

**From:** Kenneth Ceonzo <KCeonzo@ridgewoodbank.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 13, 2019 12:12 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** Leonard Stekol  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL MESSAGE] FDIC Information Request RIN 3064-ZA06 - Response from Ridgewood Savings Bank (Cert 16026)  
**Attachments:** fil19029a-1-WITH PDF MARKUP.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of Leonard Stekol, President, Chairman and CEO and the Board of Trustees of Ridgewood Savings Bank (FDIC Cert 16026), please see the attached response (attached document) to the FDIC Request for Information RIN 3064-ZA06 issued earlier this year.

Management and the Board of Trustees of the Bank greatly appreciate the various resources that the FDIC continues to provide its members, as well as your ongoing interest in improving the resources being provided. We hope the responses provided are helpful in your assessment process.

Sincerely,

*Kenneth Ceonzo  
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
Ridgewood Savings Bank  
71-02 Forest Avenue  
Ridgewood, NY 11385  
(718) 240-4855*

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PLEASE SEE OUR COMMENTS IN BLUE TEXT

**6714-01-P**

**FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**

**RIN 3064-ZA06**

**Request for Information on FDIC Technical Assistance Offerings and Delivery**

AGENCY: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

ACTION: Notice and Request for Information.

SUMMARY: The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation is issuing this request for information to seek public input on additional steps the FDIC could take to support effective management and operation of FDIC-supervised institutions through technical assistance and collaboration on safety and soundness and consumer compliance matters. The FDIC is seeking feedback from community banks, other FDIC-supervised institutions, and other interested parties on existing FDIC methods and efforts to provide technical assistance. The FDIC requests input on strategies to improve the effectiveness of these offerings. The FDIC also seeks comment on both the content and delivery method of various technical assistance offerings and on other steps the FDIC could take to increase the level and effectiveness of technical assistance offered to the industry.

DATES: Comments must be received by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by RIN 3064-ZA06, by any of the following methods:

- *Agency Website:* <http://www.fdic.gov/regulations/laws/federal/>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the Agency website.
- *Email:* [Comments@fdic.gov](mailto:Comments@fdic.gov). Include RIN 3064-ZA06 in the subject line of the message.
- *Mail:* Robert E. Feldman, Executive Secretary, Attention: Comments, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20429. Include RIN 3064-ZA06 in the subject line of the letter.
- *Hand Delivery:* Comments may be hand delivered to the guard station at the rear of the 550 17th Street Building (located on F Street) on business days between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

*Public Inspection:* All comments received for this request for information must include the agency name and RIN 3064-ZA06. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.fdic.gov/regulations/laws/federal/> – including any personal information provided – for public inspection. Paper copies of public comments may be ordered from the FDIC Public Information Center, 3501 North Fairfax Drive, Room E-1002, Arlington, VA 22226 by telephone at (877) 275-3342 or (703) 562-2200.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathleen E. Jones, Case Manager, (816) 234-8143, *KathJones@fdic.gov*; or Thaddeus King, Policy Analyst, (202) 898-3541, *thking@fdic.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FDIC is responsible for maintaining stability and public confidence in the nation's financial system by insuring deposits, examining and supervising financial institutions for safety and soundness and consumer protection, making large and complex financial institutions resolvable, and managing receiverships. In order to accomplish this mission, the FDIC provides technical assistance to financial institutions. As described further below, the FDIC is soliciting comment on strategies to improve the effectiveness of technical assistance to FDIC-supervised institutions.

### **Overview of Request for Information**

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC or Agency) is issuing this request for information to seek public input on additional steps the FDIC can take to improve the efficacy and value of technical assistance offerings to supervised institutions. The FDIC seeks to provide technical assistance, particularly to community banks, on relevant and useful bank regulatory and supervisory topics, including recent regulatory changes and emerging issues. Ongoing collaboration with supervised institutions, including requests for technical assistance, is a key component of the FDIC's effort to identify and mitigate risk to individual supervised institutions and to the overall financial system.

Accordingly, the FDIC is soliciting comment on how to maximize its efforts in providing this assistance.

*Current Delivery Channels for Technical Assistance*

The FDIC uses various methods of technical assistance to educate and assist insured depository institutions regarding regulations, policies, and guidance. These forms of assistance include, but are not limited to:

Technical Assistance Videos

Directors' Resource Center

Director/Banker Colleges

Teleconferences and Webinars

Community Bank Resource Kits

Regional Compliance Newsletters

Individual Assistance to Institutions

**Suggested Topics for Commenters**

To support bank risk management and compliance efforts and reduce burden for institutions, both in terms of expending fewer resources to find relevant information and decreasing the amount of information that needs to be reviewed, the FDIC is seeking input on how best to support effective management and operation of FDIC-supervised institutions through improved technical assistance. The FDIC encourages comments from all interested members of the public, including but not limited to, insured depository institutions, other financial

institutions or companies, and other members of the financial services industry. Detailed and specific comments, including whether the commenter prefers one form of assistance or support over another, would be helpful to the FDIC.

In addition to feedback on the FDIC's technical assistance initiatives described above, the FDIC requests input on the following specific topics and questions related to the FDIC's technical assistance:

Technical Assistance Videos

1) The FDIC began issuing technical assistance videos in 2013. The target audience for these videos includes bank directors or bank officers.

- a. Have you used any of these technical assistance videos? **YES**
- b. If so, describe how you use the videos within your institution. **BSA/AML AND TRUSTEE RESOURCE TOOL**
- c. Which have been most helpful to your directors? **THE INTRODUCTION FOR NEW DIRECTOR VIDEOS (SHORTER/LESS TECHNICAL VIDEOS)**
- d. Which have been most helpful to management? **TECHNICAL OVERVIEW VIDEOS ON BANK SECRECY AND VENDOR MANAGEMENT**

2) In the last year, the FDIC changed the format of the videos to voice-over recordings. This format allows the FDIC to update videos more quickly and at a lower cost. The first video issued using this new format is the Bank Secrecy Act video released in December 2018. What are your thoughts on the new format?

**THE NEW FORMAT IS FINE. NO LOSS IN QUALITY FROM PREVIOUS. GREAT THAT IT IS MORE FLEXIBLE FOR YOU TO MANAGE**

3) The FDIC's Technical Assistance Video Program provides videos for bank

- b. Is it more useful for the target audience of these videos to be bank directors, management, or staff? **MANAGEMENT / STAFF**
  - c. Would you like to see videos for additional groups (smaller subsets of bank staff, for example)? **NO. THEY ARE SUFFICIENT IN COVERING ALL KEY GROUPS**
- 4) The FDIC seeks to provide technical assistance videos on topics that provide the most benefit to community bankers.
- a. Of the current videos offered, which do you believe are the most important for the FDIC to retain and continue to maintain and update over time? **CYBER SECURITY AND CRA**
  - b. Are there any additional videos the FDIC should consider adding to its video program? **SHORT VIDEOS ON EACH INDIVIDUAL COMPONENT OF CAMELS RATING. ALSO, PERHAPS BALANCING CREDIT RISK AND FAIR LENDING.**
  - c. Are there any videos that should be removed from the current Technical Assistance Video Program? **MAYBE THE OVERVIEW OF FDIC EXAM PROCESS**

Directors' Resource Center

- 5) Currently, the Directors' Resource Center is organized by product (videos, supervisory guidance, etc.). The FDIC is considering how to improve the Directors' Resource Center. One step underway is moving to a topic-based resource center where significant information regarding a single topic will be located. The Bank Secrecy Act resource page, which was released on May 21, 2019, is the first issuance under this initiative and can be found at <https://www.fdic.gov/regulations/examinations/bsa/>.

- a. Do you prefer topic-based resource pages or product-based resource pages? Please explain. **WE PREFER TOPIC BASED AND THEN PRODUCT DRILL DOWN**
- b. Using the Bank Secrecy Act resource page as an example, please provide feedback on the format of such a topic-based resource center.
- c. What suggestions do you have to further improve this format? **NONE**
- d. Are there additional types of information that would be useful to add to such a page? **NO**
- e. Please list additional topics for which the FDIC should develop a resource page. **SAFETY AND SOUNDNESS CAMELS COMPONENTS**

Director/Banker Colleges

- 6) The FDIC provides course offerings for bank directors and officers through its Director/Banker College program. These programs are offered locally by the FDIC's six regional offices, and topics are chosen based on the local areas.
  - a. Have you attended one of these events in the last two years? **NO. ALL TRUSTEES ATTEND THE ANNUAL NYBA FINANCIAL SERVICES FORUM FOR SUCH CONTINUING EDUCATION**
  - b. Do you find these one-day seminars helpful? **N/A**
  - c. Is the length sufficient to meet your needs? **N/A**
  - d. Are there any topics you would like to see addressed? **N/A**

Teleconferences and Webinars

- 7) The FDIC hosts teleconferences and webinars to provide timely information to the industry.
  - a. Are the teleconferences and webinars useful? **YES**



- b. What would make them more useful? **HIGH LEVEL / EXAM RISK FOCUS**
- c. Please list any topics for which you would like the FDIC to host a teleconference or webinar. **MODEL RISK MGT. HIGH LEVEL.**
- d. Provide feedback on the announcement of teleconferences and webinars, including the length of time between the announcement and the event.
- e. Should the FDIC establish a regular schedule for teleconferences and webinars with specific topics to be announced closer to the date of the event? **NOT NECESSARY. CURRENT PROTOCOL IS FINE.**
- f. Are the materials provided for teleconferences and webinars helpful? **YES**
- g. How can we increase the effectiveness of materials? For example, should audio files and other materials be available after the events and posted on the topic-based resource pages, if applicable? **UNLESS YOU ARE RECEIVING REQUESTS, IT IS GOOD AS IS.**

Community Bank Resource Kit

- 8) The FDIC created a Community Bank Resource Kit in 2016 that included a reprint of the agency's Pocket Guide for Directors, information on the Technical Assistance Video Program, information on cybersecurity and cyber resources, various reprints of *Supervisory Insights* articles, and information on other topics. These Kits were provided at FDIC Director/Banker Colleges and sent to each state non-member bank.
  - a. Have these Kits been useful to your institution? If so, were the Kits more useful to board members or to bank officers and staff? **TRUTHFULLY, WE HAVE NOT UTILIZED THEM**

- b. Would you be interested in an updated Community Bank Resource Kit? If so, what materials or information would you like to see included? **NOT INTERESTED IN NEW KIT.**
- c. Would you prefer the Kit in print (hard copy), electronic delivery, or both? **N/A**

Regional Compliance Newsletters

- 9) Each of the FDIC's six regions produces a quarterly consumer compliance newsletter. These regional newsletters are sent via email to all state nonmember banks within the region. The newsletters provide information on FDIC initiatives, updates to regulatory guidance, common examination findings, and other topics.
- a. Are these newsletters helpful to your institution? **YES**
  - b. Do you prefer longer, more in-depth articles that address a compliance topic or shorter, briefer articles that provide a quick update? **SHORTER/ BRIEFER**
  - c. Is there additional information you would like to see addressed in the newsletters? **NOT PRESENTLY. YOU ARE GOOD AT KEEPING THEM RELEVANT**
  - d. Is email an effective delivery method? Why or why not? **YES, EMAIL IS PREFERRED**

Individual Assistance to Institutions

- 10) How often have you contacted the FDIC in the last year to request technical assistance unrelated to an examination? In the last five years? **RARELY. MAYBE ONCE OR TWICE IN 5 YEARS.**
- 11) If you requested technical assistance unrelated to an examination, on what topics did you request technical assistance? Did you contact the local field office, the regional office, or the Washington Office for assistance? **LOAN LOSS RESERVES AND CALL REPORTING. WE CONTACTED REGIONAL OFFICE**

12) What type of assistance was most effective? What was least effective? TELEPHONE / EMAIL TYPICALLY MOST EFFECTIVE, HOWEVER, ANY FORMAT IS O.K., WE ATRE NOT PICKY.

13) What steps did you take based on the assistance provided? WE ULTIMATELY ACTED CONSISTENT WITH FEEDBACK PROVIDED

Other Items

14) In responding to the questions below, it would be helpful to indicate in rank order, or note preference or priority among, technical assistance offerings that you or your institution find most helpful.

a. Which technical assistance offerings do your board members prefer? NONE. THEY LEAN ON IN HOUSE TRAINING AND NYBA CONFERENCE EDUCATION.

b. Which technical assistance offerings do your bank officers prefer? BSA/ AML. EXAMINATION INSIGHTS.

15) What other methods, if any, should the FDIC consider using to provide technical assistance? NONE

16) Have you attended training or received technical assistance from another regulator (state or Federal) that was more helpful than that provided by the FDIC? Please explain. NO

17) Have you attended training or received technical assistance from a third party that you felt could be provided by the FDIC? Please describe. NO.

Dated at Washington, DC, on June 3, 2019.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

**Valerie Best,**  
*Assistant Executive Secretary.*