Technical Assistance Grants provide vulnerable communities with professional and scientific resources to engage and advocate for their needs in environmental cleanups.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is proud to administer the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program to assist vulnerable communities in the monitoring and active participation of environmental cleanup activities that affect them.

This document contains information about the TAG program, eligible expenses, and how to apply.

What is TAG?

The Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program seeks to actively engage vulnerable and underserved communities affected by environmentally hazardous and contaminated sites, their investigation, and their cleanup. The TAG Program will provide grants ranging from $40,000-$150,000, to help communities hire and direct an independent technical advisor who can assist in analyzing, interpreting, and communicating complex environmental information. The goal is to help communities be active participants and leaders in the investigation and cleanup of contaminated properties located in their communities. The TAG Program is part of the $500 million Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative (CVCI), which aims to advance environmental justice by promoting effective community engagement in cleanup efforts, bolstering economic and community benefits through cleanups, and advancing the cleanup of contaminated sites in vulnerable communities.

Who should apply for TAG?

Community groups that are qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or that have a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor can apply. Tribal groups also are eligible and do not require 501 (c)(3) nonprofit status.

Note: The TAG grant manager must live in the community affected by the active DTSC cleanup site.
**ELIGIBLE TAG ACTIVITIES**

Grantees may use TAG funds to:

- **Hire and direct** a qualified independent Technical Advisor (TA) who can help to explain complex environmental data, provide assistance with comment preparation, and conduct sampling.

- **Encourage public participation** by working with the TA to increase the community’s knowledge about the site remedies and the cleanup process.

TAG is a reimbursement-based grant. Eligible applicants can receive up to 25% of the TAG funds before allowable expenses are incurred, as an Advance Payment option, if they are able to demonstrate a financial need. To apply for Advance Payment, applicants must submit a separate application. More information will be posted on the TAG website in December.

**WHAT IS AN ELIGIBLE COMMUNITY?**

Any community within a 5-mile radius of the active DTSC cleanup site* that they want a TAG for, and that meets one or more of the following criteria*:

- A CalEnviroScreen (CES) score of 75% or higher
- A CES poverty rate of 50% or higher
- A tribal community

*If these criteria are not met, applicants may instead provide additional justification to show that their community is underserved and vulnerable.

**WHAT IS THE TOTAL FUNDING A COMMUNITY CAN APPLY FOR?**

Grants range from **$40,000 to $150,000**. A community may qualify for more than one grant, but grant must be for different active DTSC cleanup sites and separate applications must be submitted for each. Only one grant will be awarded per site.

**WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR TAG?**

Applications will be accepted beginning in December 2023 through January 2025 on an ongoing basis.* The earlier you apply, the longer you will have to spend your funding and make an impact in your community. If you wait until the end of 2024 to apply, you will have less than 24 months to fund your project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If application is submitted by:</th>
<th>Funding Term</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 2024</td>
<td>Up to 36 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1, 2024– January 15, 2025</td>
<td>Up to 24 months</td>
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*Grant periods and project terms are subject to change based on funding availability.

Cleanup Sites in areas that meet this criteria (or TAG eligible projects) can be found through the Technical Assistance Grant Site Mapping Tool.

No-cost TAG application assistance is available, including eligibility and application review. Contact the Center for Creative Land Recycling to request assistance at tag@cclr.org.
**HOW CAN I APPLY FOR TAG?**

Applications will be accepted online via DTSC’s Fluxx TAG portal. Fluxx is an online web portal where interested applicants will open up an account to submit a grant. Applicants will be required to provide:

- Proof of eligibility
- A list of proposed tasks, budget, and schedule
- Responses to questions related to:
  - Capacity to manage the grant
  - Approach to community engagement
  - How a TAG would help fulfill community objectives

**HOW CAN I GIVE INPUT ON THE TAG PROGRAM?**

In December 2023, TAG will have a soft launch and applicants will be able to submit applications on a rolling basis. Through the first quarter of 2024, we will collect your input on the application process and guidelines through a Microsoft Forms survey, calls, or meetings. Your input will help DTSC improve the application process with the goal of strengthening the program and its outcomes.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT TAG AND HOW IT CAN BENEFIT YOUR COMMUNITY**

- Sign up for a [free webinar about the TAG program](#), scheduled for December 6, 2023 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. PST. Pick the time most convenient for you. The recording of the webinar will be posted on the DTSC [TAG webpage](#).

- Visit the DTSC [TAG webpage](#) for guidelines, updates and other important information.

**STAY INFORMED!**

Sign up to receive timely updates on the TAG program in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).