
ECDC NEWS

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ECDC Launches Technical Assistance Support Program for ECBOs, MAAs

Through a grant from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (ECDC) is launching a technical assistance program to help local refugee service organizations expand capacities and improve programs and services.

Applications for the assistance are being sought from ethnic community based organizations and mutual assistance associations (ECBOs/MAAs) serving populations with ORR eligibility, according to ECDC President Tsehaye Teferra., although applicants need not be ORR grantees. Those selected through an evaluation process will be eligible for customized assistance initiatives with values ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000, Teferra said.

Titled MAA Innovations in Technical Assistance (MITA), the program is part of ORR's long-established use of technical assistant grants to organizations with expertise in particular areas to assist affiliated agencies in providing high-quality services.

Established in 1983, ECDC is one of 11 national voluntary agencies working in partnership with ORR and the Department of State in resettling refugees and providing reception and placement services. With three branch offices and a network of 14 affiliated, the agency has traditionally shared its experience and developmental support to established and emerging MAAs through informational resources, an annual national conference on African refugees and immigrants and leadership training workshops.

Other ORR technical assistance grants address such issues as citizenship and participation; child welfare; economic development; employment; housing and mental health.

The ECDC-managed MITA program will provide focused assistance in five areas: fund-raising and resource development; organizational leadership; strategic planning and action; management; and accountability.

To be considered for funding in FY 2010, applications are due by January 22. Applications forms are available at: www.ecdciinternational.org.