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## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES

# *Technical Assistance Provider Selection*

EPA has entered into a contract with Skeo Solutions to provide independent and non-advocacy technical assistance to communities across the United States through the Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) contract. This federal contract was awarded after a competitive procurement process conducted according to the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

Under the TASC contract Skeo Solutions is required to provide both high quality and cost-effective technical assistance to communities. Upon receiving technical direction, Skeo Solutions consults with both EPA staff and community representatives. Each work request received by Skeo Solutions is evaluated for what type or types of assistance are necessary, where those services need to be performed, and what the time frame is for providing these services. Skeo Solutions then puts a plan together that outlines what services are to be provided by whom.

When choosing individuals to provide technical assistance, Skeo Solutions chooses from a pool of staff that includes in-house employees, a staff of sub-contractors and individuals registered in Skeo Solutions' technical assistance provider database. In cases where appropriate expertise cannot be identified from these sources, Skeo Solutions will conduct a search that includes universities, federal agencies, and other consulting firms to identify the best possible providers. Factors considered in the selection process include:

- Relevant subject matter expertise.
- Relevant experience providing technical assistance to communities.
- Social and cultural capabilities relevant to the project.
- Understanding of environmental regulations, programs and agencies.
- Education and training, including academic degrees and relevant certifications.
- Any potential conflicts of interest.
- Demonstrated ability to be impartial and objective.
- Demonstrated ability to work with a variety of stakeholders.
- Geographic location (with a preference for locally/regionally-based providers).
- Overall cost effectiveness.

Individuals interested in providing technical assistance either at a specific location or in general are encouraged contact Amanda Goyne ([agoyne@skeo.com](mailto:agoyne@skeo.com); (434) 975-6700 ext. 231). In order to maintain high quality, independent and non-advocacy technical assistance under this contract, all decisions regarding the selection of technical assistance providers are the responsibility of Skeo Solutions.

Individuals interested in providing services under this contact must be prepared to:

- Enter into a sub-contract or employment agreement with Skeo Solutions.
- Report to the Skeo Solutions TASC management team.
- Have all documents created under the TASC contract reviewed by the TASC team for technical accuracy and non-advocacy.