

**Federal Access Center Application Guidance:
Early Stage Coal Communities Get Ready! Challenge**

Short Answer Questions

In addition to basic background information about your organization, you will input responses to the following questions directly into the online form. (These may or may not be applicable to your project so answer any that are relevant.)

- **Where will your project take place?** If your work takes place on Tribal Lands, please also indicate the state(s) the Tribal Lands intersect with.
- **Please identify the marginalized population(s) your project is primarily designed to benefit.**
- **Please identify the industry sector(s) that your project will help to advance.**
- **Have you identified which federal program(s) JTF support would help prepare you to apply for?** If known, identify the agency, name of the program, the representative you have spoken with, the tentative amount you're applying for, and the tentative amount of funding this project will leverage overall.
- **Has your organization previously applied for federal funding?** If you have, please briefly describe the grants you've pursued and whether or not your applications were successful.
 - *Please note, this application is designed primarily for organizations with little to no experience applying for federal funds, but we are open to considering organizations with a range of experience levels.*
- **Does the project you are proposing have local leadership and philanthropic support?** If this applies to your project, please include the local leadership and/or philanthropic organizations supporting your project, as well as points of contact, if relevant.

Proposed Project: Narrative Proposal

Please attach a short PDF that answers the questions below. (Suggested length: 3-4 pages.) You will be able to upload the PDF at the end of this application. We welcome you to be as brief as possible and encourage the use of bullet points.

1. Organizational Background. What is your organization's mission? What is your experience supporting coal community transition? Tell us about your relationship to the community.

2. Community Conditions. Please describe the conditions in your community and the economic challenges it faces as a result of coal plant and/or mine closures. Which segments of the population are most affected (e.g., former coal workers, tribal communities, young people) and

what are their key demographics (race, gender, poverty rates, education levels)? What specific problem are you trying to solve, and why are you uniquely situated to tackle it?

3. Big Idea, Vision, and Goals.

- a. **Big Idea.** Please describe your big idea—the economic diversification and/or the workforce development project for which you would ultimately like to seek federal funding. (If you're leading a community planning effort in response to coal facility closures that spans multiple sectors and/or projects, please describe.)
- b. **Vision.** How will this effort contribute to the revitalization of your local economy? In other words, what is your long-term, big picture vision of success?
- c. **Goals.** What goals do you seek to achieve over the next year through the planning, project development, and/or capacity-building efforts that JTF funding would support? How would JTF support allow you to achieve these goals?

4. Role of Federal Investment. Why is federal investment needed? How do you expect that your effort will, by leveraging federal investment, ultimately help to strengthen and diversify your local economy? If known, please identify the specific program(s) you plan to pursue.

5. Stakeholder Engagement & Partners. We look to support organizations working to accelerate an equitable and inclusive transition that meaningfully engages all affected stakeholders. Please describe your key community partners and plans for community engagement. In addition, who are the key private and public sector partners that you plan to collaborate with, and what are their roles?

6. Opportunities & Challenges. What are the community assets that your projects will build on? What opportunities do you see to advance your goals? Conversely, what challenges may make it more difficult to achieve your goals, including key barriers to developing the sector you're working in. How will you address them?

7. Impact. We're looking for projects with measurable economic outcomes that have the potential to scale impact through federal investment. We want to know which outcomes and metrics are most meaningful and best demonstrate the progress your community wants to see. What do you intend to accomplish (outcomes) by the end of the one-year grant period? What are the metrics that you will use to assess progress?

(Outcomes may include: jobs created, workers and entrepreneurs trained, entrepreneurial projects developed, new partnerships and/or remote work opportunities created, businesses created, and increased job readiness of workers.)

8. Peer Learning. What would you hope to get out of being part of a cohort of peers from across the country? What would you hope to learn, and what would you want to share about your work?

Attachments

- **Proposal Narrative** (Please attach a PDF that is no longer than 3-4 pages).
- **Budget that demonstrates how JTF funds would be used** (specific project development activities relating to piloting or scaling up a program, or to support organizational capacity)
- **List of Board Members** (if applicable)
- If your organization is a nonprofit: **Your 501c3 tax determination letter**
- If your organization has a fiscal sponsor: **Fiscal sponsor Memorandum of Understanding**
- If your organization is a local government entity: **Your W-9 issued/signed within the past two years**
- Optional: Draft of federal proposal or letter of intent, if applicable. This is not a requirement.

Optional Questions

- **Does your organization identify as BIPOC-led?** If applicable, please describe what being BIPOC-led looks like for your organization.
 - *Please note that providing this demographic information is voluntary, and your response will not impact our funding decision.*
- **Does your organization collect any other demographic information about your leadership or team that you would like to share?**
- **Approximately how long did this application take you to complete, including research, writing, and submission?**
- **Did you find any bugs or errors in the application that we need to fix?**
- **Do you have any other feedback that will help us improve our application process?**