



2025 LDD Community Support Pilot Program: Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Executive Summary

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) is publishing this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to solicit applications and provide an overview of the 2025 Local Development District (LDD) Community Support Pilot Program. This is a non-competitive program.

Please note: FY 2025 represents the final year of funding availability for the LDD Community Support Pilot Program. No additional funding rounds are anticipated beyond FY 2025.

NOFA Release Date: August 12, 2025

Application Due Date: September 26, 2025

Anticipated Awards Announcement Date: October 2025

Total Funds Available: Approximately \$2.5 million

DRA will only accept applications from LDDs within [DRA's service area](#). For questions about the program, please email pilotprogram@dra.gov.

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A. DRA OVERVIEW

DRA was established by Congress in 2000 as a formal framework for joint federal-state collaboration to serve the [Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions](#), which encompasses the eight-member states of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee. DRA promotes economic growth and opportunity by investing in critical infrastructure projects in economically distressed communities. DRA's investment priorities include transportation infrastructure, other basic public infrastructure like water and sewer, small business development with an emphasis on entrepreneurship, and job training.

B. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

LDDs across DRA's eight-state region play a vital role in providing targeted technical assistance and capacity-building support to communities. LDDs assist communities with grant writing, project development, and project management. The services provided by LDDs are crucial to the continued economic development of the Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions. This program will provide LDDs with funding to support personnel and enhance outreach and technical assistance.

C. PROGRAM PRIORITIES

The priorities for this program are consistent with DRA's core funding goals found in DRA's [Regional Development Plan IV](#). DRA's core funding goals include (1) investing in public infrastructure, (2) nurturing local workforce ecosystems, (3) promoting business growth and entrepreneurship, and (4) supporting community placemaking and capacity building. LDDs should incorporate these priorities in their proposal to DRA:

- Provide technical assistance such as grant writing, project development, and project management support to economically distressed communities and isolated areas of distress in DRA's region.
- Increase and facilitate outreach activities in economically distressed communities, such as in-person meetings, workshops, and other convenings, to enhance community awareness and knowledge of federal grant opportunities and processes.
- Establish or continue partnerships with other local or regional public entities that provide economic development support to economically distressed communities.

D. ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE USE

1. Eligible Use: funds can be used:

- a. To supplement the salaries of existing staff and for fringe benefits.
- b. To hire contractors or new staff to fulfill duties associated with the program.
- c. To purchase equipment such as mapping, data, and research software that will assist communities with the development of projects.

- d. To cover travel expenses related directly to activities associated with the program, such as travel to a community in DRA's region.
- e. For outreach materials and to organize workshops and other convenings with local communities.

2. Ineligible Use

- a. For existing staff, new hires, or contractors working on activities not associated with this program. For example, existing new staff, new hires, and contractors should only work on projects in economically distressed communities or isolated areas of distress.
- b. For construction, renovation, or furniture.
- c. For indirect costs such as rent.
- d. For travel expenses such as conferences that do not align with the priorities and responsibilities of this program.
- e. For the purchase of equipment for staff not working directly on this program. For example, the purchase of laptops for staff not affiliated with executing the requirements of this program.
- f. As transferred funds to local communities to implement projects.

For questions about eligible and ineligible use not mentioned above, please contact pilotprogram@dra.gov. DRA reserves the right to approve or disallow any costs associated with this program.

E. APPLICATION INFORMATION

1. Project Description

In this section, LDDs will be required to (1) provide a description of the communities the LDD will engage to fulfill the requirements of this program, (2) provide a description of the challenges the LDD will help communities alleviate and the assets or opportunities that will be leveraged through this program, and (3) provide a description of how the project aligns with DRA's core funding goals and the priorities for this program (see section III).

2. Work Plan

In this section, LDDs will be required to (1) provide a description of the activity, (2) provide the names of the personnel responsible for the activity, (3) provide a detailed description for each deliverable, and (4) provide a timeline for completion. If applicable, submissions should include transition plans for sustaining operations in future years. This application will contain a work plan template that LDDs can upload into the application.

3. Budget and Budget Narrative

In this section, LDDs will be required to list each budget item and provide a description. For any contractors used for this program, please use the "Contractual" budget line. For

existing staff or new hires, please use the “Personnel” budget line. For mapping, data, or research software, please use either the “Equipment” or “Supplies” budget line. Please refer to the Eligible and Ineligible Use Section to ensure your budget aligns with the scope of this program.

The application link can be found [here](#).

F. AWARD INFORMATION

For FY 2025, DRA is making approximately \$2.5 million available through this program. LDDs will be funded pro rata. The funding methodology used by DRA is based on the number of economically distressed counties/parishes and isolated areas of distress each LDD serves within DRA’s region. LDDs will be required to sign a grant agreement after the project has been approved. The period of performance is up to 24 months.

G. COST SHARING

There is no match requirement for this program.

H. REPORTING

LDDs will be required to submit quarterly reports. Each report should include the SF-425 Financial Report, SF-PPR Performance Report, and answers to project narrative questions. LDDs will be required to answer the following narrative questions each quarter.

- Please provide a description of the communities that have been assisted this quarter with grant writing, project development, and/or project management. In this description, please provide information about the project the community is working on and how it aligns with DRA’s core funding goals.
- Please provide a description of outreach activities that have been conducted this quarter. In this description, please include information about the purpose of the activity, the communities in attendance, and the outcomes generated from the activity.
- Please provide a description of partnerships that have been established or continued this quarter. In this description, please provide information about how these partnerships are advancing economic development opportunities for communities in DRA’s region.

The LDD will also be responsible for submitting a closeout report to DRA at or before the end of the period of performance. DRA will communicate closeout requirements to the LDD.