA Next Gen efforts



RPIC and SUB-AWARD RELATIONSHIP

- Grantee must establish partnerships with State Associations through sub-awards
- Will serve as a fiscal agent and provide technical assistance to State Associations
- Accountable for federal funds received, including those disbursed to project partners
- Grantee may provide oversight, including, but not limited to:
 - Making sub-recipients aware of requirements;
 - Assisting sub-recipients to ensure that federal sub-awards are used for authorized purposes; and
 - Analyzing financial and programmatic reports submitted by sub-recipients



Federal Involvement Under the Cooperative Agreement

OCS will:

- Identify State CSBG Lead Agencies, State Community Action Associations, and RPIC grantees that require T/TA with ROMA Next Generation performance management efforts and implementing organizational standards;
- Convene in-person planning and coordination meetings involving national CSBG T/TA providers;
- Conduct scheduled conference calls to review project timelines, assess progress on activities, and provide updates;
- Participate in webinars with national CSBG T/TA providers and facilitate information exchange; and
- Communicate with the RPIC through a host of strategies to ensure collaboration and alignment of goals and objectives



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APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS



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Project Description and Appendices not to exceed 150 pages

- **Project Description**
- **Suggested limitation of 75 pages**
 - Table of Contents
 - Project Summary/Abstract
 - Objectives/Need for Assistance
 - Expected Outcomes
 - Approach
 - Project Timeline and Milestones
 - Program Performance Evaluation Plan
 - Organizational Capacity
 - Dissemination Plan
 - Plan for Oversight of Federal Award Funds
 - Budget and Budget Justification

- **Appendices**
- **Suggested limitation of 75 pages**
 - Table of Contents
 - Proof of Legal Status/Non-profit Status
 - Logic Model
 - Protection of Sensitive/Confidential Information
 - Third-Party Agreements
 - Letters of Support
 - Resumes
 - Other Supporting Documentation



Project Summary/Abstract

- Provide a summary of the application's project description. The summary must be clear, accurate, concise, and without reference to other parts of the application. The abstract must include a brief description of the proposed grant project including the needs to be addressed, the proposed services, and the population group(s) to be served
- The project abstract must be single-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font, and limited to one page in length. Additional pages will be removed and will not be reviewed



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Expected Outcomes

The applicant must describe in detail the outcomes and expected achievements to be derived from the project. Outcomes should relate to the overall goals of the project as described in *Section I. Program Description, RPIC Purpose and Goals*.



Approach and Implementation Plan

- The RPIC proposal should outline a plan of action that describes the scope and detail of how the proposed project will be accomplished, including any proposed innovations, or extraordinary social/community involvement in the project.
- The plan for the Organizational Standards COE must present a well-conceived overall approach to the project, including details demonstrating that the project will be implemented in an effective way and will achieve the purpose and goals as stated in *Section I. Program Description*. The plan must include a clear and comprehensive vision of how the proposed RPIC would operate. This includes an effective method for helping to develop a technical assistance plan for each state in the region.



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Project Timeline and Milestones

- Applicants will be asked to provide quantitative monthly or quarterly projections of the accomplishments to be achieved for each activity. Data may be organized and presented as project tasks with corresponding timelines during the project period.



Program Performance Evaluation Plan

The applicant must provide a narrative addressing how the project and its results will be evaluated. This narrative may be supported by a logic model, explaining inputs, processes, and outcomes.

- The application shall describe the criteria to be used to evaluate results, and explain the methodology that will be used to determine if the needs identified and discussed are being met and if the project results and benefits are being achieved
- The application shall describe how the proposed plan for performance evaluation will help ensure that immediate T/TA needs are addressed, and the ways in which the proposed plan will help OCS address long-term T/TA needs related to quality improvement support in the CSBG Network. The applicant must describe how the proposed plan will evaluate and measure program effectiveness, including specific outcomes and milestones
- The application shall describe plans for evaluating outcomes from regionally focused T/TA efforts



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Section V: Application Review Information

CRITERIA	MAXIMUM POINTS AWARDED
Objectives	10
Implementation Plan	40
Outcomes Expected	20
Organizational Capacity	15
Budget and Budget Justification	15



Two-File Requirement

- Each applicant is required to upload **ONLY** two electronic files, excluding SFs and OMB-approved forms
- **File One:** Must contain the entire Project Description, and the Budget and Budget Justification (including a line-item budget and a budget narrative)
- **File Two:** Must contain all documents required in the Appendices

Adherence to the Two-File Requirement:

- No more than two files will be accepted for the review. Applications with additional files will be amended and files will be removed from the review. SFs and OMB-approved forms will not be considered additional files



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Submission

- Applications are due on **July 1, 2016**
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit in advance of the deadline
- Electronic submission required through <http://www.Grants.gov>
- Electronic applications received after 11:59 p.m. Eastern time will be disqualified
- Applicants that do not have internet connection or sufficient computing may contact ACF for an exemption to submit in paper format



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Review Process

- Late applications or those exceeding the funding limit will be returned to the applicants with a notation that they were unacceptable and will not be reviewed
- Non-Federal reviewers will conduct objective review based on criteria identified in the program announcement



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 - or
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