

## Technical Assistance and Training Grants FY 2016

### Recommended for Funding:

**1. Alaska Forum (AK)**

\$ 100,000

The Alaska Forum on the Environment, Inc. (Alaska Forum) is proposing to provide technical assistance to ten rural Alaskan communities that choose to pursue their Green Star Community Program. A continuation of the Fiscal Year 2015 award, which piloted with six communities, this program will include an on-site assessment, technical assistance, and training for landfill operators, community environmental personnel, and City and Tribal governments. Training opportunities include Alaska Forum's Landfill Management and Operator, Hazardous Household Waste reduction, and Water Quality and Watershed Basics training courses. Approximately 265 communities have been identified, but the ten communities have not been selected.

**2. Alaskan Native Tribal Health Consortium (AK)**

\$ 150,000

The Alaskan Native Tribal Health Consortium is proposing to provide technical assistance to the members of the Alaskan Rural Utility Collaborative (ARUC) through the funding of two Management Specialists. A continuation of prior funding, the Specialists will provide on-site training, system evaluation, repair guidance, and other services to water and wastewater system operators. In addition to system operation, this award is vital to aiding in the development of reasonable user charges, bill collection rates, and decreases in operator turnover, which increase sustainability and reduce grant dependency. Currently, there are 27 member communities throughout rural Alaska. All systems serve remote populations of less than 1,000 users. ANTHC will facilitate two Workshops-in-a-Box for the grant period.

**3. Engineers Without Borders USA, Inc., d/b/a Community Engineer Corps (CO)**

\$215,000

Engineers Without Borders USA, Inc. (EWB) is proposing to provide technical assistance to 12 communities by completing the engineering services necessary to develop water and waste disposal projects in rural communities. EWB will be doing-business-as the Community Engineer Corps (CECorps), which is a domestic component of the organization founded in 2014. Comprised of a partnership with the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American

Water Works Association, CECorps will solicit applications and award assistance to communities that have populations less than 2,500 and a low income. Communities will then be matched with qualified volunteers who will complete site assessments, work plans, design, training, and other activities that are necessary to provide a functional, efficient system upgrade.

**4. Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (AZ)**

\$600,000

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. is proposing to provide tribal operator certification training and exam events; training workshops on water utility workforce retention, public relations, and operator safety awareness. ITCA will implement a tribally-led capacity development program that provides technical assistance; SDWA training and regulatory updates; asset management training; and utility specific Effective Utility Management team exercise assessment workshops. ITCA will conduct 12 workshops (2 for each region).

**5. Maniilaq Association (AK)**

\$102,602

The Maniilaq Association is proposing to provide technical assistance through the organization and presentation of four trainings for water and wastewater operators and managers. Located in Kotzebue, Alaska, the Maniilaq Association's Office of Environmental Health provides a variety of training opportunities for operators in its ten village service area in northwestern Alaska. Two of the trainings will be geared toward certification completion, one for continuing education credit, and one for utility management. Over the past few years, only 40 percent of water system operators in the villages have any formal certifications. With high turnover, it is imperative that training is available to ensure that safe and reliable drinking water and wastewater services are available to the residents.

**6. National Rural Water Association (OK) – Energy Efficiency**

\$1,500,000

National Rural Water Association (NRWA) will complete a minimum of 540 energy audits in 19 states. A continuation of prior fiscal years, the NRWA's Energy Efficiency Technical Assistance Program is currently carried out in nine states. Services will be expanded through this award to include ten more states. US Environmental Protection Agency estimates that three percent of all national energy consumption is from water and wastewater systems. These costs are magnified for small systems that have less economy of scale and cover more land. Focusing on energy efficiency, the NRWA will assess potential improvements in energy efficiencies in rural

and small water and wastewater operations, recommend efficiency implementation measures, and make available low cost financing for the implementation of efficiency recommendations. In total, this program is expected to reduce energy consumption of participating systems by an average of ten percent.

**7. National Rural Water Association (OK)**

\$9,100,000

National Rural Water Association will provide training and on-site technical assistance to wastewater systems in all 50 states. The training will provided help to reduce exposure to waste related health and safety hazards, and enhance the sustainability of wastewater systems in rural and small communities. The services provided will focus on small, rural communities where at least 20% of the population lives in poverty and to colonias in the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. NRWA will also provide “Workshop in a Box Sustainable Management” and sustainability training. In total, the 78 technicians are anticipated to complete almost 28,000 contacts, at least 100 sustainability workshops, and to assist with state strategic goals.

**8. OCT Water Academy (CA)**

\$115,000

The OCT Water Academy is proposing to provide technical assistance training to various small water and wastewater system operators in rural California and Oregon. Leveraging years of experience, in CA the OCT Water Academy will provide 12 classes ranging from seven to ten days. Educating operators on essential job-related skills, the classes provide extensive preparation for state certification exams and can also be counted as continuing education credit hours. As an alternative to the lengthier courses, 18 three-day state exam preparation courses will be held in CA and OR. Finally, the project proposes the evaluation and development of a Preliminary Engineering Report for an impoverished community in rural OR.

**9. Painted Desert Demonstration Projects, Inc. (AZ)**

\$115,000

This project will provide essential technical assistance and training necessary to resolve the most pressing water and wastewater problems in Navajo Nation. It will provide water and wastewater education and introduce appropriate technologies to as many communities as possible. This program will also assist rural communities who wish to apply for grants and loans from Federal and state sources in order to solve local sanitation problems.

**10. Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. (DC)**

\$6,600,000

The proposed project will go for one year to operate the Technitrain Program. Under the Technitrain project, RCAP will provide training and on-site technical assistance to 700 systems and present 90 training sessions to at least 1000 system personnel. This training will include at least 50 Workshop-in-a-Box (Effective Utility Management) based trainings. RCAP will work with RD borrowers that are financially unsustainable to help them achieve sustainability. RCAP will focus its projects on communities that have a high participation rate in the Reduced Lunch School Program.

**11. Rural Community Assistance Partnership (DC)- Tribal**

\$250,000

The purpose of this grant is to provide a Alaskan/Tribal Technitrain program that will provide on-site technical assistance and training to 12 systems in Alaska and 48 systems serving large numbers of tribal members (tribal systems). The assistance received will be tribal specific program of training and technical assistance addressing managerial, financial and utility management.

**12. Syracuse University (NY) – Environmental Finance Center (EFC)**

\$100,000

Syracuse University EFC will provide one-on-one technical assistance to rural communities in New York and Puerto Rico. EFC team members will conduct three to four resiliency, adaptation, water resource management, and financing workshops. These workshops will be designed to provide communities with knowledge and tools to begin or continue resiliency and adaptation efforts. The grant will also provide education and technical assistance on topics such as rural flood assessments, locating outdated infrastructure to minimize water loss, developing rain water harvesting projects, assisting with asset management planning for green infrastructure installation, developing land and water protection plans and energy efficiency.

**13. Tanana Chiefs Conference (AK)**

\$120,000

The project will provide five classroom trainings to approximately 60-75 water operators, utility managers and/or council members to low income rural interior villages. The on-site training

provides assistance with implementing knowledge learned in the classroom that is essential to achieve sustainability. Tanana Chiefs will conduct two Workshops-in-a-Box sessions in AK.

**14. United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc. (TN)**

\$200,000

United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) is proposing to provide the following: training and workshops for Tribal leaders; training at the Annual Tribal Utility Summit for tribal operators, managers, Board members of Tribal utilities, and Tribal administration; and technical assistance through on-site visits at tribal water and wastewater systems and utilities. USET will conduct energy audits and water loss analyses to determine potential energy and water efficiencies and cost savings.

**15. West Virginia University Research Corp. (WV)**

\$250,000

West Virginia University (National Environmental Services Center), has created the Appalachian Community Technical Assistance and Training Program (ACTAT) which is a 12 month program. The ACTAT Program will use Workshop-in-a-Box to facilitate systems' self-assessments, develop action plans to address priority needs and follow-up with selected communities to ensure implementation of the action plans by offering face to face technical assistance. Through this model program, ACTAT will produce a toolbox of lessons learned, success stories, fact sheets, and other resources that can be replicated by other land grant universities. The goal is to provide this training to 32 systems in the states of Kentucky and West Virginia.

**16. Winrock International (AR)**

\$180,000

Winrock International will direct and implement the Native American Water Improvement Program. The NAWIP is dedicated to building the capacity of Native American Tribes related to water and wastewater infrastructure. Winrock's proposed project will improve sustainability, increase energy and water efficiency and cost reductions.

**17. Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (AK)**

\$130,000

This project will identify and assess uncertified drinking water sources in rural Alaskan communities. The project will also provide group trainings and community education on safe

practices for collection, treatment, and storage of drinking water from uncertified water supplies. Finally, this project will offer technical assistance to small rural water and wastewater utility operators.

**18. Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp. (AK)**

\$125,000

The proposed project includes the development of a new technical assistance program to develop local capacity to manage tribal and municipal water and wastewater utilities. Investing in the development of strong local governments supports sustainable sanitation facility infrastructure. It provides the added benefit of building a management skill set essential for enduring economic growth in these communities. Intensive, on-site capacity building and training will be conducted in four AK communities.

**19. Zender Environmental Health and Research (AK)**

\$100,000

The project will provide technical assistance and training to all rural and remote non-hub communities by: 1) assisting villages with identifying and evaluation their unique and dynamic set of health risks and solutions; 2) assisting villages in preparing USDA water and waste grant applications; and 3) assisting villages in improving their waste facilities and practices.