



Analysis of the Use of the CERCLA Section 128(a) Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

Perceived Barriers to Applying

In 2021, the ASTSWMO Brownfields Focus Group polled States regarding barriers to applying for the CERCLA Section 128(a) Technical Assistance Grant (TAG). Twenty-six States responded. The following is a summary of challenges, followed by the ASTSWMO Brownfields Focus Group's proposed solutions to the perceived barriers to applying for the TAG.

Most challenges identified fell into 3 main categories including lack of State resources, challenges identifying communities & projects, and guidance provided by EPA.

Challenges regarding State Resources:

- \$20,000 is not enough money (10 responses)
- High administrative effort required to implement (8 responses)
- Lack of staffing/resources (7 responses)
- TAB already provides this service (3 responses)

Challenges regarding Identifying Communities & Projects:

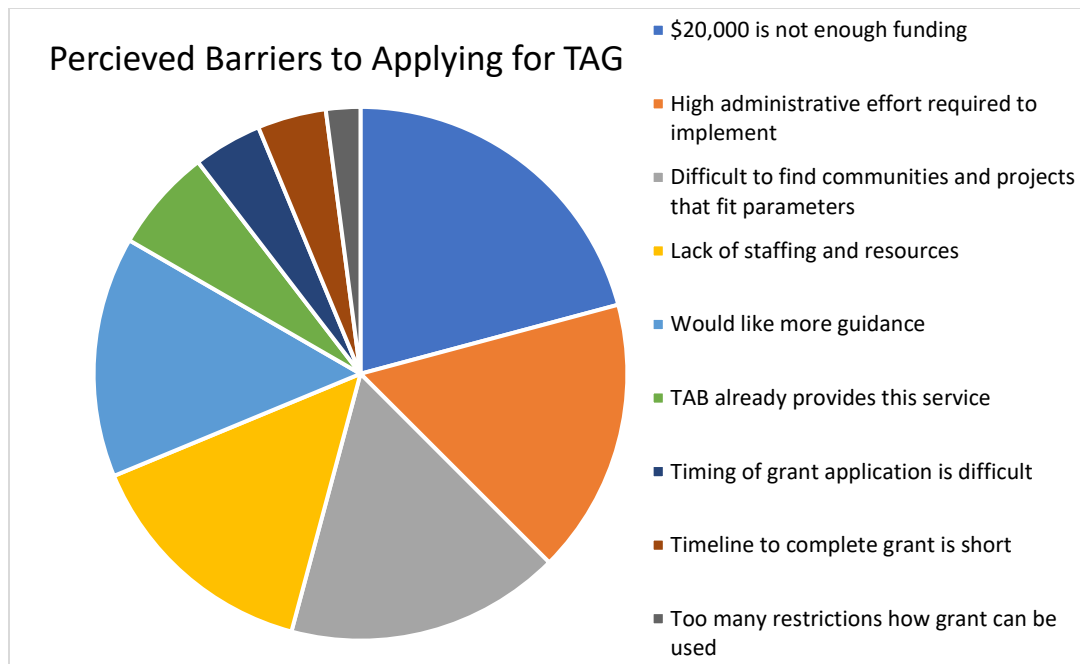
- Difficult to find communities & projects that fit parameters (8 responses)
- Timing of grant application is difficult (2 responses)
- Timeline to complete grant is short (2 responses)

Challenges regarding TAG Guidance:

- Would like more guidance (7 responses)
- Too many restrictions how grant can be used (1 response)



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Solutions to Perceived Barriers to Applying

Solutions Addressing State Resources

- Increase the current \$20,000 funding amount in the statute
- Decrease administrative effort required to apply for TAG
- Provide more 128(a) funding for State staffing to manage TAG

Solutions Addressing TAG guidance

- Provide more guidance on how the TAG can be used:
 - Provide example TAG applications
 - Provide examples of what projects have been done using TAG
 - Provide an explanation on how the TAG differs from what the TAB providers accomplish, and possibly how TAB funding can be leveraged
- Provide a longer timeline to complete the TAG
- Have the TAG application be due at a different time of year
- Advertise this opportunity more
- Allow States to apply for more than one TAG
- Expand use of funding to include assessment and/or cleanup