

FY24 Underserved Communities Programs:
Nonprofit Technical Assistance and Management Support (NTAMS)
and Underserved Communities Projects (UCP) Grant Programs

**February 17, 2023 Information Session
and Frequently Asked Question List**

- How old can the SDAT Certificate of Good Standing, one of the required attachments, be? Can it be six months old from September last year?
 - **We do not need the actual certificate. As demonstrated during the Information Session, go to your organization's page in SDAT, select "print page" from your browser's options menu, and save the print page as a pdf. This pdf can then be uploaded as proof. You can search for your organization's SDAT page by clicking [here](#).**
- If an organization is already a grantee with Montgomery County (in our case, through the sheriff's office), are we still eligible to apply for NTAMS?
 - **You are eligible but funding will be prioritized towards organizations who do not receive County funding already. The FY23 Non-Competitive Contract Award List ([found on page 38 of the linked pdf](#)) will be referenced. Part of the goal of this program is to target funds at organizations, communities, and needs who have been traditionally left out of County funding. If your organization already shows over \$100,000 in total County funding on this list then it is unlikely to be competitive given the huge interest in this program.**
- Can organizations apply for both programs and potentially be awarded through both?
 - **Yes. If eligible, applying for both is allowed and encouraged.**
- Would computer software/a database be considered a capital expense?
 - **Depends. A software license or subscription would be an operating expense. However, if you need to be a new computer, server, or other major IT hardware to host the software/database then that would be a Capital expense. If you are unsure if an item is a Capital or Operating expense please contact OGM.**
- Does the grantee get the award amount X two if you are extended for the second year (for NTAMS)?
 - **No, funding level for the second (or third year in the case of UCP) would be based on whatever funding amount the County Council appropriates in FY25 (and FY26 for UCP). OGM does not have the authority to issue funds or make commitments without an appropriation of funding from the County Council. OGM's model for multi-year funding is based on the same used for Federal awards which rely on annual Congressional appropriations.**
- How do we renew if we want a multi year?
 - **Assuming the County Council appropriates funds and the program is working well, the renewal would be automatic for each year under the initial commitment.**

- Does requesting a multi-year award delay notice of the funding for the first 12 month period? Since we will wait for the council to appropriate funds later.
 - **No, the funding for the initial year of the program is from FY23 which has already been appropriated by the County Council. Council will vote on FY24 appropriations in May so award winners will have roughly 8-9 months notice of whether their second year of funding is available.**
- About eligibility -- if our organization serves mostly Montgomery County residents, but also serves people outside the county, and we are asking for funds for infrastructure that will help us do our job better, are we still permitted to apply? In other words, is it truly only for organizations that exclusively serve Montco residents?
 - **Montgomery County funding is limited to services to residents or services that occur within the County. If a regional/national organization has a branch office that exclusively serves Montgomery County then it would be able to benefit from NTAMS funding or create a new program using UCP funds. If it is impossible to separate these funds from other organizational efforts then the organization is not eligible.**
- Can funds be used on participants who come to Montgomery County for the service although they do not live in the county?
 - **Yes.**
- Our org has multiple locations throughout the county, would the county award more than one grant to a given organization if proposals are made from the different locations.
 - **No, one award per organization only.**
- For NTAMS, please explain what you mean by based in underserved communities? What if our HDQ is not located in an underserved community, but our staff deliver programs in underserved communities in other parts of MoCo?
 - **“Based in” refers to a strong linkage, connection, and/or understanding of the target community. Physical location of headquarters is helpful but not required. Service location is more important. For example, if an organization says that they are targeting East County residents but their service location is in Bethesda then additional explanation would be required.**
- To clarify, will these be true grants with some or all funding forwarded up front shortly after awards are announced? Especially for NTAMS, it's most beneficial to not have to wait and invoice for the funding. Same for UCP?
 - **At this time, OGM cannot guarantee advance or up-front funding for these programs. However, these will not be distributed on a reimbursable basis. Funds will be dispersed in tranches (quarterly or semi-annual most likely).**
- If we started applying under UCP, is it a problem if you switch to NTAMS?
 - **The two programs use separate application modules. If you want to switch, just simply stop filling out one program and start filling out the other. OGM does not examine unfinished or unsubmitted applications so starting but not finishing an application has no impact on the other program.**
- What is the guideline for determining if we currently receive a "large" or "small" amount of County funding.
 - **The FY23 Non-Competitive Contract Award List ([found on page 38 of the linked pdf](#)) will be referenced. Part of the goal of this program is to target funds at**

organizations, communities, and needs who have been traditionally left out of County funding. If your organization already shows over \$100,000 in total County funding on this list then it is unlikely to be competitive given the huge interest in this program.

- We are an organization with an official address in Vienna, VA. We support a network of student-led mental health clubs in the DMV, including in Montgomery County Public Schools (both middle and high schools). We have an official partnership (a signed MOU) with MCPS. My questions are: 1) are we eligible to apply under the stipulation that an org: “has a location in Montgomery County through which it provides related services” and 2) We work with some schools with high populations of students who qualify under the guidelines of “underserved communities.” We also work in schools that do not have high populations of “underserved communities.” Would this make our application less competitive? Could we apply for funding in only the schools with high populations of “underserved communities”?
 - **Yes, you are eligible if your program only focuses on MCPS schools. However, an application targeting only underserved communities and the schools that serve them would be much more competitive.**
- Did you say applicants can ask for less than 50,000 per year for the UCP grant?
 - **No, UCP award bottom is \$50,000. We are looking at supporting more substantial programs that have a deeper, more sustained impact.**
- We have a program for under served kids and another one for low-income adults. Can we request funding to support both programs in the same application?
 - **So long as the total cost stays under \$75,000 and both of these target groups focus on the same general community, then you can include both efforts under a single program.**
- " Program Summary Form question : Next to Primary POC, there are boxes named "" signatory. What are they? Please explain.
 - **The Signatory is the person within the organization who has the authority to legally sign on behalf of your organization. While for smaller organizations this may be the same person as the regular POC, for larger organizations it may be someone else.**
- Will these grant awards be reimbursable grants like the previous County grants or will the money be received up front?
 - **At this time, OGM cannot guarantee advance or up-front funding for these programs. However, these will not be distributed on a reimbursable basis. Funds will be dispersed in tranches (quarterly or semi-annual most likely).**
- Could you make sure we have a copy of the recording?
 - **The recording can be accessed by using the same link used to join the live session. The recording can be found by clicking [here](#).**
- Is it open for churches and food pantries?
 - **Organizations need to have a 501 (c)(3) legal designation.**
- Is it possible to apply for grant support to underwrite staff? That would seem to fall under NTAMS, but staff was not listed as an example of a permissible expense.
 - **Staff would be a permissible expense but you will need to explain how your organization plans to cover staff costs after the NTAMS funding runs out.**

<https://mcmdgrants.smapply.org/prog/FY23UCP/>
<https://mcmdgrants.smapply.org/prog/FY23NTAMS/>

- Our nonprofit organization started in 2022 we won't have a IRS 990 by the date will this disqualify us from applying.
 - **This is fine. Your 501 (c)(3) designation letter will provide proof that you do not have a 990 form filed yet. Please upload a document in this space very briefly noting this fact.**
- Could an organization get more than one award from the UCP program?
 - **No, one award per organization.**
- SDAT status is Revived although we have filed. Is that acceptable?
 - **Yes.**
- What's happening with the "regular" Community grant funding cycle? Is it going to be open in the near future?
 - **Any changes to the “regular” Community Grants cycle will be announced with the release of the County Executive’s FY24 Recommended Budget.**
- We are located in MoCo, serve legal clients in MoCo but also other counties in Maryland as well. Can we still apply?
 - **These funds can only be used to support programs within Montgomery County. Within your application you would need to explain how your organization will ensure that funding is only used for that purpose.**
- Is office rental an eligible expense for NTAMS.
 - **Yes, but additional explanation is needed on how your organization would cover these costs once NTAMS funding runs out.**
- If an org is less competitive under UCP due to the amount of County funding it currently receives, can you please clarify how an agency can assess their total County funding? Are we thinking about all county funding regardless of whether that money is distributed as grants or other means? Do funding limits extend to other county funding that may not be grant funded?
 - **See answers above on the [Non-Competitive Contract Award List](#) (scroll down to page 38) as that will be the primary benchmark used. Awards from MCPS, WorkSource Montgomery, Montgomery College, the Arts and Humanities Council, and other sub-awards from other County funded entities (i.e. MCAEL and Collaboration Council) do NOT count as County funding for the purpose of this program.**
- Under NTAMs, can you request more than one capacity building/enhancing support in one application for your org?
 - **Yes, total needs to be under \$75,000. A range of different support resources is expected and encouraged.**
- Are there going to be interviews for final applicants?
 - **No.**
- Can food pantries apply?
 - **Yes. The range on supported programming is flexible so long as you demonstrate how your organization serves an underserved community.**
- So are quarterly reports required to receive funds?
 - **The grant agreement will outline reporting requirements. But yes, reporting will be required to receive funding.**
- Our program uses mentors, can we include stipend funds for mentors in the budget?

<https://mcmdgrants.smapply.org/prog/FY23UCP/>
<https://mcmdgrants.smapply.org/prog/FY23NTAMS/>

- **Stipends would be an allowable cost but their role in the program and how they serve an underserved community will need to be part of your application.**
- What are the chances of been awarded, I had you talked about competition?
 - **At this time it is impossible to assess chances of being awarded as there has been tremendous interest in these programs. Applicants should carefully review the Priorities, Program Strategy, and Scoring sections to see if this program is a strong fit for them. If not, they may wish to pursue other opportunities.**
- we have non profit religious school that is struggling now due to the pandemic and even loose most of the teachers, can we apply to maintain the staffs?
 - **Your organization would need a 501(c)(3) designation to apply. If you have one then you are encouraged to apply.**
- Are these programs different from the traditional county council grants?
 - **County Council grants were eliminated in FY20 and merged into Community Grants. These programs are IN ADDITION to Community Grants and do not replace them.**
- Under NTAMS, do the operating expenses need to be new expenses for that year?
 - **Activities funded by NTAMS should not be supplanting existing funding, meaning it should not be replacing existing funding commitments. However, if you planned on an expense but have not confirmed funding for it yet, then it would be NTAMS eligible.**
- The link to SVRS is not working.
 - **This problem is common. Please try the link with a different browser, update your current browser, or use the link below. [Montgomery County - Central Vendor Registration System \(mcpcc.net\)](https://mcmcmdgrants.smapply.org/prog/FY23UCP/)**