

USDA Seeks Applications for Community Development Grants

Written by

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STEVENS POINT, WI – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is inviting applications for two grants to support economic development and Community Facilities technical assistance in rural communities.

USDA is making grants available under the [Rural Community Development Initiative](#) (RCDI) program to strengthen the rural economy. Qualified intermediary organizations receiving RCDI grants will provide technical assistance and training to help nonprofit organizations and communities develop their capacity to undertake housing, community facilities or economic development projects. Applicants must have capacity-building experience for these types of projects and must provide matching funds at least equal to the RCDI grant. Grants range from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Eligible recipients are nonprofit organizations, low-income rural communities or federally recognized tribes. RCDI grants are not provided directly to businesses or individuals. For more information on how to apply, see page 24281 of the May 26 [Federal Register](#)

. The deadline to submit paper applications is July 25, 2017.

Another grant is being provided through the [Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program](#). Congress authorized this new program in the 2014 Farm Bill to help rural communities develop their applications for Community Facilities loans and grants. Communities can use the grants to hire specialized personnel, pay for feasibility studies, retain consultants to prepare financial assistance applications and identify and plan for long-term community facility needs. Public bodies, non-profit organizations and Federally-recognized Tribes are eligible to apply for this funding. The maximum grant is \$150,000. For more information on how to apply, see page 23525 of the May 23, 2017, [Federal Register](#)

. The deadline to submit paper applications is July 24, 2017.

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USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; homeownership; community services such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.