

# Work Plan Guide Version 3 • November 2023

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# **Revision History**

Revision	Revision Date	Summary of Changes	Author
Number			
2	6/16/2020	Non-key personnel	Nikki Bowser
		updates; training work	Takiyah Worthy
		plan development; on-	Jessica Yurcheshen
		call work plan	
		modifications	
3	9/3/2021	Comprehensive update	Nikki Bowser
		to reflect migration	Makeda Byrd
		from TA Portal to DRGR,	Jeff Hunt
		including mandatory	
		data fields; address the	
		need to implement	
		surveys for certain work	
		plan types; and reduce	
		duplicative instructions	
4	11/10/2023	Revision to list of	Takiyah Worthy
		workplan changes	Makeda Byrd
		requiring DRGR	Nikki Bowser
		modification and	Ben Spears
		amendment;	Brenda Cole
		updated/added	

definitions;	
· ·	
updated/added	
guidance for the	
following: Closing a	
work plan; Travel and	
Short-Term Rentals;	
Stipends and	
Honorariums;	
Conditional Approvals;	
Conference Booking	

## **Approvals**

This document requires the following approvals:

Name	Title
Stephanie Stone	Technical Assistance Division Director

## Purpose, Scope, and Structure

The work plan guide clarifies the requirements in the cooperative agreement and satisfies the Department's requirement for internal controls to reduce mismanagement of federal funds and manage risks associated with administration of the award.

This guide describes standard procedures for developing different types of technical assistance (TA) work plans, which align with Eligible Activities in the Community Compass and other TA Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) linked to Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) 14.259. There are no significant differences between different funding years of cooperative agreements that warrant one procedure for each year. This document will note any future cooperative agreements that include significant differences. The guidance on how TA Award Recipients (Recipients) develop work plans will ensure that the work plan approval process is efficient and able to serve HUD customers and grantees in a timely manner.

This guide is based on, but does not supplant, guidance previously issued in 2 C.F.R. §200, the Community Compass Cooperative Agreement Provisions, OMB Circular No. A-11, Community Compass Learning Objectives guidance, and the DRGR User Manual.

## Definitions

Term	Definition
Agreement	The cooperative agreement and associated work plans developed after award.
Capacity	Assistance which increases the ability of HUD's customers and their partners to
Building	organize, independently implement, and manage affordable housing,
	community development, and economic development programs.
Conditional	When HUD has determined that there are minor requirements that have not
Approval	been met, and the unmet requirements do not affect TA eligibility or prevent
	success of the TA engagement.
Conference	A meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium, workshop, or event whose primary purpose is
	the dissemination of technical information beyond the non-Federal entity and is
	necessary and reasonable for successful performance under the Federal award.

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## **Roles and Work Plan Approval Process**

A work plan describes the Recipient's plan to deploy and deliver TA and ultimately build capacity of HUD customers. The plan contains: an overview of the HUD customer gaps/deficiencies to resolve, a brief description of the major tasks involved in the service delivery, the overall resources needed to support the effort (such as personnel, materials, travel, facilities, equipment), the direct and indirect costs of resources, HUD's role in the delivery of services, the expected outcomes and deliverables, and any customer-specific requirements.

In collaboration with HUD, the Recipient is responsible for designing and submitting a work plan in DRGR within 30 days of receiving an assignment. The design phase occurs after the Recipient receives an assignment through DRGR. Authorized Assigners include designated GTRs, POTACs, or GTMs. For more information on assignments, see Attachment 2: What Is and Isn't TA.

Once a work plan or work plan amendment is submitted to HUD, the GTM or POTAC will review, if appropriate, in consultation with HUD Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and/or field office representatives. The GTM or POTAC will provide written recommendation via DRGR to the GTR regarding TA work plan or amendment approval. Once a work plan or amendment is approved by the GTR, the GTM or the POTAC may not provide direction to the Recipient outside of the scope of the approved work plan. Other than costs to develop a work plan, the Recipient may not incur costs pursuant to a work plan until the work plan has been approved by the GTR or CAO.

Below are core responsibilities of TA Award Recipients, GTMs/POTACs, and GTRs regarding review of work plans. GTMs and GTRs may have overlapping responsibilities that occur simultaneously for quality reviews. The primary difference is that GTRs are responsible for the technical direction and evaluation of a successful TA Award Recipient's performance, whereas GTMs/POTACs provide programmatic expertise and input. GTRs serve as representatives of the CAO, who has responsibility for the management and fiscal oversight of the cooperative agreement awards.

#### **TA Award Recipient Responsibilities**

- Once a TA Assignment is received, schedules a call or meeting with the GTM/POTAC, GTR, HUD SMEs, and any other person listed in the assignment.
- In collaboration with HUD, drafts and submits a work plan in DRGR.
- Provides TA once the work plan has been approved by the GTR or CAO in DRGR.

#### **GTM/POTAC Responsibilities**

- In collaboration with the Recipient and HUD SMEs and/or field offices representatives, GTM/POTAC will provide substantial input in the planning and implementation of work plans.
- Reviews the work plan to ensure:
  - Scope aligns with TA assignment and milestone(s) have been identified.
  - Tasks are eligible as defined in the NOFO and within scope.
  - Tasks are clearly defined and include outputs.
  - Labor mix (i.e., personnel and hours) is appropriate for level of effort.
  - Number and type of tasks and activities proposed are appropriate for the scope.
  - Number of trips and type of travel proposed are appropriate for the scope.
- Follows up directly with the Recipient to address any problems or questions associated with the work plan. Consults with and keeps the GTR informed.
- Provides written recommendation on work plan approval or amendments in DRGR.
- Keeps the GTR apprised of the status of the work plan, including product reviews and need for changes in scope of work, timing, or budget.
- Participates in the acceptance and publication of TA work products and materials to make them available to appropriate stakeholders.

#### **GTR Responsibilities**

- Assists the GTM in managing the work plan development process, if needed.
- Reviews the work plan after GTM recommends approval to ensure personnel, time, and costs are reasonable, eligible, and allocable.
- When reviewing work plans, identifies any assumptions, and requests clarification on any unclear work plan details.
- Works with the GTM and Recipient to resolve any problems or questions associated with the work plan.

- Monitors the Recipient's overall award performance, including progress against the signed cooperative agreement and the Recipient's approved work plan, and assists in addressing performance problems.
- Serves as official authorizing representative in approving/rejecting work plans and work plan amendments.
- Ensures administrative procedures identified in the Community Compass Provisions are followed.
- Liaison between HUD Program Office and TA Award Recipient.
- Ensures that Recipients include survey implementation as part of the Scope for training delivery and direct TA engagements see <u>Community Compass guidance page</u> for survey requirements.

#### The Approval Process

Work Plan approval process except for Administration and Coordination Work Plans:

- 1. HUD assigns work to Recipient via DRGR.
- Recipient, GTR, GTM, and SMEs and FO (as appropriate), meet to discuss assignment and work plan development.
   Optional: GTM reviews draft work plan in consultation with HUD SMEs and/or Field Office

♦ Optional: GTM reviews draft work plan in consultation with HUD SMEs and/or Field Office Representatives and provides verbal or written feedback to Recipient.

- 3. Recipient drafts and submits work plan in DRGR within 30 days of receiving the assignment.
- 4. GTM/POTAC reviews work plan in consultation with HUD SMEs and/or Field Office Representatives and provides feedback and/or recommends approval in DRGR within 15 days of submission. The GTR may elevate the work plan to the program office manager if feedback is not provided within the 15-day review period.
- 5. GTR reviews work plan and requests revisions and/or approvals in DRGR within 30 days of submission.
- 6. TA begins.

The approval process for Administration and Coordination work plans includes only steps 3 and 5 above, these work plans should be submitted within 30 days of award execution.

#### **Important Notes**

Below are important notes that apply to all work plans.

- This guide must be used with other materials referenced. This guide does not comprise the full requirements of the cooperative agreement.
- HUD's official review timeframe for a work plan begins when it is submitted in DRGR.
- Refer to the most current DRGR User Manual for specific system instructions related to work plan submissions.

## **Procedure for Developing Administration and Coordination Work Plans**

As stated in the Community Compass NOFO, Administration Work Plans cover administrative activities directly associated with overall award management and execution; Coordination Work Plans cover services related to coordinating TA with HUD and/or other TA Recipients and planning TA engagements. The costs associated with these work plans are not chargeable or easily traceable to any specific TA service work plan. These work plans do not require POTAC/GTM recommendation for approval because the scope and activities are not program specific.

HUD has developed examples below for allowable costs, scope, and task for both Administration and Coordination Work Plans. Recipients should develop and submit Administration and Coordination Work Plans that consider these examples along with the available funds for each of these work plans and the Recipient's organizational structure.

#### **Example Administration Work Plan Activities:**

Recipient will administer the Community Compass TA grant, including activities such as:

- Develop and submit work plans to the HUD GTR outlining the specific TA to be undertaken and the intended accomplishments of that TA, if not charged to a specific work plan.
- Make assignments to staff and subcontractors on products approved by HUD to be developed or delivered under a work plan, if not charged to a specific work plan.
- Review the overall progress of the cooperative agreement spending and products. This will include managing product timelines and quality.
- Meet with HUD to provide periodic updates on grant management, product status and timelines. Travel may be required if requested by HUD.
- Develop and provide invoices to HUD.
- Set up and enter project, accomplishment and draw information into the DRGR system.
- Develop and submit quarterly performance and financial reports via the DRGR system.
- Conduct written evaluations of the effectiveness and accomplishments of TA, workshop, written and web/technology products.
- Program audits or financial statement audits (portion associated with this award, if not included in indirect cost rate (ICR) agreement).
- Costs associated with ICR adjustment calculations (portion associated with the award, if not included in ICR agreement).
- Award management software and tools (portion associated with the award, if not included in ICR agreement).
- Pre-award costs (if pre-award approval letter was issued by Cooperative Agreement Officer).
- Prepare and submit documentation for in-person or remote monitoring or desk audits.

#### **Example Coordination Work Plan Activities:**

TA Award Recipient will coordinate with HUD and other TA Award Recipients as assigned by HUD. These activities are expected to include the following:

- Participate in regular meetings with HUD and TA Award Recipients to plan TA products and schedules, including scoping conversations before a TA assignment is made.
- Participate in additional meetings and training sessions as needed with HUD and TA Award Recipients. Meetings may be conducted in person or via telephone or web conferences.
- Participate in work group meetings and activities.
- Coordinate with other TA Award Recipients to develop workshop materials, written products, and web/technology tools.
- Provide peer review of materials developed by work groups and TA Award Recipients, to include workshop material, written products, and web/technology tools.
- Coordinate with HUD Field Offices to plan and conduct needs assessments, TA, workshops, or other tasks to be accomplished in a certain region.
- Coordinate with other TA Award Recipients to plan and conduct needs assessments and TA as assigned.
- Share information with HUD and other TA Award Recipients on previous experience working with specific grantees or grantee partners.
- Communications platforms, software, and services, such as Adobe Connect (include portion associated with the award if not included in ICR).

#### Note for Recipients assigned to coordinate or lead TA projects with other Recipients:

- The assignment of Lead TA Coordinator does not authorize the designated firm to provide oversight, direction, or management of the other firms participating in the engagement.
- Recipients can choose to create a Lead TA Coordinator work plan utilizing coordination funds or add the coordination work as a task to respective TA project work plan.
- Recipient Lead/Coordinator should identify their role as a Lead TA Coordinator within the scope of the work plan. *Note: The role detailed in the scope of the work plan should align with the role/responsibilities HUD delineates in the assignment.*
- The coordination activities examples listed above may also apply to a Lead TA Coordinator work plan.
  - However, the Recipient should tailor the task(s) as needed based on the assignment. The TA delivery work plan(s) in which the Lead Recipient engages/assist with should be associated to the Lead TA Coordination work plan in DRGR.

#### Note to HUD GTMs/POTACs on Establishing Roles/Responsibilities for Lead TA Coordinators:

When assigning TA that includes coordination across multiple TA Providers it is important that the GTM/POTAC establishes clear roles and responsibilities for each assigned TA Provider. When applicable, program offices may develop template work plans to be used by all providers coordinating on a TA assignment.

The role of the Lead TA Coordinator, as well as the other TA Providers, should be identified in the assignment language and scope of each Recipient's work plan to mitigate confusion.

#### Example of Lead TA Coordinator Roles and Responsibilities for Direct TA WP:

Provide coordination support with the six other TA providers deployed to deliver TA under X assignment. Lead TA Coordinator is expected to:

- a) Coordinate weekly calls with all TA Providers for status updates
- b) Act as a central POC to elevate common issues to HUD GTM/POTAC
- c) Maintain a tracking sheet of TA issues requiring HUD input on a common platform for all stakeholders
- d) Outreach and coordination with other TA providers as needed
- e) Verify alignment with agreed upon TA strategy as established by HUD and TA Providers in the beginning of the engagement
- f) Identify and elevate to HUD the need to recalibrate the TA approach based on issues identified across TA Providers
- g) Review all products from each TA Provider to ensure uniform and consistent formatting
- h) Coordinate with HUD Exchange POC for posting of all final products

**For Travel:** HUD may request the Recipient to travel for in-person meetings directly related to administration or coordination of the award. The TA Institute Training is one example that needs to be included in the budget. Therefore, Recipients should consider anticipated travel when determining period of performance and budget.

Recipients are required to submit Administration and Coordination Work Plans in the DRGR system using the **Procedures for Developing a Work Plan** below.

## Procedures for Developing a TA Work Plan

The Recipient develops at least one work plan in response to an assignment from HUD. Each work plan must be associated to an assignment *except for* Administration and Coordination. The assignment will identify the TA need(s) and what the TA should accomplish. The Recipient's work plan scope and tasks will address the plan of action to satisfy the need(s) identified at the time of assignment.

#### The Basics

- Include an Award #. The award number should match one of the cooperative agreement numbers determined by HUD to be most appropriate for the assignment. The Recipient may select a different cooperative agreement, but both the GTM/POTAC and GTR must approve prior to work plan submission.
- Project Title must align with the Scope and the Project Budget in DRGR.
- Select a Work Plan Type. The TA type identified at the time of assignment, will determine the type of work plan selected. If the scoping discussions with HUD lead to a determination that another TA Type is more appropriate, the Recipient and GTM should notify the Assigner, who can edit the TA assignment. This should be changed prior to work plan submission but may occur after work plan

submission with proper justification. The type of work plan should consider the eligible activities identified in the respective NOFA/NOFO year of the award.

#### Note for Work Plan Type:

- **Training work plans** that *require* curriculum design and delivery should be separated across two work plans: one for product development and one for training delivery. If the training is not part of a large-scale curriculum design, separate work plans are not required unless the TA assignment language explicitly requests it.
- Use **TA Developing Workshop Materials** when developing materials for group learning sessions, unless HUD specifies otherwise.
- Use **TA Written Products** if the products will be used outside of the training as an independent resource for HUD customers.
- TA products must include an acknowledgement/disclaimer (see Provisions)
- Written approval from the GTR is required prior to including the official HUD logo on TA deliverables
- For tools and products developed, the Recipient should attach the final editable version to the work plan. If the file exceeds the capacity to attach, the URL to where the product is located should be provided.
- Work Plan Name: Recipient should name all work plans using the following naming convention that describes the TA assignment:
  - (Unique Identifier)-(TA Type)-(Phase/POP)
  - **Example**: Homelessness Products-Product Development-03/01/18-08/31/18
- For **TA Work Plan Number** (open text), use the numbering convention below:
  - [3-4 letters of Recipient's name or acronym]-[letter(s) that matches the starting letter of the award number/Funding Source Code]-[last 2 digits of the year associated with the cooperative agreement]-[3 digits that represent the consecutive work plan number] [(optional descriptor)]
  - Example: ECP-C-14-015 (AAQ)
  - For Award Recipients that use an additional number from their financial management system, you may add that number parenthetically after the optional descriptor.
  - **Example:** ECP-C-14-015 (AAQ)(1234)

However, if funded from another NOFO (Not CCTA/DCTA/TCTA) or under an IAA, award recipients should incorporate the program code (second set of numbers in the award scheme or reference to program assisted by the award) instead of award number since these types of awards sometimes share the same starting letter.

- Example:
  - For NHDAP NOFO Award, instead of starting with H, the work plan number may read: "ECP-NP-21-015"
  - For awards under the CDC IAA, instead of starting with "J", the work plan number may read: "ECP-CDC-21-015"

#### **DCTA Naming Convention:**

• When naming a work plan (establishing the TA Work Plan Number) recipients should include the Recipient's name, award number, work plan number, and the UGLG or topic of assignment in the number.

Examples: [Recipient Name]-R-21-001-[UGLG Name] or [Recipient Name]-R-18-011 - [tool or product].

• For **Period of Performance**, include a start date that matches the date the TA was assigned or a later date to allow for billable project management activities and an end date that is within 90 days of the date of TA completion to allow for capturing of trailing costs and final reporting. The period must fall within the period of performance of the cooperative agreement unless a pre-award letter is issued. Selecting a period of performance is not an arbitrary timeline, but should factor in some of the following conditions:

- Level of HUD involvement
- Input from the POTAC/GTM
- Complexity of the work assigned
- Associate Work Plans: If the work plan is associated with any other work plan in DRGR or if the Recipient is working in collaboration with another Award Recipient for the TA assignment, Recipients should associate the new work plan with one already in the system. The assignment may identify other work plans that should be associated to the new work plan.

### The Plan/Proposal

Begin with the Scope, which should support the background and overview of the associated assignment. Consider the objective(s) and requirement(s) needed for a successful TA engagement, as they will determine the various task(s) necessary to satisfy the performance measurements.

For **Scope**, include:

- A summary of the need or capacity gap(s), TA request, and assignment from HUD. Summary should consider the TA eligible activities (see Attachment 1: Community Compass Eligible Activities), focus areas, and program topics in the NOFO.
- HUD program(s) for which assistance is being planned, if applicable.
- If applicable, a description of past and current TA provided to the HUD customer or audience, and how the new effort will change or expand current or past efforts.
- A brief description of the proposed TA, including TA design, assumptions related to the work plan design and outcome, and identification of any proposed training, direct TA, and/or pass-through funds, as applicable (See Attachment 2: What Is and Isn't TA).
- A description of how equipping HUD customers with the knowledge, skills, tools, capacity, and systems to implement HUD programs/policies successfully—i.e., increase capacity of grantee to be able to write their own policies and strategic plans, and resolve their own monitoring issues.
- A description of how the Recipient will coordinate the proposed assistance with the delivery of other TA provided by others, if known and if practicable.
- $\circ~$  A description of the site or location to be used in the delivery of TA, if applicable.

#### Note for Scope and Surveys:

- For Needs Assessment, Direct TA (Including On-Call and Regional Outreach), and Group Learning Work Plans: Include language in the Scope that acknowledges that the Recipient will implement a survey. The type of survey generated is based on the type of TA engagement. Training work plans use the Learning Objectives to develop the survey. Needs Assessment and Direct TA work plans use the identified Outcomes to produce the survey.
- Recipients working on a collaborative TA effort should always include information indicating which Recipient organization should initiate a survey for each aspect of the TA engagement. When a Lead TA Award Recipient is assigned, the Lead is responsible for developing a strategy specifying which TA Award Recipient will initiate a survey for which customers, and which HUD outcomes and outcome descriptions will be related to those tasks. When no Lead TA Award Recipient is assigned, the collaborating Recipients must coordinate and agree upon which firms will have responsibility for initiating a survey for various customers or tasks.
  - Strategic Goals: Identify applicable goal(s) from the *HUD Strategic Plan* in place at the time of the TA assignment. At least one goal from the latest *HUD Strategic Plan* is required; and, if applicable, at least one theme from the *Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*.
  - Under TA Work Plan Milestones, ensure that the work plan has at least one milestone. The milestone should include a title and description of the schedule or plan for delivering the assistance. Check that the Expected Date is reasonable and falls within the Period of Performance.

• **Tasks** are achievable activities that address the TA needs as identified by the TA assignment from HUD and are consistent with **Scope**. Tasks are actions that will improve the HUD grantee's performance.

Each **task** must include:

• A descriptive **Task Name**. In general, the first one or two tasks on a work plan should be the project management and coordination tasks. This includes the activities related to designing, coordinating, and administering the award requirements for the work plan.

#### Note for Product Development Work Plans:

During emergency response situations (e.g., disasters, public health crises) and at the direction of HUD, Product Development Work Plans may have general tasks, such as development of product #3 when the type of product is unknown at the time of work plan development. The task(s) must be updated as modifications once more detailed directions are given by HUD. Updates to a task may be submitted as a modification as long as the updates do not include a change requiring a prior approval, such as a change in Scope.

#### Note for On-Call Work Plans:

There are two ways to structure on-call work plans:

- 1. One task per program topic focus all HUD grantees/customers associated to one task, receive the same program specific TA (e.g., IDIS on-call work plan)
  - a. HUD grantees added as Organizations Assisted in DRGR, all associated with one task
  - b. Same scope, outcome, and survey for all grantees
- 2. Tasks can be listed by HUD grantees/customers receiving the on call– each HUD grantee/customer should be named as a task.

Example with one task	Example with HUD Grantees listed as tasks
Task 1. Work Plan Admin	Task 1. Work Plan Admin
Task 2. <b>CoC Governance</b> –(associate all organizations assisted to the task)	Task 2. City of Spokane Task 3. Richmond/Contra Costa County CoC
	Task 4. New York City Housing Authority

Expected outcomes for each task should be added during work plan development.

Each on-call assignment typically averages between 8-16 hours over a period of less than 90 days. The Assigner consults with the program office, with field office input as appropriate, to determine the need of the HUD customer, and should be judicious in matching the hours to the identified need. Recipients may request additional hours in consultation with the field office or program office with an email justification. The GTM/POTAC or program office may approve additional hours, up to 32 hours total for one grantee under on-call. If that is not sufficient, it may be escalated for review and consideration as a full direct TA assignment by the program office, in consultation with the field office. This would require a new Direct TA assignment and work plan and may require additional review and approval by the Program Office Review Committee or other program office approver.

• A Start Date and End Date that falls within the Period of Performance.

 An Estimated Budget that includes the sum of direct and indirect costs related to the task to be performed. The Total Estimated Budget is based on the sum of Estimated Budgets for each Task.

#### Note for Estimated Budget:

The Travel Budget **plus** the Labor Budget under the People/OBLI section **cannot** be more than the total of the Estimated Work Plan Budget, which is the sum of the tasks.

- **Labor Category(ies)** and Personnel with estimated **# Hours** for each. Identify key personnel associated with the tasks.
- If applicable, include a **Travel Budget** per task(s).
- $\circ$   $\;$  For Topics, select all applicable topics. At least 1 selection required.
- For Outputs, a Title, Estimated Completion Date, and Output Description. Each task must have at least 1 Output that facilitates progress monitoring. The output is a result from carrying out the task.
- For the **Task Description/Narrative** of each task, add clearly defined eligible activities (see Attachment 1: Community Compass Eligible Activities) including:
  - Any work products that will be produced/used in the delivery of the assistance and schedule with dates to draft and complete products.
  - Any planned site visits or meetings with the targeted HUD customer(s), HUD field office staff, and HQ staff including who is going, reason for travel, and number of trips, if applicable.
  - Quantity, type, topic, duration, and location of workshops/sessions.
  - Training dates or the person at HUD that will be communicating the confirmed dates with the Recipient.
  - If the assistance is delivered jointly with other Recipients, the personnel and the respective roles and responsibilities of each of the involved Recipients.

#### Note for Task Narratives:

**For all in-person and on-line trainings and conferences sponsored by HUD**: Use of the Learning Management System (LMS) on the HUD Exchange for registration and managing participants is required. In addition, Recipients must enter information about attendees at in-person training/group learning sessions in the LMS as this information is reported to Congress. Ensure plan includes coordination activities with manager of HUD Exchange platform. To receive an exception from this requirement, the program office will need to receive CAO approval, and include the approval as supporting documentation.

#### Examples of Exceptions:

- Trainings or conferences at HUD HQ because of the need to collect security information upon registration
- The Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) does not use LMS for online trainings

Recipients should work with the POTAC/GTM and GTR to determine whether LMS will be used.

**Work Products**: Work products will be made publicly available via postings on HUD Exchange, or in a manner and location determined by HUD. If the product or training will be posted on HUD Exchange, Recipient must schedule a kick-off discussion with manager of HUD Exchange platform before developing products and online trainings to ensure compatibility. In addition, the TA Award Recipient must budget in the work plan for making products 508 compliant, and for reviewing website posting options with manager of HUD Exchange platform and HUD.

For **Organizations Assisted**, add organizations for which TA is being provided and ensure that entity has been associated with program(s) included in the **Scope**, such as COC or CDBG. Recipients should refer to the assignment to determine if specific organizations to assist are listed, and if organizations are in the Scope, Recipients must add under the **Organizations Assisted** section of the work plan for at least one task.

#### Note for Organizations Assisted:

- If multiple organizations with the same name are listed in DRGR, be sure to add the organization that correlates to the relevant program and office that requested the TA.
- For work plans such as product development and training delivery with a broad range of organizations assisted, add the group of organizations associated with products and training, using the Organization Group option in DRGR. Add this information as the work plan is developed.
- If an individual grantee is not listed or if the number of grantees assisted is unknown, the Recipient should associate the organizational group. The organizational group connects all potential grantees by the program area.
- **Supporting Documents:** Add any documents referenced in the TA assignment and work plan, such as non-disclosure certification or any relevant travel cost assumptions or justifications. Final deliverables and needs assessment reports should be attached as supporting documentation prior to closing the work plan.

**Approvals for Event Requests**: HUD-sponsored conferences and events prompts a review for approval from the respective Program Office's Senior Official. The level of approval needed is determined by the cost of the event as outlined in the HUD Conference & Travel Requirements Memo issued 9/14/2016). All conferences hosted by HUD or a **third-party on HUD's behalf** under active HUD TA cooperative agreements will require the appropriate General Deputy Assistant Secretary (GDAS), Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (PDAS), or Deputy Secretary (DEPSEC) approval.

Each HUD office has their own internal process for event request approvals. The GTM/POTAC is responsible for ensuring compliance with the program office's established process. The GTM/POTAC should work with the Recipient to complete the event request package for applicable TA activities and facilitate its review, and subsequent approval, through their respective office leadership.

The GTM/POTAC should include language in the Assignment, Scope or Comments section indicating that the event request approval process has been considered and is underway.

Upon receipt of event approval from the appropriate HUD official, the GTM/POTAC should attach documentation in DRGR and notify the Recipient via email (copying the GTR) so they may proceed with associated activities. Please note: Reimbursement of event-related expenditures will not occur without attached proof of approval. The Recipient should include it as supporting documentation to the applicable voucher.

#### Approvals for Use of Non-HUD Space Agreements:

A space agreement for the use of non-HUD space for in-person trainings, conferences, and other HUDsponsored events are subject to prior written approval. The Recipient must provide a copy of the space agreement to the GTR prior to executing with a third party. The GTR should forward the agreement to the designated space agreement lead in OTA or Procurement & Contracts Service (PCS), facilitate communication between the Recipient and the HUD-approving official (i.e., designated OTA/PCS lead), and upon approval, notify the Recipient via e-mail and by adding comments in DRGR.

The items listed below are not commonly permitted in space agreements:

- Insurance
- Indemnification clauses
- Attorney fees
- Dispute resolution or arbitration
- Guaranteed minimums
- Food or beverage

Work plans with pending event requests and/or space agreements may be conditionally approved prior to written approval. However, work plan approval does not constitute approval for the event(s) or use of space.

#### The Work Plan Budget

**Note:** The TA work plan requires Recipients to segregate the costs that make up the **total Estimated Budget** for the tasks. Costs must be segregated by direct labor/staff costs, other direct costs (including travel), and indirect costs.

- 1. **Proposed Staff** should include a mixture of key and non-key personnel that is appropriate to carry out the tasks associated with the work plan. All proposed staff should have an approved or pending approval wage rate when adding them to the work plan.
- The Recipient may add **Staff Types** that are pending approval. All wage rates should be consistent with rates ordinarily paid for similar work in the Recipient's organization and by other prudent employers for similar work in the same labor market. The Cooperative Agreement Officer (CAO), or designee, reserves the right to deny approval of the rate for any staff, contractor, or consultant that does not meet the requirements. Recipients will only be reimbursed for approved wage rates.
- Enter the start date in the **From** field and the end date in the **To** field for the selected personnel. These dates must reflect the estimated start and end dates for the personnel and must be within the **Period of Performance** of the TA work plan.
- In the Hours field, enter the hours associated with the Staff. Ensure Key Personnel have adequate hours to manage the work plan. High-rate individuals (\$200 or more per hour) should be used in specialized and complex areas of the TA assignments, while personnel with lower rates should perform administrative work.
- Total staff costs calculated using rates and hours should not exceed the Labor Budget amount.

The Estimated Cost for the Task may be more than the calculated sum listed under the breakdown of labor, by staff rate and hours (Personnel Budget) to account for indirect costs, travel, and additional OBLIs associated with the task.

<ul> <li>Task 3: Training Product Develo</li> <li>Details</li> <li>Personnel Budget</li> </ul>	Narrative: Create q developed by Topics:	Start/End Date:	HUD Tasked		
	developed by Topics: Key Labor Cate CONSULTA	will create content for the webinar and	e. The 508 compliant material v		
Personnel Budget	Key Labor Cate CONSULTA	-	Estimated Up		
Personnel Budget	CONSULTA	-	 Estimated Marrie		
			Estimated Hours	Rate per Hour	Estimated Cost Status
	CONTRACT		170	\$175.00	\$29,750.00 Approved
		OR	135	\$175.00	\$23,625.00 Approved
	CONTRACT	OR	55	\$75.00	\$4,125.00 Approved
	STAFF		30	\$63.18	\$1,895.40 Approved
	CONSULTA		20	\$150.00	\$3,000.00 Approved
	CONTRACT	OR CONTRACTOR	40	\$175.00	\$7,000.00 Approved
	CONSULTA	NT	45	\$150.00	\$6,750.00 Approved
	STAFF		10	\$130.60	\$1,306.00 Approved
	CONSULTA	NT	215	\$175.00	\$37,625.00 Approved
	STAFF		53	\$122.68	\$6,502.04 Approved
	TOTAL:		773		\$121,578.44
* Performa	* Task Stat nce Period Start Da ance Period End Da mated Cost (Budge	te:			
	* Estimated Hou Topi			A	

• The proposed Labor Budget Amount entered may be more than the cumulative

• Personnel Budget for all tasks, to account for annual salary increases that occur during the work plan PoP.

≭ Labor Budget	t Amount: \$ 130,4	14.89		

- For non-key personnel, Recipients may change **Staff Types** or **Staff** without requiring reapproval of the work plan in DRGR. Non-key personnel may be changed on a work plan without updating the work plan. However, HUD encourages the Recipient to add permanent non-key personnel changes when making other adjustments to the work plan later through modification or amendment.
- Identify the Point of Contact (POC) for the work plan when adding the proposed labor.
- 2. Other Budget Line Item Costs (OBLI) are required.
- Select the appropriate **OBLI** category. For example, the travel option should be selected for all travel-related costs. If a category option does not accurately describe the proposed cost, select "Other."
- Each OBLI cost must have start and end dates that occur within the work plan **Period of Performance**.
- Include a **Description** and **Total**.
- Each **Budget Line Item** (e.g., communication, shipping, meeting space, supplies/materials, equipment/products) must include both a cost and a quantity (e.g., 2 webinar transcriptions at \$1,000 each), if applicable.
- Associate task(s) to the OBLI. The sum of tasks should be equal to the OBLI and the work plan budget.

When determining non-labor and direct costs to include on a work plan, the Recipient should consider the following:

- Using HUD resources for space, audio, etc. instead of incurring costs for these resources.
- Ensuring the cost is excluded from your indirect cost rate agreement.
- Conducting research to ensure the most affordable option in the market.
- For G&A, Overhead, and Indirect Costs, including the federally approved percentages, such as "G&A (19.2%)" in the description.

#### Note for Stipend/Honorarium Eligibility:

- 2 CFR allows for "participant support costs" which are defined as "mean[ing] direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects."
- Stipends or allowances for participation in a conference or training are allowed as direct costs in a workplan budget (2 CFR 200.1 Participant support costs). A TA Provider can include stipends to parcipants of an event hosted as part of a work plan's scope of work.

#### For Equipment:

- Purchases must be made in accordance with 2 CFR 200.313.
- Requests to approve equipment must include the following information:
- 1. Identify the type of equipment and indicate if this equipment is to be used for this project only or will be shared with other customers/clients.
- 2. If the equipment is shared with others, demonstrate that HUD is paying only its proportionate share of the cost and that the cost is not duplicated in Recipient's indirect cost rate.
- 3. Explain why there is no other equipment in the organization that is available for the work under this agreement.

- 4. Address whether the equipment will be purchased on a competitive basis.
- 5. Cover conditions for leasing of real property, if applicable.

#### For Travel:

Transportation and travel costs must be reasonable and not exceed the Federal Travel Regulations rates, unless pre-approved by the GTR or CAO (e.g., disaster areas, limited hotel options). Exceptions must be documented in the work plan.

Include the estimated cost by line items in the OBLI section of the work plan in DRGR and associate the applicable task(s). Travel items may include:

- Airfare
- Ground Transportation
- Lodging expenses
- Parking expenses
- Meals and incidental expenses (M&IE).

The description for a travel item should include details for each, such as:

- Unit cost
- Number of people
- Number of days
- Destination and point of origin
- Number of People

#### For example:

- o Airfare \$600/flight, 4 round trip flights from California to DC Total: \$2,400
- o Taxi \$60/trip for 8 trips Total: \$480

Alternatively, Recipients may attach the itemized travel budget instead of itemizing under OBLI. If this option is used, Recipients must include the aggregate travel costs per trip as a line item under OBLI and associate the applicable task(s) to the travel line(s).

**Note for Travel-Related Expenses:** HUD requires prior approval of all TA program-related budgets, as allowed by 2 CFR 200.407 and outlined in our terms and conditions. Consistent with the principle of universal prior approval, budgets for rental vehicles must be approved prior to incurring the expense.

- Prior approval is delivered via approval of the work plan in DRGR. In reviewing the work plan, the GTR will determine if a rental vehicle is a necessary, or germane, use of funds relative to the scope of work described in the work plan. We expect to see budgets for rental vehicles in work plans that include group travel, transport of equipment or materials, reasonable accommodations, or travel to locations with limited options for transportation. You may present other uses of rental vehicles, and we will assess the logical connection between the use of a rental vehicle and the scope of work on a case-by-case basis.
- The use of rental vehicles extends only to the extent allowed by the approved work plan and the Government's best interest.
- Approval of the work plan authorizes the expense type and the estimated budget across the applicable period of performance.
- Once a budget for use of a rental vehicle is approved as part of a HUD TA work plan, you do not need to secure additional approval to apply an FTR exception to the "least expensive" standard. However, you must maintain documentation demonstrating cost reasonableness, under your firm's written travel policy or the Federal Travel Regulations. Failure to maintain supporting documentation may result in repayment of costs that are determined to be disallowed as part of a voucher review, risk-based monitoring review, or audit.
- Short-Term Rentals (Airbnb, etc.) are considered "non-conventional lodging" and can only be used when no other "conventional lodging" is available. If a Short-Term Rental is the only option available, the recipient must provide justification and receive prior approval from the GTR before incurring costs.

Always refer to the latest HUD TA Travel Guidance for details and further instructions.

#### **Evaluating Performance**

1. **Performance Measures** are the HUD-defined output measures. The expected quantitative measure should be made in consultation with HUD (GTM/POTAC). The performance measures available for selection are dependent on the **Work Plan Type**.

2. Learning Objectives are statements that define the expected goal(s) of a product, curriculum, or training. Learning Objectives describe the skills or knowledge participants are expected to gain.

Learning Objectives apply to two TA types: **Product Development and Group Learning.** All work plans that fall under Product Development and Group Learning should have a Learning Objective for each task that involves (1) content development for a product or curriculum or (2) delivery of training session(s) or online training(s).

Each Learning Objective should (1) identify the group learning type, product, or curriculum; (2) identify the type of grantee; (3) use a measurable verb; and (4) identify a specific programmatic goal that aligns with scope.

# [GROUP LEARNING TYPE/PRODUCT/CURRICULUM]: The [GRANTEE] [MEASURABLE VERB] [SPECIFIC PROGRAMMATIC GOAL].

In addition, a single training should have no more than 5 Learning Objectives, unless the GTR has approved more.

HUD must be able to link the Learning Objective(s) to the specific training, product, or curriculum in the work plan.

If Learning Objectives are not yet defined at the time a work plan is initially submitted in DRGR, Recipient should include the following language:

• Learning Objectives are currently being developed for this work plan.

If a Product Development work plan contains only administrative tasks, Recipient should include the following language:

• This work plan contains only administrative tasks. Therefore, it does not require Learning Objectives.

Fraining delivery related work plans	Product related work plans	
ΓA - Workshops	TA - Data Reporting, Analysis, Management	
FA - Peer/Innovative Learning	TA - HMIS Data Lab	
FA - Delivering Workshops	TA - Delivering Workshops Materials	
ΓA - Other Workshops	TA - Written Products	
TA - Problem-Solving Clinics	TA - Other Written Products	
FA - Train-the-Trainer Session	TA - Develop Web Products	
FA - Web-based learning/webinars	TA - Other Web Products	

3. **Outcome** is the effect or level of achievement that occurred because of an activity or service provided. An expected outcome describes what will be different as a result of the TA. Outcomes apply to all DRGR work plan types except Administration and Coordination work plans.

Select the appropriate **Outcome Category(ies)** (3 options) and **Outcome(s)** (13 options). For each **Outcome** selection include a **Description** and, under **Associated Tasks**, associate the outcome and outcome description with specific work plan tasks or the **Entire Work Plan**.

Each task must be associated with at least 1 **Outcome** to submit the work plan to HUD.

Attachment 3 includes the 3 HUD Outcome Categories and 13 HUD standardized outcomes. 4D "Other" should only be used in rare circumstances, such as when there are multiple work plans supporting the same TA engagement. HUD program staff, the GTR, and the Recipient must agree to the use of 4D.

#### For **Outcome Description**, ensure outcome:

- reflects meaningful/valuable change(s) on the community/issues because of the TA provided,
- is measurable, and
- reflects near-term results, which are defined as beginning at TA completion to no longer than 90 days post-TA.

Note that the text box is limited to 4,000 characters in DRGR.

#### Note on Outcomes:

All Direct TA work plan types and Needs Assessment work plans will use Outcomes for the TA Surveys.

4. **The HUD Strategic Plan** describes an Administration's goals, objectives and strategies that will advance the Department's mission. All work plan types except Administration and Coordination should have at least one strategic goal associated to the work plan. Recipient should refer to the award appropriation year to determine which HUD Strategic Plan to use.

## **Procedure for Resubmission of Work Plans**

When a GTM, POTAC, or GTR requests revisions to a submitted work plan, an automated email will be sent to the Recipient notifying them of the pending request in DRGR.

POTACs/GTMs have 15 days to review and recommend approval/disapproval via DRGR, and the GTR will have an additional 15 days to review and recommend approval/disapproval. Revisions requested by GTR do not require GTM/POTAC recommendation for approval.

Recipients should resolve **Conditional Approvals** prior to billing to ensure minor requirements are met. Award Recipients should satisfy the requirements before billing against a work plan.

## **Procedure for Submitting Work Plan Amendments and Modifications**

Adding or deleting a task, or an increase in the original **Total Budget** of 10% or more trigger an amendment in DRGR. A Recipient can add non-key personnel or shift hours in a work plan without triggering an amendment if the **Total Budget** remains the same or is lower than the approved budget. **Total Budget** is based on the sum of all **Estimated Costs of the Tasks**.

If the Period of Performance has lapsed, all work must cease. Once a work plan has lapsed, the Recipient has to submit a modification to extend the end date of the work plan. Work may resume once the modification to the POP has been submitted.

The following change (not an exhaustive list) are considered modifications and **do not require prior approval**:

- An increase of less than 10% in the work plan's original budget (without the addition or removal of a task)
- Changes to task start and end dates
- No cost extensions to work plan period of performance. The Recipient should attach email documentation notifying the GTM & GTR of the change
- Change in delivery of output and/or milestone
- Changes in staff not involving Key Personnel
- Changes in work plan number/name
- Minor changes to text/narrative that does not change the outcomes or outputs of the work plan or does not impact the overall service delivery approach.
- Adding a TA recipient to an On-Call Work Plan

Changes that **require prior approval** are included in 2 CFR part 200.407 and some are included below.

- Change in scope or approach to accomplish work plan objectives
- Change in Learning Objectives/Expected Outcomes
- Change in modality in which activities are developed or delivered
- Change of Key Personnel assigned to a HUD-approved work plan
- Removal or addition of a task
- An increase of 10% or more from the work plan's original budget
- The sub-award, transfer, or contracting out of any work under this award, unless described in the Recipient's application or A&F documents.
- The use, development, or acquisition of software, property, or equipment
- Reopening a closed work plan to capture trailing costs or resubmit rejected invoices.

TA Award Recipients should consult with GTRs and HUD program staff on the need for a work plan period of performance extension. Recipients should remember to update work plan and task periods of performance when an award is extended and the GTM and GTR agree that the work needs to be continued.

When submitting an amendment, recipients must include under the original Scope and/or the comments field of the work plan language explaining the reason for the amendment. Below is an example of language to use:

Amendment #\_\_\_: This amendment is for xx hours and a budget increase of \$, which brings the total for this work plan to \$ and xx (insert total dollars and hours as of (insert date)"

When submitting a modification, recipients must include under the original Scope and/or comments section language explaining what was modified. Below is an example of language to include for a modification comment:

Modification #\_\_(month/day/year): This change does not require GTR or program office review. The modification includes changes to \_\_\_\_\_\_.

## **Closing a Work Plan**

When work is complete on a work plan, recipients must complete the following steps.

- 1. Submit actual performance measures and outcomes. Providers are responsible for updating performance measures and outcomes with results. For instance, all performance measures, outputs and outcomes should be updated as of the time of work plan closeout.
- 2. Attach deliverables to DRGR. The closed work plan serves as the final record for the technical assistance engagement, so all product deliverables must be attached to the work plan in DRGR.
- 3. Post deliverables on HUDExchange if applicable. Final deliverables must be approved by the program office before distribution. If the destination for products developed during the work plan's period of performance was HUDExchange, recipients are responsible for facilitating the posting of those deliverables. In most cases, this involves coordinating with the team responsible for maintaining the HUDExchange. Recipients are responsible for submitting all associated content and 508-compliant materials to the HUDExchange maintenance team.
- 4. Prepare and submit final voucher before closing the work plan. The recipient must submit a final voucher for work plans expected to be closed. The final voucher must include all trailing costs associated with the work plan.
- 5. Close within 30 days of final reimbursement (check WP flag timeframes). Once a recipient submits their final voucher on the work plan, they must close the work plan within 30 days of receiving the final reimbursement from HUD.

## **Attachment 1: Community Compass Eligible Activities**

Community Compass eligible activities for each fiscal year are described in the NOFO. Links to NOFOs below.

- FY 2014: https://www.hud.gov/program\_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail/nofa14/hccta
- FY 2015: <u>https://www.hud.gov/program\_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail/nofa2015/cctacb</u>
- FY 2016: <u>https://www.hud.gov/program\_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail/nofa16/cctacb</u>
- FY 2017: https://www.hud.gov/program\_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps/fy17cctanofa
- FY 2018-19: <u>https://www.hud.gov/program\_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps/fy18ccta&cbp</u>
- FY 2021-2021: <u>https://www.hud.gov/program\_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps/fy20\_ccta</u>
   FY 2022 2022.
- FY 2022-2023: <u>https://www.hud.gov/program\_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps/fy22\_23\_ccta</u>

## Attachment 2: What Is & Isn't TA?

TA enables HUD's customers to overcome a lack of specific skills or knowledge of HUD programs by:

- Offering knowledge, skills, tools, and systems to address gaps and navigate complex challenges.
- Equipping them to launch, implement, and successfully administer programs.
- Results in the successful performance of and compliance with those programs.

TA *must have* a direct benefit to HUD Customers:

Direct Benefit	Not a Benefit
<ul> <li>✓ Only for HUD Customer or Grantee (NOT HUD)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Helping HUD collect data from grantees with no feedback loop</li> </ul>
✓ Increasing understanding	<ul> <li>Hosting listening sessions to inform policy</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Providing tool to help navigate/simplify</li> </ul>	× Messaging for HUD
<ul> <li>Supporting direct grantee program implementation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Coordinating logistics ONLY for HUD delivering training and events</li> </ul>

In addition to having a direct benefit to HUD Customers, the TA *must* build capacity:

Capacity Building	Not Capacity Building
✓ Transfer knowledge and/or skills	× Writing policies and procedures
✓ Address root cause issues	× Creating action plan
✓ Ensure changes sustained over time	<ul> <li>Collecting data for HUD with no feedback loop</li> </ul>
✓ Results in stronger entity	

## Attachment 3: HUD Outcome Categories

**HUD Outcome Category #1:** Improved capacity to develop plans and priorities informed by community needs and program/policy goals.

- **1A: Improved capacity to collect, analyze, and share data** (e.g., improved data on populations served, program results or impacts, or community conditions)
- **1B: Improved capacity to gather and use resident and community input** (e.g., implemented new strategies for identifying needs, for determining priorities and developing plans, or for measuring results of actions taken)
- 1C: Improved capacity to develop high-quality, compliant plans that identify clear priorities and accurately reflect community needs and input (e.g., improved PHA Plans, Consolidated Plans, Indian Housing Plans)
- **1D: Improved coordination and alignment with other community or regional plans** (e.g., HUD plans aligned with plans of other HUD or federal programs, local and regional government agencies, service providers, or nonprofit organizations)

HUD Outcome Category #2: Improved capacity to design strategies that align with plans and priorities.

- 2A: Improved capacity to select programmatic strategies that address program or policy goals and community needs (e.g., determined which eligible activities could most effectively address needs)
- **2B: Improved capacity to design system-wide strategies that address community needs** (e.g., designed innovative multi-disciplinary strategies, designed coordinated place-based development to leverage neighborhood impacts)
- 2C: Improved capacity to design effective partnerships or cross-jurisdictional relationships that address community needs (e.g., developed a framework for collaboration, established new or innovative partnerships, developed governance charters or memoranda of understanding)
- **2D: Improved alignment of resources with program-, system- or community-wide goals** (e.g., developed an investment plan to support a system-wide strategy, developed resource allocation processes to improve targeting of resources to plan goals)

**HUD Outcome Category #3:** Improved capacity to deliver projects, programs or systems that address community needs

- **3A: Improved staffing or organizational structure** (e.g., revised job descriptions to reflect skills required to implement program, merged departments to achieve greater efficiency or alignment)
- **3B: Improved administrative processes or infrastructure** (e.g., improved cost and participant eligibility verification procedures, instituted new policies and procedures to improve consistency of operations or decision-making, streamlined process steps that reduce application processing times, established new systems for monitoring conditions of assets or obligating funds, implemented new sub-Recipient risk assessment and monitoring protocols)
- 3C: Improved financial management systems, controls, oversight to conform with 2 CFR Part 200 (OMB Omni Circular) and generally accepted accounting principles (e.g., completed A-133 or other financial audits, closed A-133 or other financial audit findings, implemented internal controls, demonstrated adequate Quick Ratio)
- **3D: Improved program, grant, and regulatory compliance** (e.g., improved staff understanding of regulations, improved quality or timeliness of reporting, resolved audit or monitoring findings)
- **3E: Improved capacity to substantively change the ways partners interact or conduct their work in order to address community needs** (e.g., implemented innovative multi-agency strategies, implemented coordinated place-based development to align resources from various funders to yield more substantial results, implemented coordinated entry process to improve targeting and access to homeless assistance)

#### Not Applicable HUD Outcome Category

- 4A: Task is related to work plan development or management of work
- 4B: Task is related to coordination
- 4C: Task is related to closeout
- 4D: Other