



Request for Qualifications: Permit Streamlining Technical Assistance Providers for Cohort Jurisdiction

Issue date: October 13, 2026

Closing date and time: November 6, 2026 by 5:00 pm

Contact person: Michelle Stephens, CALED Program Director, michelle@caled.org

A: Overview

California is facing pressure to deliver infrastructure and housing, redevelop blighted areas, support job-creating economic development uses, as well as enhance California's ability to compete for investment under programs like federal Opportunity Zones and more. As a result, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) released an RFP to help modernize and improve permitting across the state. In that, GO-Biz proposed the California Permit Streamlining Academy (CaPSA) to deliver technical assistance to local governments and empower permitting teams with the tools, skills, and strategies for continuous improvement.

The California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) responded to the RFP and was awarded a \$5 million grant from GO-Biz to accelerate permit streamlining efforts across California. This investment is supporting a comprehensive, action-oriented program designed to help jurisdictions modernize permitting.

The purpose of this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is to establish a group of Technical Assistance (TA) Providers; experienced and effective consultants who can support cohort jurisdictions with permitting improvement and streamlining implementation after they have finished the CaPSA training. Ideal candidates are:

- Current economic development professionals, independent consultants, or other professionals with specialized expertise relevant to permit transparency and streamlining model practices that also have an economic development perspective

General information regarding CaPSA can be found at: <https://capermitacademy.org/>.

B: CaPSA Areas of Experience & Knowledge

In your RFQ response, please show expertise and experience in the following topics that apply to you and provide at least one example of a permit streamlining success you have delivered:

- Knowledge of permitting, zoning, land use, and other applicable topics dealing with jurisdictional land control.
- Understanding of model practices in permit streamlining, e.g. EIRs & thresholds of significance, reducing review authorities, reducing PUDs/PDs, adding objective standards, and creating pre-approved designs.
- Understanding of statutory and locally established review timelines, including completeness review, applicant-caused delays, resubmittals, outside-agency dependencies, extensions, documentation, and escalation procedures.
- Recruiting, onboarding, training, and developing effective public-facing staff.
- Identifying and implementing transparency improvements and goals for local governments.
- Organizational systems to encourage collaboration and effective processes.
- Technology solutions for delays and bottlenecks such as permitting software, electronic plan review, AI-assisted tools, online intake, and customer portals.
- Compliance with new laws and interagency requirements.

C: Scope of Work

Jurisdictions that have completed the cohort training can receive technical assistance from a TA Provider for the two-month period following the completion of the training. If you are identified in the RFQ process as a potential TA Provider within the CaPSA framework, you will be included in the TA Provider List. It will then fall to the city or county to follow their sourcing process and potentially engage the TA Provider.

If a community chooses to work with you, you will receive up to \$5,000 for your work to assist the jurisdiction in achieving the measurable outcome the team identified in their application.

Since the need will be different depending on each jurisdiction, we cannot give a defined scope of work. In the section above on “CaPSA Areas of Experience & Knowledge,” CALED has highlighted the areas where we expect jurisdictions to need outside resources. We encourage you to include additional experience that you believe is relevant in your reply.

D: Information on Submitting a Reply

Respondents to this RFQ should demonstrate their qualifications and experience regarding one or more of the identified CaPSA areas of experience and knowledge. Include your current billing rate for the jurisdictions to see as a reference.

Please respond to this request via email to Michelle Stephens, Program Director, CALED at: michelle@caled.org identified in the subject line as “CaPSA TA Provider.”

Please submit your response at the above address by 5:00 p.m. on November 6, 2026.

Responses shall not be more than 3 pages in length. Clarification requests and questions will be accepted by email at: michelle@caled.org.