

Questions and Answers on CHDO (HOME) Technical Assistance for FY2006

Q. Do you see any type of HOME training that we could not offer with CHDO TA funds?

A. Most of our established training courses could be offered since one of the three CHDO priorities is improvement in performance and production of existing CHDOs. With the exception of trainings focused on tenant-based rental assistance and owner-occupied rehabilitation which are not eligible CHDO set-aside activities, most of the HOME courses would be appropriate since they focus on program design, underwriting, project financing, property management and compliance issues.

Q. Since we only have CHDO TA funds are training participants limited just to CHDOs?

A. Each training delivery should have outreach and marketing to ensure that potential, new or existing CHDOs participate in the training. While class participation is not limited exclusively to CHDOs, the audience needs to be predominantly CHDOs or organizations wishing to become CHDOs.

Q. Only having CHDO TA funds this year, what are the limitations that we need to be aware of in using these funds?

A. In general, CHDO funds may not be use to do needs assessments or direct technical assistance for HOME participating jurisdictions. However, technical assistance may occur if a PJ is designing or redesigning its CHDO setaside program and involving interested CHDOs in that process in an effort to increase productivity, enhance CHDO performance and ensure program compliance. In this effort, CHDOs would be cooperative partners and direct TA recipients with HOME PJs in this kind of assignment.

Q. Can CHDO TA funds be used to provide assistance to community organizations interested in land trusts?

A. By definition, organizations developed to do land trusts are eligible for CHDO TA assistance. In this effort, a PJ may be the catalyst to bring together organizations interested in doing land trusts. It would be appropriate to provide TA to these organizations working with PJ staff.

Q. Is a state an eligible applicant for CHDO TA?

A. No, while they are eligible applicants under HOME TA, they are not “nonprofits” and do not qualify as an eligible CHDO intermediary organization.

Q. Would a nonprofit organization that provides training and TA on “work-life” issues (not specifically housing but typically daycare, education, etc.) to various organizations in various places be eligible IF it included a team of subcontractors with experience in providing TA and training to CHDOs and other nonprofits on affordable housing?

A. The HOME statute (section 233(a)) specifies that that the intermediary organization must have experience with affordable housing and in providing a range of assistance to groups that engage in community revitalization, and the ability to provide technical assistance to developers of affordable housing. Such organizations are always free to add other subcontractors to supplement their experience and ability but without having all of these elements in-house to some extent, an organization would not be an eligible applicant and would score poorly if they were.