

# Grant Spotlight: U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Rural Community Development Initiative

As part of the Rural Community Development Initiative, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has \$5 million in grants available for community and economic development projects in rural communities. Funding is available to organizations that provide financial and technical assistance for housing, community facilities, or community and economic development projects in rural areas.

**Agency:** U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Award:** Minimum award is \$50,000; maximum award is \$500,000

**Application deadline:** July 10 for electronic applications.

**Match requirement:** Matching fund requirement equal to the amount of the grant

**Eligible applicants:** Communities with less than 50,000 residents

### Eligible Projects

- Housing
- Community facilities
- Community and economic development
- Training to sub-grantees in:
  - Home-ownership education
  - Minority business entrepreneur development
- Technical assistance to sub-grantees on:
  - Strategic plan development
  - Accessing alternative funding sources
  - Board training
  - Developing successful child care facilities
  - Creating training tools, such as videos, workbooks and reference guides
  - Effective fundraising techniques

### Eligible Recipients

- Public bodies and organizations;
- Tribal organizations;
- Nonprofit organizations;
- Qualified private organizations.
- Rural areas are any area other than a city or town that has a population greater than 50,000 inhabitants and the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town.

### Application Tips

- The grant requires equal matching funds
- In-kind contributions cannot be used as matching funds
- Partnerships with other federal, state, local and private and nonprofit entities are encouraged
- Contact your local USDA Rural Development office for questions or assistance with your application

Priority points are available for certain applications and points are added to the established scoring criterion to help determine which projects qualify for funding.

Extra points will be awarded to projects that:

- Address climate change and environmental justice by reducing pollution and providing economic support to rural communities
- Ensure rural residents have equitable access to rural development programs
- Help rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure

### Resource

[rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/rural-community-development-initiative-grants](https://rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/rural-community-development-initiative-grants)



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