

Summary Report

ATP Cycle 5 Disadvantaged Communities Technical Assistance Program



Purpose and Goal

To provide no-cost technical assistance to agencies and Tribes with projects serving disadvantaged communities that have had limited success in receiving funding for active transportation projects in the Active Transportation Program (ATP). The Disadvantaged Communities Technical Assistance Program (DAC TA) assisted 10 recipients in developing competitive projects/applications and to build staff capacity.

Technical Assistance Team

The Technical Assistance (TA) Team selected for the Cycle 5 DAC TA Program are experts in active transportation, technical assistance, and community engagement. The TA Team included:

- Local Government Commission (LGC), Project Manager
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC)
- Fehr & Peers (F&P)
- Three Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) throughout the state

Overview

The TA Team did extensive outreach to select 10 recipients through an online survey and needs assessment. Once the recipients were selected, the TA Team provided tailored workshops and in-depth assistance for project application development for ATP Cycle 5. This included site visits (virtual and in-person), advice on project scoping, design and best practices, and detailed feedback on drafting the ATP application.

After the ATP Cycle 5 projects were selected for funding, the TA team provided follow-up support to recipients that were awarded and debriefs to those that were not awarded. In addition to assistance for the ATP, the TA Team also provided information about other funding opportunities and gave additional limited support to communities beyond the 10 TA recipients.



Quick Facts

The DAC TA Program selects recipients based on severity of need and projects that directly serve disadvantaged communities.

For the Cycle 5 DAC TA Program, 53 applications were received and 10 were selected to receive assistance.

ATP was a highly competitive round with 454 applications received and only 114 projects awarded.

Results Snapshot

10

Number of TA Recipients including 2 Tribes

7

Number of TA Recipients able to submit applications to ATP Cycle 5

3

Number of TA Recipients whose projects were funded in ATP Cycle 5

\$11.5 M

Total project funding received for ATP Cycle 5 TA Recipients

43%

Success rate of TA Recipients

“Thank you very much for your team and your efforts in helping us be awarded this grant. It is the first time any agency in Ventura County [or Ventura City] has been awarded an ATP Grant through the Statewide Competition.”

- TA Recipient

Takeaways

Technical assistance recipients unanimously believed that the ATP DAC TA Program resulted in higher quality, more competitive applications. All recipients supported this type of assistance to be offered in the future.

In particular, technical assistance recipients found the following services most useful:

- Breaking down the application development process into manageable steps
- Help with development and implementation of community surveys
- Workshops on active transportation fundamentals and innovative designs
- Reviewing and providing input on project improvements
- Careful application narrative response review with feedback
- Help with graphics and alignment with narrative
- Quick response to questions about complicated obstacles in project scoping
- Facilitating questions and answers with the right contacts at Caltrans
- Effectively communicating the application process and preparation needed to be ready for submission next year.

“This was our first ATP grant and the many steps were overwhelming. The TA team assisted us in breaking down the sections and offer[ed] positive changes and ensured our project reflected the true need of the community fully.”

- TA Recipient