

Tribal Housing Excellence Academy

Frequently Asked Questions

Are THE Academy trainings virtual or in-person?

There will be a short kick-off webinar for orientation, and then a first three-day training that will be virtual. Following that, we would love to hold the five remaining trainings in person. However, we know there is a pandemic going on, so we will make the decision about whether and when the trainings will be in-person after consultation with the organizations selected to participate.

Where will the in-person trainings be held?

RCAC will rotate the trainings around the western US in regions close to our selected participants. RCAC selects locations with decent airline access, reasonable per diem rates, and we prefer to use native-owned hotels when possible. THE Academy trainings in the past have been held in or near Phoenix, Albuquerque, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, Spokane, Portland, Seattle and Anchorage.

Which of our staff should attend?

The staff should be those who have responsibilities in developing the housing project and/or operating it when it is complete, and who have the time to participate. In smaller organizations, this often includes the Executive Director or Housing Director. We've also had participation by Development Managers, Project Managers, Maintenance Directors, Admissions & Occupancy Specialists, Tribal Planners, CFOs and a Tribal Administrator.

How is THE Academy funded?

RCAC was awarded a grant from HUD's Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Program to cover the majority of our costs, and a grant from Wells Fargo for the remainder. The Wells Fargo grant also pays for the scholarships of up to \$4,000 per organization over the whole Academy to offset travel costs.

What is the schedule of trainings?

We try to schedule trainings to avoid conflicts with other major events such as the NAIHC Annual Conference. Our tentative schedule is:

- Kickoff/orientation webinar, several hours, late May
- Training 1, Three days, June/July. Virtual
- Training 2, Three and a half days, August/Sept 2022
- Training 3, Three and a half days, Oct/Nov 2022
- Training 4, Three and a half days, Jan/Feb 2023
- Training 5, Three to four days TBD, April/May 2023
- Training 6, Three to four days, TBD, July/Aug 2023

Is there an application form?

No. Treat the Section 3. Application Requirements like a checklist of what you must provide in your application. Also pay attention to the selection criteria on page 9 of the application packet. However, there are forms for the self-assessment (see page 12), and those are due along with the application.

What type of housing project is eligible?

New construction of affordable housing for low-income households is eligible, as is major rehabilitation of a housing project, or acquisition/rehabilitation of buildings to be affordable housing. As long as the housing will be high-quality, safe and acceptable to funders, we have no rules about the building methods. We are fine with stick-built, modular, manufactured, straw bale, adobe, Structural Insulated Panels and other methods.

What is *not* eligible is housing work that is a program instead of a project. For example, if you operate a housing rehabilitation program that repairs one or two houses at a time throughout the year, then many of our training topics are either overkill, or not applicable.

Where can I find a NAHASDA class to take?

Check the ONAP training calendar frequently to find the upcoming offerings.

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/codetalk/calendar

How can I ask more specific questions?

Please send your question by email to THEAcademy@rcac.org. We will follow up with you.