



Community Engagement and Technical Assistance (CETA) Program

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Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

The CETA Program

The Community Engagement and Technical Assistance (CETA) Program helps communities address their environmental and health concerns related to RCRA waste management activities nationwide.

Overview of the CETA program



CETA Program Objectives:

Provide communities with tools and resources,
Promote collaboration between communities and the EPA,
Build capacity for addressing environmental issues at the local level.



Eligibility Criteria for CETA Program Participants:

Community or faith-based organizations and their partners,
Sovereign Nations, Tribes or tribal organizations,
Community representatives including local officials, concerned residents,
EPA regional offices or state organizations (on behalf of communities).



How the Program Works:

Provides access to support, resources, and information through a neutral third party.

Types of services provided by CETA



Community Engagement Workshops



Translation or Interpretation Services



Review and Interpretation of RCRA Decision Documents

CETA Program Benefits Communities



**DIRECT SUPPORT
AND RESOURCES**



**EDUCATION AND
TRAINING**



**TRANSLATION AND
INTERPRETATION**

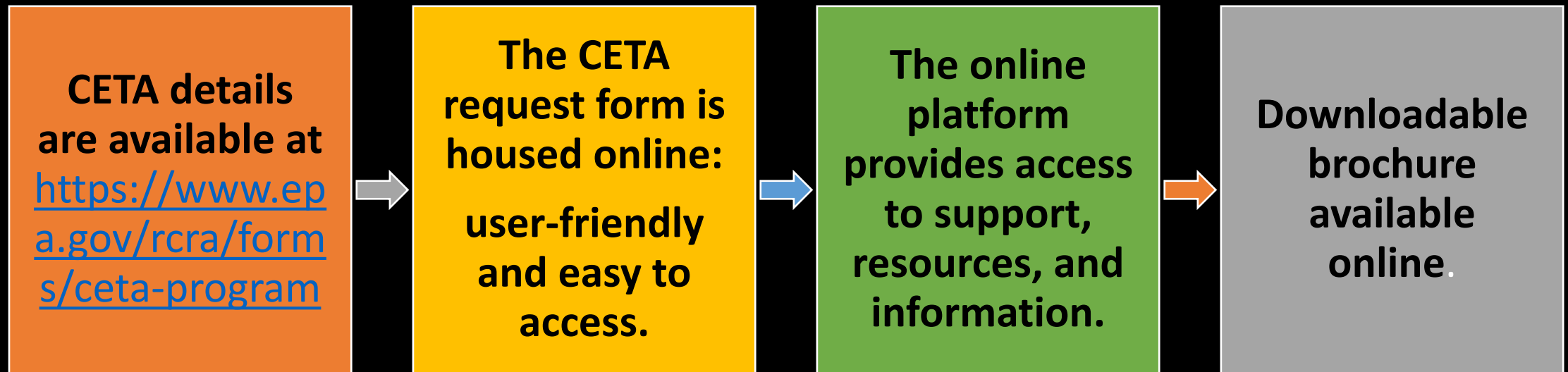


**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT &
OUTREACH**

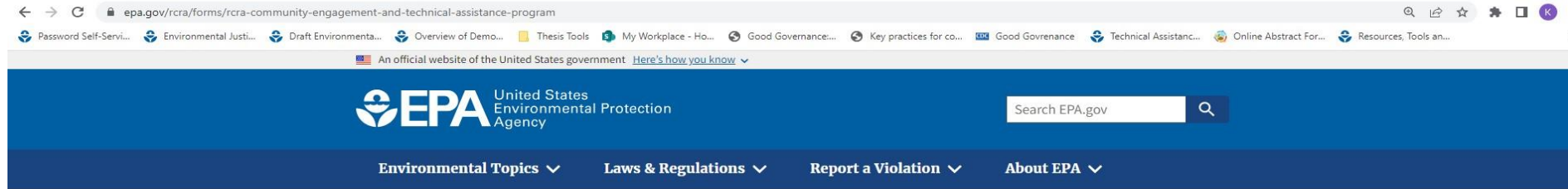


**TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE
SERVICE
OPPORTUNITIES**

Online presence of the CETA program



CETA Program Online Presence



Related Topics: [Resource Conservation and Recovery Act \(RCRA\) Laws and Regulations](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

RCRA Community Engagement and Technical Assistance Program

On this page:

- [Overview of the CETA Program](#)
- [What RCRA is and Its Potential Impact on Your Community](#)
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- [Eligible Recipients for CETA Assistance](#)
- [Types of Services CETA Can Provide to Your Community](#)
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Overview of the CETA Program

EPA's Community Engagement and Technical Assistance Program assists communities with addressing their concerns about environmental and health issues related to waste management by providing access to support, resources, and information through a neutral third party. These services empower communities to develop informed opinions when participating in environmental decision-making about their waste-related concerns. CETA services also facilitate effective and active participation in efforts to improve public



www.epa.gov/rcra/forms/rcra-community-engagement-and-technical-assistance-program

How Can My Community Request Assistance?

Eligible entities can request assistance by completing and submitting the CETA Assistance Request Form:

<https://www.epa.gov/rcra/forms/ceta-program>.





Prioritizing communities with multiple stressors.

What is RCRA and how could it potentially impact my community?

RCRA is the federal regulation that gives EPA the authority to protect human health and the environment from the potentially harmful effects of improper management and disposal of waste. More than 2.96 billion tons of solid, industrial, and hazardous waste a year are subject to the RCRA regulations. Approximately 5.3 million people live within one mile of a permitted hazardous waste facility where hazardous waste is stored, treated, or disposed of. Approximately 118 million people live within three miles of a RCRA corrective action site (roughly 36% of the U.S. population), including 27% of all children in the U.S. under the age of five.

EPA's "Journey to Justice" tour in New Orleans, Louisiana.

What happens after I submit an Assistance Request Form?

- Upon receipt of your Assistance Request Form, EPA will:
1. Confirm receipt of the form.
 2. Conduct an initial review of the request. EPA may contact you for additional information.
 3. Evaluate whether requests fall within the scope and limitations of the CETA program.
 4. Approve the request or redirect you to other appropriate assistance.
 5. If approved for the CETA program, EPA will initiate a preliminary discussion with you and our contractor to confirm the services that are being provided.

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT RCRA_CETA@epa.gov

www.epa.gov/rcra/forms/ceta-program

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Community Engagement and Technical Assistance



Facilitating Robust Assistance Community by Community



EPA outreach meeting after Hurricane Katrina.

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EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan with community members from Monroville, Louisiana.



What is the CETA Program and how can it assist with addressing my community's concerns?

EPA's CETA Program, through contractor support, can assist your community by supporting opportunities for community engagement and technical assistance; facilitating transparent and open communication; and providing the information and tools to make informed decisions. CETA also empowers communities with environmental justice concerns to make independent judgements about environmental matters that impact their lives.

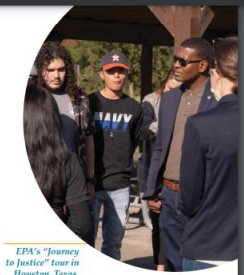
A community town hall discussion.

Who is eligible for assistance through CETA?

- Community-based organizations.
- Partnerships of community-based organizations.
- Faith-based organizations.
- Tribes or tribal organizations.
- Community representatives, including local officials.
- Concerned residents.
- EPA regional offices (on behalf of communities).
- State organizations (on behalf of communities).

What types of services can CETA provide to my community?

- Assisting with coordination and support for new and established community-based organizations.
- Providing translation or interpretation services for documents and meetings.
- Supporting community engagement workshops.
- Reviewing and interpretation of RCRA decision documents.
- Reviewing and interpreting scientific data and other technical reports.
- Providing information about basic science, environmental policy, and related resources.
- Assisting communities with understanding health risks and impacts.
- Developing a social media presence to assist with creating plain language messages and amplifying community voices.
- Identifying existing studies relevant to community concerns.



EPA's "Journey to Justice" tour in Houston, Texas.

July 2023 | EPA 530-F-23-006

How can my community request assistance?

Eligible entities can request assistance by completing and submitting the CETA Assistance Request Form: www.epa.gov/rcra/forms/ceta-program.

Technical support capacity and resources are limited, so the CETA program may not be able to fulfill all assistance requests. EPA will prioritize disadvantaged and historically excluded communities. In cases that are beyond the scope or capacity of CETA, the program will attempt to redirect the request to other appropriate assistance vehicles.

CETA in Action

Project Title: St. Croix Community Technical Assistance

Project Goal: To provide technical assistance to address community concerns related to the RCRA corrective action permit renewal and CERCLA National Priorities List processes.

Types of CETA Services:

- Support for community engagement opportunities through public meetings:
 - Allow community members to express their environmental concerns.
 - Understand the RCRA Permitting and CERCLA National Priorities List processes.
 - Prepare for the public comment period.
- Provide translation and interpretation of RCRA-related documents in Spanish and Creole.



Thank You!

We invite your questions about the CETA Program?

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