

Grant Spotlight: U.S. Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

The USDA is offering funds for the development of community facilities in rural areas. Projects must provide substantial community support and be located in rural areas with fewer than 20,000 residents.

Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Award: Awards can be grants, low-interest loans, or a combination of both. Visit the USDA program page (linked below) to see the conditions for grant award sizes.

Application deadline: Applications are accepted year round.

Match Requirement: Yes; amount depends on various factors.

Application Tips

- Priority will be given to small communities with populations of fewer than 5,500.
- Priority will be given to low-income communities, those with a median income below 80% of the state nonmetro median household income.
- Applicants must be unable to finance the project through commercial credit or from their own resources.
- An environmental review must be completed before application.
- To apply, first contact your local USDA Rural Development office. They will help with the application process, saving you time.

Eligible Recipients

- Local governments with fewer than 20,000 residents
- Federally recognized tribes
- Community-based non-profits
- School districts
- State governments

Eligible Projects

Funds can be used to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities. This can include fees for planning, environmental, engineering, etc., studies. Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Health care facilities: medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes
- Public facilities: town halls, courthouses, airport hangers, street improvements
- Community support services: child care centers, community centers, fairgrounds, transitional housing
- Public safety services: fire departments, police stations, vehicles, equipment
- Educational services: museums, libraries, private schools
- Utility services: telemedicine, distance learning equipment
- Local food systems: food pantries, community gardens, community kitchens

Resources

- [Grant opportunity - grants.gov](#)
- [Program page - USDA](#)
- [USDA Rural Development State Offices](#)

