

Strengthening Communities Fund



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children & Families

Overview



- Purpose of SCF
- Program Statistics
- Eligibility
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- Funding Restrictions
- Administrative/Submission Information

SCF Purpose



To build the capacity of nonprofit organizations to address the broad economic recovery issues present in their communities, including helping low-income individuals secure and retain employment, earn higher wages, obtain better-quality jobs, and gain greater access to state and Federal benefits and tax credits, including ARRA benefits.

Two SCF Programs



Nonprofit Capacity Building Program:

Awards to experienced organizations to build the capacity of nonprofit organizations (*i.e.*, project partners) in order to help them address the broad economic recovery issues present in their communities.

Remember:

Capacity building activities are designed to increase an organization's sustainability and effectiveness, enhance its ability to provide social services, and create collaborations to better serve those in need.

Two SCF Programs



State, Local, and Tribal Government Capacity Building Program

Awards to government offices, or their designees, to build their own capacity to partner with community-based and faith-based nonprofits and to build the capacity of nonprofit organizations to better serve those in need and to increase nonprofit organizations' involvement in the economic recovery.

SCF Funding Opportunities



SCF Nonprofit Capacity Building Program

Est. Total Program Funding: **\$34,000,000**

Individual Award Ceiling: **\$1,000,000**

Expected # of Awards: **34**

Project/Budget Period: **24 months**

Funding Instrument Type: **Cooperative Agreement**

Non-Federal Match: **Yes (20%)**

SCF Nonprofit Capacity Building



Eligibility

- Governments: State, county, city, township, or special district
- Institutions of higher education: private, public, or state-controlled
- Indian/Native American Tribal governments
- Nonprofits with or without 501(c)(3) IRS status
- For-profit organizations and small businesses

Please note: Foreign entities are not eligible to apply for this grant program.

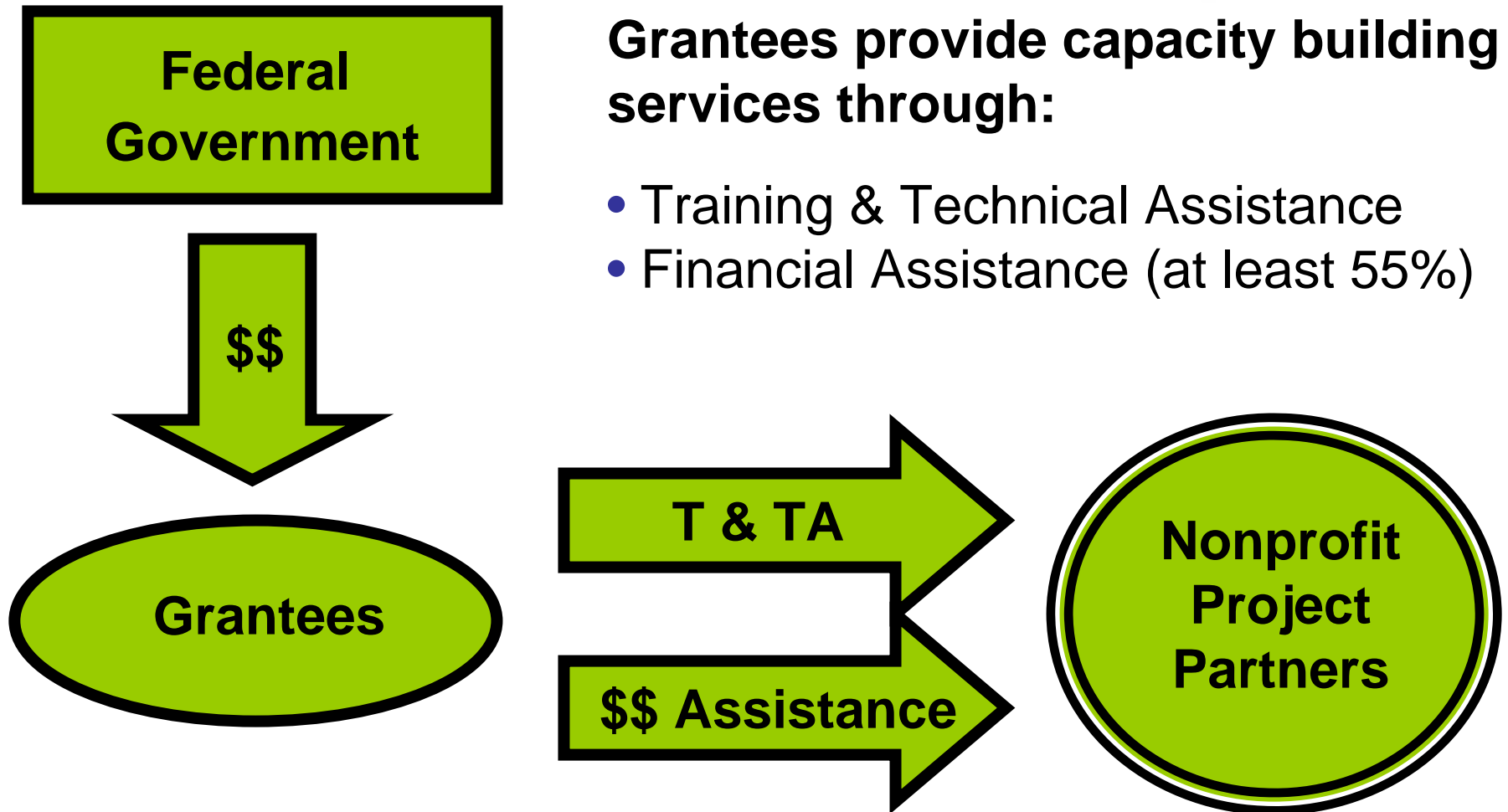
SCF Nonprofit Capacity Building



Grantees provide project partners with:

- 1) Training
- 2) Technical Assistance
- 3) Competitive Financial Assistance

SCF Nonprofit Capacity Building



SCF Funding Opportunities



SCF State, Local, & Tribal Government Capacity Building Program

Est. Total Program Funding:	\$12,000,000
Individual Award Ceiling:	\$250,000
Expected # of Awards:	48
Project/Budget Period:	24 months
Funding Instrument Type:	Grant
Non-Federal Match:	Yes (20%)

SCF State, Local, & Tribal Government Capacity Building



Eligibility

- State, county, city, and township governments
- Indian/Native American Tribal governments
- Government-designated nonprofit organizations

Please note: The governing body of the State, city, county, or Indian/Native American Tribal government applicant will designate an Authorized Entity, either through a statute, resolution, or executive order, to apply for and administer this grant.

SCF State, Local, & Tribal Government Capacity Building



Grantees use the funds for:

- 1) Outreach and Education for Nonprofits
- 2) Training and Technical Assistance
- 3) Building Grantee's Capacity to Assist Nonprofits

SCF Preferences & Priorities



Nonprofit Capacity Building Program:

- AmeriCorps*VISTA sponsors
- Organizations committing at least 60 percent of the Federal award in Financial Assistance
- Nonprofit organizations

State, Local, and Tribal Government Program:

- State and Tribal Governments
- Nonprofit organizations designated as Authorized Entities by such governments

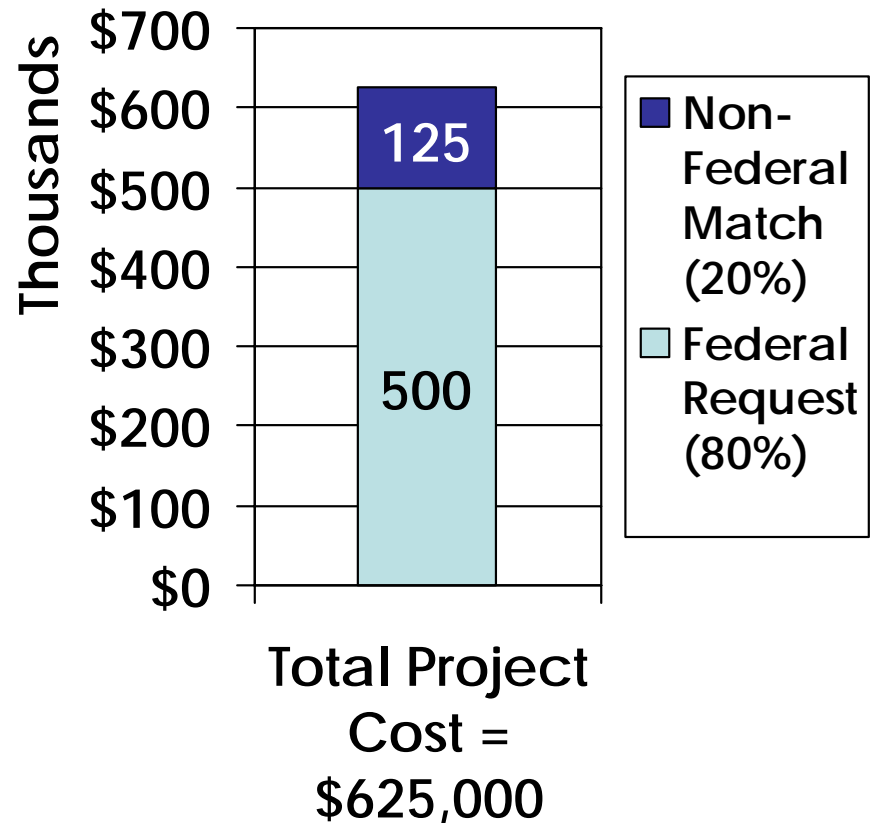
SCF Required Non-Federal Match



Grantees must provide at least 20 percent of the total approved cost of the project.

- Can be met by cash or in-kind contributions (applicants are encouraged to meet their match requirements through cash contributions)
- The match is **not** 20 percent of the Federal request. It is 20 percent of the **Total Project Cost**.

Example:



Key Program Components



Critical Areas of Capacity Building

- 1) Organizational Development
- 2) Program Development
- 3) Collaboration & Community Engagement
- 4) Leadership Development
- 5) Evaluation of Effectiveness

Remember: SCF funds can only be used for capacity building activities.

Examples of SCF Capacity Building Activities



- Building capacity to offer a counselor-assisted electronic eligibility screening and application tool
- Establishing procedures to assess client eligibility for benefits and tax credits
- Developing referral protocols with other service providers
- Developing a guide/clearinghouse of benefits and tax credits
- Developing the capacity to offer free tax preparation assistance

SCF Funding Restrictions



- Direct social service or supplanting direct services
- Capacity building activities in support of direct medical services
- Direct fundraising
- Inherently religious activity
- Pre-award costs
- Construction
- Purchase of real property

Format/Admin Reminders



- Read the entire program announcement.
 - *Be mindful of cross-references.*
 - *Note appendix on ARRA requirements.*
- Double-check eligibility requirements (esp. State & Local program).
- Follow content & format instructions (Section IV.2.)
- Use application checklist to make sure all relevant attachments are included.
- Set up grants.gov account well in advance.

Format/Admin Reminders



All grantees must follow the applicable principles and guidelines published by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) related to the use of Federal grant funds, which can be found at:

**[www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/
grants_circulars.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_circulars.html)**

SCF Deadline & Submission Info



The deadline for
application submission is:

July 7, 2009
at 4:30 pm (Eastern Time)

Applications ***received*** after this date and time
will be classified as late and will not be
considered for funding.

Other Questions



Everything you need to know to apply is contained in the SCF Program Announcements, which can be found at

www.Grants.gov

For more information:

SCF Website: www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/scf

Phone: 800-281-9519

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