

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE QUESTIONS

TA1: Where can I find information on the poverty rates in my local area?

Poverty data, broken down to the city and county level, is available in the 1994 City/County Data Book, published by the U.S. Census Bureau. This book should be available in the reference section of all local libraries. For information at a sub-city or county level, applicants should consult with the local city or county planning agency or State university to obtain 1990 U.S. Census data. Census information down to a census tract or block level is also available at the nearest Government Repository. Lists of government repositories can be found at <http://www.lib.uidaho.edu:80/govdoc/otherdep.html>. Additional census-related poverty data is available on the U.S. Census Bureau website at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html>.

TA2: How do I find my Workforce Investment Act (WIA) local workforce investment area?

WIA local workforce investment areas can be found at <http://wdr.doleta.gov/contacts/>. Identify the State you are interested in and select "WIA Service Delivery Areas/Sub-State Areas" from the category listings. You should be able to find the appropriate local contact person from that list.

TA3: Where can I find resources to test non-English speakers for developmental disabilities, mental health issues, and learning disabilities?

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), within the Administration for Children and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services, has a variety of resources relating to the identification of and providing services for people with developmental disabilities. Contact ADD at (202) 690-6590, or visit their website at <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/add/>. A variety of information on disability issues, including screening, is also available at <http://www.disability.gov>.

TA4: Where can I find information concerning effective programs serving rural areas?

The National Rural Development Partnership, through 36 State Rural Development Councils and a National Rural Development Council, brings together Federal, State, local and tribal governments, as well as the private for-profit and non-profit sectors, to work in partnership for the improvement of America's rural communities. The National Rural Development Partnership can be contacted at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 4225-S, Mail Stop 3205, Washington, DC 20250-3205, Phone: (202) 690-2394, Fax: (202) 690-1262, or on their website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nrdp/index.html>. The WtW Rural Information Page, hosted by the Welfare Information Network, also maintains a wide array of information on rural welfare issues. It may be found at <http://www.welfareinfo.org/rural.htm>.

TA5: Is there a target date for the final WtW regulations?

The WtW Final Rule and Interim Final Rule were published in the Federal Register on January 11, 2001, at 66 Fed Reg. 2690. You can find the WtW Final Rule and Interim Final Rule on the WtW website at http://wtw.doleta.gov/documents/wtw_regs1_01.txt. The effective date for the Final WtW Rule and Interim Final Rule was April 13, 2001. We expect to finalize this rulemaking in early 2002.

TA6: What resources are available to help a grantee set up administrative systems and procedures (e.g. sample Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs), information on voucher systems, etc.)?

Grantees should seek assistance from their local workforce investment board, One-Stop Career Center or other local administrative agency. These agencies should have experience in setting up such systems and may have samples and procedures to share. Grantees should check Chapter 3 of the WtW Financial Management Technical Assistance Guide, which may be found online at <http://wtw.doleta.gov/techassist/tag/default.asp>. Grantees may also contact their Grant Officer Technical Representative for advice on grant implementation.

TA7: Besides the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), what other work place laws apply under WtW?

All work place laws apply to WtW in the same way that they apply to other programs. Other Federal employment laws, such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Unemployment Insurance and anti-discrimination laws, may also apply to working welfare recipients. For more information on how the FLSA and other Federal laws apply in the welfare context, consult the Department's guide entitled, "How Workplace Laws Apply to Welfare Recipients," available on the WtW website at <http://www.dol.gov/dol/asp/public/w2w/welfare.htm>. For specific questions relating to Occupational Safety and Health programs, contact OSHA Regional Offices at <http://www.osha-slc.gov/html/RAmap.html>. For questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act, contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission at <http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/howtofil.html>, as well as visit the ETA disAbility Online page at <http://wdsc.doleta.gov/disability/>.

TA8: How can a grantee gain access to a participant's confidential information from other local agencies?

A signed waiver from a participant is likely to be the best mechanism for an agency to access an individual's confidential information. MOUs with partner organizations will help in clarifying exactly what steps will be taken to protect the confidentiality of any data that might be shared.