

SUMMARY OF SUPERFUND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITIES

CAG – Community Advisory Group

What is it?

As described on EPA's website, a CAG is a community group that is made up of representatives of diverse community interests. Its purpose is to provide a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process

Who is eligible?

Any group of interested stakeholders can form a CAG. There can be more than one CAG for a Superfund site, but EPA would encourage the formation of one CAG. CAGs do not have to comply with any particular organizational structure, although they do need to reflect the diverse interests in the community.

What resources can EPA provide?

EPA may assist the CAG with administrative support on issues relevant to the Superfund site cleanup and decision-making process. This may include support for arranging and documenting meetings, preparing and distributing meeting notices and agendas, duplicating site-related documents for CAG review, maintaining CAG mailing/distribution lists, and providing translation and meeting facilitation services when needed.

For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/community-advisory-groups>

TASC – Technical Assistance Services for Communities Program

What is it?

TASC is a program that provides technical assistance to communities and community groups. The TASC program provides independent assistance services that are delivered under a contract, which is funded, administered and managed by EPA.

Who is eligible?

Technical assistance through the TASC program is available to any community. A CAG or a formal non-profit organization is not required.

What resources can EPA provide?

TASC services can include the following: information assistance and expertise; community education; information assistance needs evaluation and plan development; and assistance to help community members work together to participate effectively in environmental decision-making. The services are determined on a project-specific basis and provided at no cost to communities. However, TASC resources are limited, and EPA must consider each community request alongside requests from other communities across the country.

For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program>

NOTE: EPA is working with the TASC program to provide a technical advisor to the BPMD Planning Team. A technical advisor will meet with the group by the end of June to discuss community needs and appropriate technical assistance services.

TAG – Technical Assistance Grant

What is it?

A TAG provides **funding** to a community group to contract its own technical advisor to interpret and explain technical reports, site conditions, and EPA's cleanup proposals and decisions related to a Superfund site, to the community.

Who is eligible?

TAGs are available at Superfund sites on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) or proposed for listing on the NPL, and for which a response action has begun. There can only be one TAG for each Superfund site. To be eligible to receive a TAG, a group must be an incorporated nonprofit organization composed of people who live near the Superfund site, and whose health, economic well-being or enjoyment of the environment is directly threatened by that site. The group must, among other things, also demonstrate that it has or will have reliable procedures for managing the TAG, including record keeping and financial accountability.

Groups that are **not** eligible for a TAG are:

- Potentially responsible parties (PRPs), who are the individuals, cities/townships, or companies that may be responsible for, or may have contributed to, pollution problems at the Superfund site. PRPs can include facility owners, operators, transporters, or generators of hazardous waste.
- Groups representing or receiving money or services from a PRP.
- Academic institutions like colleges or universities.
- Groups affiliated with a national organization.
- Political subdivisions like states, counties, cities, townships or tribes.
- Groups created by, representing, or receiving money or services from any of the groups described above that are not eligible.

What resources can EPA provide?

EPA can **award a TAG for up to \$50,000** for an eligible community group to contract their own technical advisor. EPA can provide additional funds, exceeding the \$50,000 limit, if the group has used previous TAG funds efficiently and if the group demonstrates that additional funds are necessary. To receive a TAG, the group must contribute at least 20 percent of the total cost of the TAG project.

For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program>

Also, see the **Superfund Community Involvement (CI) Handbook** -

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/community-involvement-tools-and-resources>.

The CI Handbook provides guidance to EPA staff on how EPA typically plans and implements community involvement activities at Superfund sites. This guidance document is intended to help promote consistent implementation of community involvement regulations, policies and practices.