

Application Assistance

We encourage all eligible applicants to use our free application assistance (also known as technical assistance). The main purpose of this opportunity is to eliminate linguistic, cultural and other barriers that might prevent you from seeking government funding.

Technical assistance consultants can:

- a. Assist in determining appropriate fit between your proposal and this funding opportunity.
- b. Provide guidance on how best to answer questions.
- c. Support your application development, including editing and budget review.
- d. Consultants are not grant writers but can support you in explaining your proposal in the most clear and concise way.

See the [Best Starts website](#) for a list of TA consultants and their contact information. Below you can find information on two of Best Starts TA consultants. Individuals wishing to access application assistance should email the consultants directly. We encourage you to reach out to a TA consultant as early as possible. We cannot guarantee TA consultant availability within 5 business days of the mini-grant deadline/closing date. Assistance in languages other than English is available; let a TA consultant know your language need and Best Starts will try to accommodate that.

We encourage you to only contact one TA consultant at a time and allow them 24 hours to respond before contacting any other consultants.

Dicentra

Dicentra Consulting's team — Swee May Cripe, Ashenafi Cherkos, Carol Chin, and Jennifer Fricas — is delighted to support community-based organizations (CBOs), small businesses, and other organizations in applying for funding. Our team speaks Amharic, Cantonese, Korean, Malay, Spanish, and Tigrina. We have many years of experience writing proposals that get funded, designing projects, analyzing data, visualizing data, and conducting evaluations. We focus on building transformational relationships that are based on trust and respect. To promote social justice, we orient our work around community knowledge, experience, and values. We understand that every person has value, and we want to help you promote voices from your community. We will first listen to understand the vision and mission of your CBO or small business and what you hope to do with the funding received. Then we will agree together on how we can best support you to tell your story. We are excited to help you craft strong proposals that will be funded and lead to successful programs!



Contact: askdicentra@gmail.com

Crux Consulting Consortium

Crux is a multidisciplinary consulting group that supports the development of strong leaders. At the heart of all that we do is a deep commitment to principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. At Crux we use our skills in grant and technical writing to elevate your expertise and your organization to develop a winning proposal. We listen deeply to understand your organization's needs and values, and work with you to craft the clearest expression of that for each proposal. Crux is 20+ members, partners, and staff with rich experiences working with non-profits, grassroots organizations, and public institutions. Crux has decades of leadership experience in multiple sectors including health and human services, community action networks, early childhood education, among others. We work with communities of color in the areas of youth development, education, workforce development, community health, homelessness, food security and immigrant/refugee issues.



Contact: douglas@cruxnw.com

Best Starts Capacity Building Services

Best Starts grantees may receive free capacity building services from Best Starts-contracted consultants. The goal of Best Starts capacity building is to support grantees' program and organizational development, implementation, and sustainability while being rooted in community strengths, needs, and values. Consultants provide resources and training along with individualized, responsive, and ongoing coaching and support. Best Starts capacity building consultants can also help Best Starts grantees create tools and build skills needed to meet Best Starts contract requirements. Categories of Best Starts capacity building support include board development, data & evaluation, equity & social justice, finance, human resources, IT, legal, marketing, needs assessment, and organizational development. If you are currently funded by Best Starts for Kids and interested in partnering with a capacity builder, please contact the Best Starts for Kids program manager for your strategy or [complete this request form](#).

Community Participatory Evaluation Resources

Ripple Effects Mapping (REM)

About REM:

<https://ppe.cw.wsu.edu/ripple-effects-mapping/>

A Field Guide to Ripple Effects Mapping:

<https://conservancy.umn.edu/items/6b190dd2-d66d-4c04-b76e-4b5d8a3784e8>

If you are interested in conducting REM sessions, please reach out to Dr. Roxana Chen at roxana.chen@kingcounty.gov for more information.

Digital Stories and Photovoice

About Digital Storytelling:

https://www.betterevaluation.org/sites/default/files/T.Lewin_Digital_Storytelling.pdf

<https://research.com/education/digital-storytelling>

About Photovoice:

<https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/methods/photovoice>

<https://open.clemson.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1047&context=joe>

Resources for digital storytelling

StoryCenter: <https://www.storycenter.org/workshop#online>

Creative Narrations: <https://www.creativenarrations.net/>