Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) Program Technical Assistance Overview

Below is a list of technical assistance programs, including those offered by U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), other offices within DOE, and other federal agencies, that may benefit communities and organizations following the ERA program. Click on technical assistance programs below to explore and request assistance.

What is technical assistance?
Technical assistance refers to targeted programs, activities, and services provided by federal agencies that support the broader market ecosystem and improve the performance and deepen the impact of federal programs.

Federal Agency	Technical Assistance Program Name	Technical Assistance Program Description
OCED-funded Technical Assistance for the ERA program		
DOE	Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Technical Assistance	Provides support to communities and organizations interested in applying to OCED's Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas program. https://www.nrel.gov/state-local-tribal/era-technical-assistance.html
EPA & DOE	Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)	Provides technical assistance via 17 centers across the nation to help remove barriers and improve accessibility for communities with environmental justice concerns. The TCTACs provide training and other assistance to build capacity for navigating federal application systems, writing strong proposals, and effectively managing funding and guide funding awardees on community engagement, meeting facilitation, and translation and interpretation services. https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-technical-assistance-centers

Federal Agency	Technical Assistance Program Name	Technical Assistance Program Description
Other DOE-funded Technical Assistance relevant to ERA		
DOE	Tribal Energy Technical Assistance	Provides federally recognized Indian tribes, including Alaska Native villages, tribal energy development organizations, and other organized tribal groups and communities, with technical assistance to advance tribal energy projects. https://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/technical-assistance
DOE	Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP)	Provides technical assistance for remote and islanded communities seeking to transform their energy systems and increase energy resilience. The program applies a tailored, community-driven approach to clean and resilient energy transitions, leveraging the experience and expertise of the ETIPP partner network: a broad coalition of local stakeholders, regional organizations, national laboratories, and DOE offices. https://www.energy.gov/eere/about-energy-transitions-initiative-partnership-project
DOE	Clean Cities Coalition Network	Supports the entry of new transportation technologies into the marketplace by connecting transportation stakeholders with objective information and experts to assist with alternative fuels, fuel economy improvements, and emerging transportation technologies. https://cleancities.energy.gov/technical-assistance/
DOE	National Community Solar Partnership	Provides the resources needed to swiftly and successfully implement affordable, sustainable community solar programs that ensure benefits flow to all. https://www.energy.gov/communitysolar/technical-expertise-and-capacity-building-0

Federal Agency	Technical Assistance Program Name	Technical Assistance Program Description
DOE	[Clean Energy to Communities (C2C)](#)	Connects local governments, tribes, electric utilities, and community-based organizations with national laboratory experts and customized, innovative analysis to achieve clean energy systems that are reflective of local and regional priorities. https://www.nrel.gov/state-local-tribal/clean-energy-to-communities.html
DOE	[State and Local Planning for Energy](#)	Supports data-driven state & local energy and decarbonization planning through two distinct tools. Scenario Planner compares scenarios for the future of energy, costs, and emissions for counties and states; while Data Viewer explores city, county, and state data on renewables, efficiency, and transportation. https://maps.nrel.gov/slope/
DOE	[The State and Local Solution Center](#)	Highlights various technical assistance opportunities to help organizations reach energy efficiency and renewable energy goals. https://www.energy.gov/scep/slsc/state-and-local-solution-center

Federal Agency	Technical Assistance Program Name	Technical Assistance Program Description
DOE	SolSmart	Provides national recognition and technical assistance for local governments. SolSmart seeks to drive greater solar deployment and make it possible for more American homes and businesses to access affordable and renewable solar energy to meet their electricity needs. The program also provides technical assistance and shares best practices with communities seeking national recognition for cutting red tape and improving local solar market conditions. https://solsmart.org/
DOE	SolarAPP+	Supports automation of solar permitting for local governments and other authorities having jurisdiction through the web-based platform Solar Automated Permit Processing+, known as SolarAPP+. The program fosters rooftop solar adoption by making it easier for local governments to quickly and safely approve standardized rooftop projects. https://solarapp.nrel.gov/
DOE	Solar Energy Innovation Network	Brings together diverse teams of stakeholders to research solutions to real-world challenges associated with solar energy adoption, laying the groundwork for implementation of those solutions – and replication in other areas facing similar issues. Project teams may include entities such as state and local governments, community-based organizations, electric utilities, companies, nonprofits, and universities. Teams develop innovative solutions to local barriers for solar energy. https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/solar-energy-innovation-network

Federal Agency	Technical Assistance Program Name	Technical Assistance Program Description
Other U.S. Government Technical Assistance relevant to the ERA program		
EPA	[Brownfields Technical Assistance, Training and Research](https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-technical-assistance-and-research)	Provides technical assistance to communities and stakeholders to help address their brownfield sites, and to increase their understanding and involvement in brownfields cleanup, revitalization, and reuse. The Brownfields Technical Assistance, Training and Research program is funded by U.S. EPA and available to all stakeholders. https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-technical-assistance-and-research
EPA	[Environmental and Climate Justice](https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-environmental-and-climate-justice-program)	Distributes approximately $3B for Environmental and Climate Justice program grants and technical assistance for environmental and climate justice efforts that benefit overburdened communities. Eligible project types include overcoming "challenges and barriers to connecting residents of disadvantaged, underserved, and under-represented communities to workforce opportunities, and mitigating programs, services, and partnerships." Eligible entities need to include at least one community-based nonprofit organization. https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-environmental-and-climate-justice-program

Note: This document is intended to provide a snapshot of available TA resources directly relevant to the ERA program but may not be comprehensive. If you know of another TA resource explicitly relevant to the ERA program, we would love to include it! Email us at era@hq.doe.gov.

For more information on the ERA program, please visit the ERA webpage.