

# 2023 TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (T&TA) PLAN

## 1.0 – GENERAL INFORMATION

COMMENTS THAT DO NOT GENERALLY FIT INTO THE AVAILABLE TABLES BELOW

TDHCA ensures Subgrantees have sufficient T&TA funding and direct TDHCA T&TA assistance available to maintain/improve Subgrantee performance and work quality. To address network training needs, TDHCA budgets T&TA funds both internally and directly to our Subgrantees.

T&TA needs are determined and based upon factors such as the following:

- Individual Subgrantee Training Needs Assessments (TNA)
  - TDHCA implemented a new requirement that requires each Subgrantee to complete DOE’s WAP T&TA Planning & Reporting Template to identify each Subgrantee’s specific training needs.
    - The initial report is reviewed by TDHCA training staff to ensure each Subgrantee is planning to receive training in needed areas and for compliance with WPN 22-4 requirements.
    - Throughout the contract terms TDHCA staff monitor for training expenditures to ensure Subgrantee is obtaining needed trainings.
    - Upon the completion of the contract, a final version is required to be submitted to document and support the training assistance received.
- Grant Requirements or as directed by DOE monitor or audit reports.
- Subgrantee Request
  - The Department has an online request system, with a T&TA menu list, or section for the Subgrantee to make a specific request or ask specific questions.
    - <https://tdhca.wufoo.com/forms/requestforprogramassistance>
    - The Department will contact the requestor to answer the submitted question **OR**
    - Customize a training to meet the need or help to find a list of T&TA providers for the requested topic.
    - In addition, submitted questions or T&TA requests are reviewed for creating Best Practices/FAQs or to identify topics for regional trainings, workshops, webinars, or individualized training.
- Grantee Monitoring Reports.
  - The Department’s compliance team shares monitoring issues with the training team. The training team will initially provide resources and guides to address any findings, and follow up with T&TA as required.
- Subgrantee expenditure performance.
  - TDHCA utilizes an online contract system to collect expenditure and performance data from Subgrantees and compares that data to their production tool at minimum on the third, fifth, and seventh program reporting deadlines as identified within 10 TAC §6.405.
- Network Trends.
- Management Request.
  - Management may make a specific request and dictate the type of training needed.
- Grantee identified needs.
  - Key areas of a special focus are as follows:
    - Quality work through initial assessments;
    - Accurate Energy Audit Modeling; and
    - Implementation of DOE-approved Priority List.

Internal T&TA funds are often limited unless determined otherwise by need and utilized to address individual, network-wide, or regional T&TA needs. Internal budgeted T&TA funds are utilized for T&TA activities such as the following:

- Internal Grantee staff training;
- TDHCA direct T&TA assistance;
- Develop and provide T&TA resources;

- Department provided specific trainings;
- Network-wide and Regional comprehensive trainings when determined feasible; and
- Etc.

Subgrantees receive the majority of T&TA funds which are utilized to address Subgrantee specific T&TA needs. TDHCA’s reason for this approach is network-wide or regional T&TA activities often present unique challenges such as geographical challenges, multiple climate zones, network size, limited one-on-one engagement, differences of capacity levels noted within our network, etc. Specifics of the challenges include:

- Travel time, cost, and/or loss of production can often be prohibitive for centralized or even regional trainings.
- Mixed climate zones often require specific training to the location of the Subgrantee.
- Texas has twenty one (21) Subgrantees that makeup our network and as a result often network-wide/regional trainings consist of large attendance numbers, which are often prohibitive of providing one-on-one engagement to gauge training comprehension.
- Different capacity levels noted within network often present challenges to facilitate a network-wide course that would be beneficial and appeal to a network-wide or regional audience.

TDHCA T&TA staff provide oversight on the use of Subgrantee budgeted T&TA funds by reviewing the Subgrantee TNA to ensure training is obtained for needed areas, projected T&TA activities are in compliance with WPN 22-4 requirements, and T&TA funding is expended in a timely manner. Additionally, TDHCA staff monitor training expenditures throughout the contract terms and contracts require Subgrantees to receive prior approval for all T&TA expenses to ensure T&TA activities remain focused on the Subgrantee’s T&TA needs. Subgrantee T&TA funds are utilized for T&TA activities.

- Obtain and/or maintain required certifications such as QCI, MFQCI, Energy Auditor, Lead Safe Renovator, Lead Safe Worker, OSHA 10/30, etc.
- Receive Comprehensive training on a regular basis for occupation-specific training to train on curriculum aligned with the topics within the job task analyses (JTAs).
  - All Comprehensive trainings are administered either by or in cooperation with IREC accredited facilities.
- Receive Specific training to address single-issue, short-term training to address technical skills/knowledge gaps, attend conference trainings, or attend trainings beneficial to the program but not necessarily aligned with a Home Energy Professional (HEP) job task analyses (JTAs).

## **2.0 – OVERALL T&TA PLAN**

**YOUR OVERALL T&TA PLAN MUST INCORPORATE SUGGESTIONS AND FEEDBACK THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS.**

### **FEEDBACK FROM INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL REVIEWS, EXAMPLES INCLUDE:**

- FEEDBACK FROM DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) PROJECT OFFICER (PO) MONITORING VISITS
- INTERNAL STATE AUDITS
- GRANTEE MONITORING OF THE SUBGRANTEES
- OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (OIG) REPORTS
- AMERICAN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INDEX FEEDBACK, AND
- OTHER. EXAMPLES INCLUDE:
  - TRAINING FEEDBACK
  - TRAINING RETENTION ACTIVITIES

TDHCA incorporates the following suggestions and feedback when developing the statewide T&TA Plan:

- Subgrantees Training Needs Assessments (TNA);
- Grant requirements;
- Feedback from Department of Energy (DOE) Project Officers (PO) and monitoring reports;
- Grantee Monitoring Reports of the Subgrantees;
- Subgrantee submitted questions and training requests through the TDHCA WUFOO portal;

- Subgrantee feedback collected and provided through the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA);
- Network trends;
- American Customer Satisfaction Index survey feedback;
- Internal State Audits;
- Office of Inspector General (OIG) Reports;
- Public Comment received during the Public Comment period for the DOE State Plan;
- WAP PAC feedback; and
- Grantee identified key topics of special focus to improve overall network performance.

**EXISTING OR PLANNED ACCREDITED TRAINING CENTER PARTNERSHIP OR WORKING RELATIONSHIP.**

TDHCA and Subgrantees have historically partnered with Santa Fe Community College’s EnergySmart Academy (SFCCEA) to provide IREC accredited comprehensive trainings. Additionally, SFCCEA has helped TDHCA with the development of SWS field guides and allowed TDHCA training staff maintaining BPI Proctor certifications to proctor BPI written exams. TDHCA is currently considering and looking for additional IREC accredited providers to ensure the needs of the network are being met.

**PREPARATIONS FOR FUTURE/UPCOMING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, EXAMPLES INCLUDE:**

- **UPDATED STANDARD WORK SPECIFICATIONS (SWS)**
- **MIGRATION TO ONLINE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANT**
- **INCLUSION OF SPECIFIC LANGUAGE FROM WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM NOTICES (WPN)**

TDHCA is preparing for the following upcoming program requirements:

- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act increase funding levels;
- Migration to the online Weatherization Assistant v10 when fully implemented and directed by DOE;
- Inclusion of specific updated language from Weatherization Program Notices (WPN), on an as needed basis.

**WHAT PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE WHICH ENSURE UNTRAINED STAFF ARE NOT LEFT WITHOUT SUPERVISIONS DURING FIELD OPERATIONS?**

Per Title 10 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Section 6.6 (e), Subgrantees are required, upon hiring of a new program coordinator, to contact the Department with written notification within 30 calendar days of hiring to receive new manager/coordinator T&TA. Non-coordinator staff are required to be supervised during their introductory period and initial training is conducted by Subgrantee staff utilizing training resources available on TDHCA’s website until the staff has received the necessary comprehensive/specific training to function independently. On an as-needed basis, TDHCA training staff is available to assist with T&TA upon request and provide program oversight if associated risks warrant such an approach.

Partnerships with the statewide home performance industry on training issues; if applicable.

TDHCA does not currently partner with any statewide home performance industries.

**HOW DOES ANALYSIS CONDUCTED, AS DETAILED IN SECTION V.6 OF THE ANNUAL APPLICATION, INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF T&TA ACTIVITIES AND PRIORITIES?**

Subgrantees are reviewed by TDHCA’s Executive Award & Review Advisory Committee (EARAC) and monitored as described in V8.3 Monitoring Activities. Results of the EARAC review and monitoring visit(s) are shared with T&TA staff. Identified issue(s) as a result of the EARAC review and/or monitoring visits are analyzed by T&TA staff to determine how to best resolve the issue(s) and address the Subgrantee’s training needs. T&TA staff requires Subgrantee to update its TNA to reflect the required actions to resolve the identified issue(s) and provides follow-up activities to ensure the identified issue(s) are corrected in a timely fashion.

### 3.0 – WORKFORCE CREDENTIALS

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF YOUR T&TA PLAN RELATED TO WORKFORCE CREDENTIALS.

#### FEDERALLY REQUIRED CREDENTIALS. EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY LEAD RENOVATION, REPAIR, AND PAINTING PROGRAM
- HOME ENERGY PROFESSIONALS QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION

Federally Required Credentials:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lead Renovator Certification;
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Certified Firm Certification;
- Home Energy Professionals Quality Control Inspector (QCI) certification;
- Home Energy Professionals Energy Auditor (EA) certification; and
- AHERA or state certification to test, encapsulate, abate, etc., asbestos containing material (ACM) as outlined within WPN 22-7 and allowed within Texas’s H&S plan.

#### GRANTEE/STATE REQUIRED CREDENTIALS. EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- BUILDING PERFORMANCE INSTITUTE BUILDING ANALYST
- GRANTEE-DEVELOPED CERTIFICATIONS

TDHCA does not currently require any credentials outside of the Federal or Subgrantee/Local identified credentials for the Weatherization Assistance Program; however, TDHCA does strongly encourage the following as prerequisites to advanced Home Energy Professional Certifications:

- BPI Building Science Principles Certificate; and
- BPI Building Analyst Certification.

#### SUBGRANTEE/LOCAL REQUIRED CREDENTIALS. EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- CONTRACTOR LICENSING

Subgrantee/Local required credentials:

- State Contractor Licensing for required services, i.e. HVAC, plumbing, electrical, etc.;
- OSHA 30 Construction Safety Course (for supervisors); and
- OSHA 10 Construction Safety Course (for crew members).

#### INDUSTRY REQUIRED CREDENTIALS. EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- EQUIPMENT/MATERIAL MANUFACTURE CERTIFICATION
- VENDOR CERTIFICATION  
(E.G. EQUIPMENT/MATERIAL MANUFACTURE CERTIFICATION, VENDOR CERTIFICATION)

Industry required credentials are as follows:

- Equipment/Material Manufacture Certification; and
- Vendor Certification (e.g. Equipment/Material Manufacture Certification, Vendor Certification).

#### PROCESS FOR MAINTAINING WORKFORCE CREDENTIALS

Subgrantees are required to have an internal process in place to ensure all required workforce credentials are obtained, tracked, and maintained. As part of each Subgrantees annual monitoring scope, TDHCA compliance monitoring staff test to ensure workforce credential compliance.

#### HOW CREDENTIALS ARE TRACKED

Subgrantees each have their own internal tracking process in place to ensure all workforce credentials are obtained and/or retained, which is tested by TDHCA compliance monitoring staff to ensure compliance. Additionally, Subgrantees are required annually to update their agency contact information to TDHCA, which includes the reporting of the following certifications for Grantee tracking purposes:

- QCI;
- Multi-Family QCI;
- Energy Auditor;
- Retrofit Installer;

- Crew Leader;
- Lead Safe Renovator;
- OSHA 10; and
- OSHA 30.

## 4.0 – TRAINING

GRANTEES HAVE TWO OPTIONS TO DESCRIBE THEIR TRAINING.

- USE THE EMBEDDED SPREADSHEET\* TO IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE THE TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR GRANTEE AND SUBGRANTEE STAFF. INCLUDE TECHNICAL AND NON-TECHNICAL TRAINING.
- OR USE THE FIELDS BELOW TO IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE THE TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR GRANTEE AND SUBGRANTEE STAFF. INCLUDE TECHNICAL AND NON-TECHNICAL TRAINING.

GRANTEE'S ARE TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN THEIR DESCRIPTIONS REGARDLESS OF WHAT OPTION IS BEING USED TO DESCRIBE THEIR TRAINING PLAN:

- SPECIFY WHETHER ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY, AND THE RAMIFICATIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE.
- SPECIFY IF THE T&TA PLAN SPANS MULTIPLE PROGRAM YEARS (PY), INDICATE WHICH TRAININGS ARE INTENDED IN THE CURRENT PY AND WHICH ARE PLANNED FOR FUTURE PYS.

\* THE EMBEDDED SPREADSHEET, IF COMPLETED AT THE END OF THE YEAR TO RECORD DELIVERED TRAINING, CAN BE USED AS DOCUMENTATION FOR THE REQUIRED ANNUAL T&TA REPORT. DOUBLE CLICK TO OPEN SPREADSHEET. ENTER INFORMATION AND CLOSE. IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY SAVE YOUR INFORMATION



### TTA Planning and Reporting Template F

#### PROGRAMMATIC/ADMINISTRATION TRAINING

- FINANCIAL (I.E. 2 CFR 200)
- MANAGEMENT (I.E. 10 CFR 440)

Programmatic/Administration training is available to each Subgrantee through the following:

- Financial (i.e. 2 CFR Part 200)
  - Onsite and/or virtual fiscal trainings are available through TDHCA training staff upon request or as deemed necessary by Grantee staff to address day to day needs such as procurement, rule clarifications/references, contractual requirements, reporting, expenditure allowability, etc.
  - Intensive Subgrantee fiscal training is available upon request and provided by contracted consultants for complex needs such as cost allocation, budgeting, grant fund accounting, etc.
    - Peer-to-Peer training is available from recognized experienced WX network Subgrantees
    - Training conferences
- Management (i.e. 10 CFR Part 440)
  - New program coordinator trainings are available and required for all newly hired staff that cover WX timeline, program rules, available resources, reporting requirements, etc.
  - Onsite and/or virtual management trainings are available through TDHCA training staff upon request or as deemed necessary by Grantee staff to address management training needs.

- Peer-to-Peer training from recognized experienced WX network Subgrantees.
- Training conferences.

Additional Programmatic/Administration training is handled on an ongoing and as-needed basis as identified by network request, new/updated requirements, new staff hires, results of monitoring reports, or as deemed necessary by Grantee staff.

**COMPREHENSIVE TECHNICAL TRAINING ALIGNED TO THE JOB TASK ANALYSIS (IDENTIFY AT WHAT INTERVALS WORKERS WILL RECEIVE REGULAR, COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING AS REQUIRED BY WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM NOTICE (WPN) 22-4)**

- QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTOR
- ENERGY AUDITOR
- CREW LEAD
- RETROFIT INSTALLER/TECHNICIAN

TDHCA requires each of the professional certifications listed below to receive a refresher course and recertify every three years through an accredited IREC training provider:

- Quality Control Inspector
- Energy Auditor

In accordance with WPN 22-4, Subgrantees must plan and ensure all WAP field workers receive regular comprehensive training for the position in which the worker is employed. Additionally, the Subgrantee must identify all identified/planned/required comprehensive trainings within their TNA as outlined within WPN 22-4 and ensure the trainings are provided by an accredited IREC training facility certified in the occupation-specific Job Task Analysis (JTA) being taught. Comprehensive trainings identified with the TNA will be prioritized based on compliance mandates, monitoring results, occupation-specific JTA staff weaknesses, T&TA staff input, staff request, and fund availability. In the event a Subgrantee experiences unforeseen issues and their training needs will exceed their normal allotted T&TA budget, TDHCA has set aside additional funding to be available on an as-needed basis. Examples of unforeseen issues include but are not limited to key staff turnover affecting program compliance/production, compliance/monitoring mandates, etc.

**SPECIFIC TECHNICAL TRAINING**

- TOPICS IDENTIFIED DURING MONITORING VISIT(S)
- ENERGY MODELING
- HEALTH & SAFETY. ALL H&S TOPICS IN WPN 22-7 REQUIRE SOME LEVEL OF TRAINING FOR ALL AFFECTED WORKERS, THE FREQUENCY OF THIS TRAINING IS A GRANTEE DECISION. EXAMPLES INCLUDE:
  - AIR CONDITIONING, HEATING SYSTEMS, AND COMBUSTION APPLIANCES
  - ASBESTOS
  - BIOLOGICALS AND UNSANITARY CONDITIONS
  - BUILDING STRUCTURE AND ROOFING
  - CODE COMPLIANCE
  - ELECTRICAL
  - FUEL LEAKS
  - GAS OVENS/STOVETOPS/RANGES
  - HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
  - INJURY PREVENTION OF OCCUPANTS
  - LEAD BASED SURFACE COVERINGS (PAINT, VARNISHES, ROOFING, ETC.)
    - EPA'S LEAD RENOVATION, REPAIR & PAINTING PROGRAM (RRP)MOLD/MOISTURE
  - MOLD AND MOISTURE
  - OCCUPANT PRE-EXISTING OR POTENTIAL HEALTH CONCERNS
  - PESTS
  - RADON
  - SAFETY DEVICES
  - VENTILATION AND INDOOR AIR QUALITY

- AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING REFRIGERATION AND AIR-CONDITIONING ENGINEERS (ASHRAE)
  - WATER HEATERS
  - WORKER SAFETY
    - OSHA
- CLIENT EDUCATION (TRAINING WORKERS TO CONDUCT CLIENT EDUCATION). EXAMPLES INCLUDE:
  - ENERGY SAVINGS STRATEGIES
  - PROGRAM-SPECIFIC INFORMATION. EXAMPLES INCLUDE:
    - WHAT TO EXPECT
    - ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
  - HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Specific Training offerings are available to all Subgrantees.

- Topics (s) identified during monitoring visit(s)
  - Feedback from Department of Energy (DOE) Project Officers (PO) and monitoring reports.
    - Feedback from Project Officers and DOE identified monitoring issues/network trends are addressed in network-wide training(s).
    - Subgrantee specific trainings are performed for all Subgrantees selected as part of the monitoring sample and training is performed to correct the specific areas of deficiency identified in the agency's DOE monitoring report.
    - TDHCA WAP monitors utilize the DOE monitoring report to adjust sampling and increase focus in the identified areas. Identified issues/network trends are addressed utilizing network-wide or Subgrantee specific trainings.
  - Grantee Monitoring Reports of the Subgrantees
    - TDHCA T&TA staff are copied on all monitoring reports and/or a staff meeting is held for monitors to debrief T&TA staff after each visit. In those meetings, monitoring staff relay issues found related to the Subgrantee as well as overall trends identified. Following the monitoring report, T&TA staff provide an initial email to the Subgrantee to provide resources for identified issues. T&TA staff applies this debrief information when determining the needs for Subgrantee specific T&TA and to plan any needed training curriculum.
- Energy Modeling
  - Weatherization Assistant online training is available for Subgrantees on demand through the TDHCA website at the following link: [Weatherization Assistant Online Training](#).
  - TDHCA has created a Weatherization Assistant (NEAT/MHEA) training guide to aid Subgrantees in energy audit modeling and is available for Subgrantees on the TDHCA website at the following link: [Weatherization Assistant \(NEAT/MHEA\) -Student Guide](#).
  - Specific energy audit training/questions in regards to energy audit modeling is readily available upon Subgrantee request or as determined necessary by Grantee staff.
- Priority List Implementation.
- Specific Priority List training/questions in regards to implementation is readily available upon Subgrantee request or as determined necessary by Grantee staff.
- TDHCA has a webinar, Priority List Policies and Procedures, and FAQs available for Subgrantees on demand through the TDHCA [website](#).
- Health & Safety. All H&S topics in WPN 22-7 require some level of training for all affected workers, the frequency of these type trainings are based on workforce needs. All WAP H&S training include review of required, allowable, and prohibited activities listed within WPN 22-7. Additional topics covered in H&S trainings include the following:
  - Air Conditioning, Heating Systems, Combustion Appliances
    - WAP H&S Policy training on allowable activities
    - Licensing and/or certifications for HVAC installers as required by authority having jurisdiction
    - Testing and inspection training
    - Combustion Gases
      - How to perform appropriate testing, determine when a building is excessively depressurized, and

the difference between air free and as-measured CO

- CO action levels Asbestos (Confirmed and/or Presumed Asbestos Containing Material)
  - How to identify suspected ACM
  - Licensing/certification/training requirements
  - Safe work practices
- Biologicals and Unsanitary Conditions
  - How to recognize unsafe conditions and when to defer
  - Safe work practices when encountering such conditions
- Building Structure and Roofing
  - How to identify structural and roofing issues
- Code Compliance
  - How to determine what code compliance may be required
- Electrical
  - How to identify electrical hazards
  - Local or Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) code compliance
- Fuel Leaks
  - Fuel leak testing
- Gas Ovens/Stovetops/Ranges
  - Testing techniques
  - CO action levels
- Hazardous Materials
  - Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for working with hazardous waste materials
  - Disposal requirements and locations
  - Health and environmental risks related to hazardous materials
- Injury Prevention of Occupants and Weatherization Workers
  - Hazard identification
- Lead Based Surface Coverings (Paints, Varnishes, Roofing, etc.)
  - Lead Based Paint & EPA's Lead Renovation, Repair & Painting Program (RRP)
    - All employees and contractors working on pre-1978 homes must receive training to install measures in a lead-safe manner in accordance with the SWS and EPA protocols, and installation must be overseen by an EPA Certified Renovator
    - Grantee Monitors and Inspectors must be Certified Renovators
- Mold/Moisture
  - National curriculum on mold and moisture or equivalent
  - How to recognize drainage issues
- Occupant Pre-existing or Potential Health Conditions
  - How to assess occupant preexisting conditions and determine what action to take if the home is not deferred
  - Awareness of potential hazards
- Pests
  - How to assess presence and degree of infestation, associated risks, and deferral policy
- Radon
  - Auditors, assessors, and inspectors must have knowledge of radon, what it is and how it occurs, including what factors may make radon worse, and precautionary measures that may be helpful
  - Workers must be trained in proper vapor retarder installation
  - Provide zonal radon map resources
- Safety Devices
  - Where to install alarms
  - Local code compliance
- Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality
  - American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) requirements



- ASHRAE 62.2 training including proper sizing, evaluation of existing and new systems
- If the grantee opts to adopt a new version of ASHRAE 62.2 then training and technical assistance should be planned to prepare crews to implement the new standard
- Water Heater Replacement
  - Water temperature testing
  - How to identify if repair or replacement is warranted
- Worker Safety
  - Use and importance of PPE
  - Safety training appropriate for job requirements. OSHA 30 for supervisors and OSHA 10 for crew members
  - Ongoing training as required in Hazard Communication Program
- Client Education (training workers to conduct client education). Examples include:
  - Importance of providing both written and verbal education for each client
  - How to review energy savings materials
  - Steps to properly educate clients on instructions for equipment operation and/or maintenance

Additional Specific Training is handled on an ongoing and as-needed basis as identified by network request, new/updated requirements, new staff hires, results of monitoring reports, or as deemed necessary by Grantee staff.

**CONFERENCES. EXAMPLES INCLUDE:**

- **ENERGY OUTWEST**
- **BUILDING PERFORMANCE ASSOCIATION**
- **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS**
- **COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

TDHCA relays all conference related Weatherization Memorandums/Notifications allowing use of training funds to Subgrantees. Conference attendance examples include:

- Energy OutWest;
- Building Performance Association;
- National Association for State and Community Service Providers, and
- Community Action Partnership.

**OTHER, PLEASE SPECIFY:**

TDHCA budgets T&TA funds for both the Grantee and Subgrantees which are utilized as described in Section 1.0 General Information of this plan.

## **5.0 – TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

DESCRIBE THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN THE T&TA BUDGET CATEGORY.

**PROGRAMMATIC/ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT**

Programmatic/Administration technical assistance is readily available and provided to all Subgrantees utilizing TDHCA training staff through the following methods:

- Questions and/or technical assistance is continuously available for all Subgrantees through the TDHCA WUFOO online portal at the following link: [Submit a Program Question or Request T&TA](#).
- Virtual technical assistance is provided utilizing platforms such as GoTo Meeting, Microsoft® Teams, FaceTime, etc.
- Subgrantee onsite or network trainings.
- TDHCA website resources such as TDHCA developed Best Practices, Frequently Asked Questions, training videos, etc.
- Peer-to-Peer technical assistance/information exchange is available from recognized experienced WX network Subgrantees.
- Activities in coordination with Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA).
- Quarterly Network Calls.

- WAP E-Newsletters.

Additional Programmatic/Administration technical assistance methods are created/used on an as-needed basis to improve program administration, effectiveness, and delivery of services.

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

Technical Support is readily available and provided to Subgrantees utilizing TDHCA training staff through the following methods:

- Questions and/or technical assistance is continuously available for all Subgrantees through the TDHCA WUFOO online portal at the following link: [Submit a Program Question or Request T&TA](#).
- Virtual support is provided utilizing platforms such as GoTo Meeting/Webinar, Microsoft® Teams, FaceTime, etc.
- Subgrantee onsite or network trainings.
- TDHCA website resources such as TDHCA developed Best Practices/Forms, training videos, etc.
- Peer-to-Peer technical assistance/information exchange is available from recognized experienced WX network Subgrantees.
- Activities in coordination with TACAA.
- Quarterly Network Calls.
- WAP E-Newsletters.

Additional technical support methods are created/used on an as-needed basis to improve program administration, effectiveness, and delivery of services.

**HEALTH & SAFETY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES**

H&S support is readily available and provided to Subgrantees utilizing TDHCA training staff through the following methods:

- Questions and/or technical assistance is continuously available for all Subgrantees through the TDHCA WUFOO online portal at the following link: [Submit a Program Question or Request T&TA](#);
- Virtual support is provided utilizing platforms such as GoTo Meeting/Webinar, Microsoft® Teams, FaceTime, etc.;
- Subgrantee onsite or network trainings;
- TDHCA website resources such as TDHCA developed Best Practices/Forms, training videos, etc.
- Peer-to-Peer technical assistance/information exchange is available from recognized experienced WX network Subgrantees;
- Activities in coordination with TACAA;
- Quarterly Network Calls; and
- WAP E-Newsletters.

Additional H&S support methods are created/used on an as-needed basis to improve program administration, effectiveness, and delivery of services.

**MONITORING**

**WHAT PERCENTAGE OF T&TA FUNDING IS ALLOCATED TO MONITORING? (IF DEFINED IN SECTION B OF THE BUDGET DETAILS WITHIN THE ANNUAL APPLICATION, INCLUDE THAT WITHIN YOUR DESCRIPTION BELOW.)**

TDHCA WAP Monitoring staff who conduct fiscal/administrative and inspection monitoring activities are paid out of the T&TA (40%) budget category.

**OTHER, PLEASE SPECIFY**

TDHCA is very fortunate to have a Compliance Monitoring staff experienced in Subgrantee monitoring, unit assessments, audits, material installation, inspections, and the training and technical assistance that support each. TDHCA Compliance staff work in conjunction with Department Training staff to continuously improve our weatherization program.

## 6.0 CLIENT EDUCATION

DESCRIBE WHAT CURRENT AND PLANNED CLIENT EDUCATION MATERIALS AND/OR ACTIVITIES ARE INCLUDED IN THE T&TA BUDGET CATEGORY. ONLY THOSE PAID FOR WITH T&TA FUNDS NEED TO BE MENTIONED.

**NOTE: THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE TRAINING WORKERS TO DELIVER CLIENT EDUCATION. THIS SHOULD BE DESCRIBED IN THE TRAINING SECTION, ABOVE.**

CLIENT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO, DURING AND AFTER WEATHERIZATION WHICH ADDRESS THE WEATHERIZATION PROCESS AND ENERGY SAVINGS DETAILS

TDHCA requires Subgrantees to provide client education to each client. Subgrantees are required to provide, at minimum, educational materials in verbal and written format. Client education may include temperature strips that indicate the temperature in the room, energy savings tips and materials, and instructions for equipment operation and/or maintenance. Compliance staff reviews materials and procedures during each Subgrantees annual onsite monitoring.

### CLIENT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES REGARDING H&S ISSUES AS INDICATED IN WPN 22-7

- AIR CONDITIONING, HEATING SYSTEMS, AND COMBUSTION APPLIANCES
- ASBESTOS – CONFIRMED AND/OR PRESUMED ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIAL
- BIOLOGICALS AND UNSANITARY CONDITIONS
- BUILDING STRUCTURE AND ROOFING
- CODE COMPLIANCE
- COMBUSTION GASES
- ELECTRICAL
- FUEL LEAKS
- GAS OVENS/STOVETOPS/RANGES
- HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
- INJURY PREVENTION OF OCCUPANTS
- LEAD BASED SURFACES (PAINTS, VARNISHES, ROOFING, ETC.)
- MOLD AND MOISTURE
- OCCUPANT PRE-EXISTING OR POTENTIAL HEALTH CONDITIONS
- PESTS
- RADON
- SAFETY DEVICES
- VENTILATION AND INDOOR AIR QUALITY
  - AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING REFRIGERATION AND AIR-CONDITIONING ENGINEERS (ASHRAE)
- WATER HEATERS
- WORKER SAFETY
  - OSHA
- ADDITIONAL TOPICS AS DESCRIBED IN HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN

Client education activities/resources regarding H&S issues are provided by Subgrantees to ensure compliance with WPN 22-7 as follows:

- A Client H&S Questionnaire is required to be completed by Subgrantees for each unit weatherized. Questionnaire can be located on the TDHCA website at the following link:
  - [Client H&S Questionnaire](#)
- When deferral is necessary, Subgrantees are required to provide information to the client, in writing, describing conditions that must be met in order for weatherization to commence and if applicable, include any of the additional specific information detailed below. A copy of the notification must also be retained within the client file.
  - Appropriate referral resources shall also be provided to the client.
- H&S client education resources can be located at the following links:
  - [WPN 22-7 Additional Resources and References](#)
  - [TDHCA Program Guidance](#)

- Air Conditioning, Heating Systems, and Combustion Appliances
  - Appropriate use and maintenance of units.
  - Provide all paperwork and manuals for any installed equipment.
  - Discuss and provide information on proper disposal of bulk fuel tanks when not removed as part of the weatherization work.
  - Where combustion equipment is present, provide combustion safety information, including how to recognize depressurization, dangers of CO poisoning, and fire risks associated with combustion appliance use.
- Asbestos
  - Formally notify the occupant and landlord if applicable, in writing:
    - of suspected ACMs that are present and what precautions will be taken to ensure the occupants' and workers' safety during weatherization;
    - of results if testing was performed;
    - not to disturb suspected ACM;
    - When deferral is necessary due to asbestos, occupant, or landlord if applicable, must provide documentation before work continues.
- Biologicals and Unsanitary Conditions
  - Inform client, in writing, of observed conditions.
- Building Structure and Roofing
  - Notify client, in writing, of structurally compromised areas.
- Code Compliance
  - Inform client, in writing, of observed code compliance issues when it results in deferral.
- Electrical
  - Provide occupant with written documentation of any electrical hazards identified that will not be addressed by weatherization.
  - Provide information to occupant on over-current protection, overloading circuits, and basic electrical safety/risks if conditions warrant.
- Fuel Leaks
  - Inform clients in writing of fuel leak testing results, including specific location if fuel leaks are detected.
- Gas Ovens/Stovetops/Ranges
  - Inform clients of the importance of using exhaust ventilation when cooking and the importance of keeping burners clean to limit the production of CO.
- Hazardous Materials Disposal
  - Inform occupant in writing of hazards associated with hazardous waste materials being generated/handled in the home.
  - Inform occupant in writing of observed hazardous conditions and associated risks.
  - Provide occupant written materials on safety issues and proper disposal of household pollutants.
- Injury Prevention of Occupants
  - If identified hazardous conditions will not be correct during weatherization, inform occupant in writing of observed hazards and associated risks utilizing the "Hazard Identification Notification Form" required by WPN 22-7.
- Lead Based Surface Coverings (Paint, Varnishes, Roofing, etc.)
  - Follow pre-renovation education requirements per EPA RRP rules.
- Mold/Moisture
  - Provide occupant written notification of identified mold/moisture hazards and information regarding the associated hazard.
- Occupant Pre-existing or Potential Health Conditions
  - Inform client in writing of any known risks and provide pre-weatherization screening form.
  - Provide client with Subgrantee point of contact information in writing.
- Pests

- Inform client in writing of observed conditions and associated risks.
- Radon
  - Provide all clients *EPA's A Citizen's Guide to Radon* and inform them of radon related risks.
  - Occupants must sign informed consent form prior to receiving weatherization
- Safety Devices
  - Provide client with verbal and written information on use of newly installed devices and the potential risks of not properly maintaining these devices.
- Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality (ASHRAE)
  - Provide client with information on function, use, and maintenance (including location of service switch and cleaning instructions) of ventilation system and components.
  - Provide client with equipment manuals for installed equipment.
  - Include disclaimer that ASHRAE 62.2 does not account for high polluting sources or guarantee indoor air quality.
- Water Heaters
  - Appropriate use and maintenance of units.
  - Provide all paperwork and manuals for any installed equipment.
  - Where combustion equipment is present, provide combustion safety and hazards information including how to recognize depressurization, dangers of CO poisoning, and fire risks associated with combustion appliance use.