

**\*\*\*The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) received the following emails from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) pertaining to the Distressed Cities Technical Assistance Program.\*\*\***

## Distressed Cities Technical Assistance

The Distressed Cities TA program is designed to build the administrative capacity of smaller distressed communities recently impacted by a natural disaster. The focus of this TA includes financial management, economic development, and disaster recovery planning.

This program has three main goals:

- Adopt effective, efficient, and sustainable financial management practices. This includes the management of disaster recovery and resilience funds;
- Build capacity for financial management, economic revitalization, affordable housing, and disaster recovery and resilience by building partnerships with public agencies, community members, non-profits, and private organizations; and
- Improve knowledge of federal development programs. This includes indirect subsidy sources, such as Opportunity Zones and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program.

This program allows HUD to develop a set of best practices and recommendations to share with other communities facing similar challenges.

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## Eligibility Criteria

Distressed community (meets at least one of these criteria):

- Average unemployment rate of 9 percent or more over the past 3 years, using American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. Visit <https://factfinder.census.gov/> to locate ACS 5-Year Estimates. You may find this data in the table titled: *Employment Status* for your community.
- A poverty rate of 20 percent or more among individuals not enrolled in higher education, as of the most recent 5-year ACS Estimates. Visit <https://factfinder.census.gov/> to locate this data. You may find this data in the table titled: *Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by School Enrollment by Level of School for the Population 3 Years and Over* for your community.
- A population decline of 5 percent or more between 2010 and the most recent 5-year ACS Estimates. Visit <https://data.census.gov> to locate Decennial Census data and <https://factfinder.census.gov/> to locate ACS 5-Year Estimates.

Impacted by a natural disaster:

- Community is in a county that experienced a Presidentially declared disaster from 2015 onward. Visit [www.fema.gov/disasters](http://www.fema.gov/disasters) to see if your community meets this eligibility criteria. You will need the four-digit Disaster Declaration Number (DR number) for the most recent disaster in your county to request Distressed Cities TA.

Population size:

- Community's population is less than 40,000 people, according to the most recent Census data. Visit <https://data.census.gov> to locate the total population for your community. The Distressed Cities Team recommends you use the total population from the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates.
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## Request Technical Assistance

If your community meets these criteria and may benefit from Distressed Cities TA, you may request TA via the HUD Exchange beginning on September 16, 2019.

Additional information about requesting Distressed Cities TA will be added to this page closer to this date. Requests submitted prior to September 16, 2019 will not be reviewed or considered.

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## Contact the Distressed Cities Team

If you have questions about this TA, you may submit them to [distressedcities@hud.gov](mailto:distressedcities@hud.gov).

Please note, requests for TA that are submitted to this email account will not be reviewed or considered. Requests for TA must be submitted via the HUD Exchange TA Request form beginning September 16, 2019.

**From:** HUD Press Office <[HUDPressOffice@hud.gov](mailto:HUDPressOffice@hud.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 9, 2019 11:01 AM

**Subject:** HUD AWARDS \$6 MILLION TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES



## HUD NEWS

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Ben Carson, Secretary  
Office of Public Affairs, Washington, DC 20410

HUD No. 19-119  
HUD Public Affairs  
202-708-0685

<http://www.hud.gov/press>

**FOR RELEASE**

Friday  
August 9, 2019

### **HUD AWARDS \$6 MILLION TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES**

*LISC to help smaller communities experiencing economic distress, recovering from disaster*

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today announced that it is awarding \$6 million to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to provide critically needed technical assistance to distressed communities with populations under 40,000, including those located in Opportunity

Zones and communities struggling to recover from natural disasters. [Read more about HUD's Distressed Cities Technical Assistance.](#)

"Today, we make another critical investment to support distressed communities struggling against the headwinds of economic decline and natural disasters," said HUD Secretary Ben Carson. "The technical assistance provided to these communities will help local planners deploy a variety of federal resources to stimulate job growth and economic recovery for the benefit of their citizens, including the leveraging of Opportunity Zone investment."

Using HUD's technical assistance, LISC will:

- Focus on technical assistance that is community-specific and scaled to ensure a measurable impact on the community's growth and resilience, as well as the efficient use of public funds;
- Help communities facing long-term economic challenges adopt effective, efficient, and sustainable financial management practices (including management of disaster recovery and resilience funds);
- Build capacity for financial management, economic revitalization, affordable housing, and disaster recovery and resilience in distressed communities by building partnerships between public agencies, community members, non-profits, and private organizations;
- Improve communities' working knowledge of federal development programs, including sources such as Opportunity Zone investments and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits; and,
- Develop best practices and recommendations regarding financial management and disaster recovery and resilience that can be shared with other communities facing similar challenges;

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*HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) and <https://espanol.hud.gov>.*

*You can also connect with HUD on [social media](#) and follow Secretary Carson on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or sign up for news alerts on [HUD's Email List](#)*