

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY FACILITY GRANT

Community Facility (CF) grants can be used to develop and improve essential public community facilities located in rural areas of up to 20,000 in population. Funds can be used for equipment to be purchased and for facility construction or improvements for projects that have not already been started.

The Agency will authorize the use of grant funds on a graduated scale enabling rural communities with small populations and low-income levels to receive a greater percentage of grant funds. Projects will be selected based on a priority point system. Small communities with a population of 5,000 or less and low-income levels will receive the highest priority.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Eligibility is limited to nonprofit organizations, public bodies and Federally recognized Tribes serving rural areas. Applicants must:

1. Be unable to finance the proposed project from its own resources or through commercial sources at reasonable rates and terms.
2. Have the legal authority necessary for construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed facility.
3. If real estate improvements are proposed, the applicant must own the real estate to be improved.
4. Propose facilities that are necessary for orderly community development.
5. Facility must be located in a community having a population of 20,000 or less.
6. Serve areas where the median household income of the population to be served by the proposed facility is below the higher of the poverty line or 90 percent of the state non-metropolitan median household income.
7. ***Nonprofit organizations must demonstrate significant ties to the local community to ensure that the facility will carry out a public purpose and continue to primarily serve rural areas. They must also be able to provide letters of support from each government body that would be affected by the proposed project.***

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

HOW MAY FUNDS BE USED?

Health Care

Medical Equipment
Computer Equipment
Ambulance

Public Safety

911 Communication Equipment
Fire Station
Fire Truck & Equipment
Police Car & Equipment
Early Warning Siren

Public Services

Child Care Center
Public Library
Community Center
Food Pantry
Farmer's Market

WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM GRANT? If eligible and grant funds are available, the levels of grant assistance are up to 15 percent, 35 percent, 55 percent and 75 percent of the eligible project costs, depending upon a review of the population where the project would be located, median household income of the proposed service area and a review of the applicant's current and past financial records. The applicant's available excess funds must be proposed to be used towards the proposed project. **Grant funds are limited, and the maximum grant is typically \$50,000 or less for each project.**

WHERE IS THE APPLICATION PACKAGE OBTAINED AND FILED? Contact the Rural Development Area Office serving your community:

Harrison Area Office	870-741-8600 (Ext. 126)	Jennifer.Embach@usda.gov
Jonesboro Area Office	870-819-4583	Tammy.Moser@usda.gov
Forest City Area Office	870-581-4383 870-581-4369	Betty.Searcy@usda.gov Flora.Pruitt@usda.gov
Monticello Area Office	870-727-6142 870-224-7297	Marisa.Harris@usda.gov Michael.Montgomery@usda.gov
Hope Area Office	870-474-3275	Kelly.Honea@usda.gov
Fort Smith Area Office	870-741-8600 (Ext. 102)	Matthew.Hudson@usda.gov

If you have any questions you may also contact Richard.maurer@usda.gov, David.Kirchner@usda.gov or Tim.Smith3@usda.gov in the State Office.

Additional information on USDA Rural Development programs and related forms can be obtained at the following website: www.rd.usda.gov

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If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.