

Strategic Economic and Community Development

What does this program do?

Using reserve funding from specific, covered USDA Rural Development programs, Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) supports eligible projects in implementing strategic community investment plans. Created by local stakeholders, these plans help build rural prosperity by amplifying a community's unique strengths.

We also can help you identify additional resources, organize and convene potential partners, and leverage other federal, state, local and private funding.

The following USDA Rural Development programs support SECD funding:

- **Community Facilities Direct Loan Program – available at this link: tinyurl.com/42nkyyct**
- **Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program - available at this link: tinyurl.com/yvdhzuuj**
- **Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program – available at this link: tinyurl.com/yetr8dc7**
- **Water and Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees – available at this link: tinyurl.com/5xrceb88**
- **Rural Business Development Grants – available at this link: tinyurl.com/mcwu7u9y**

Who can apply?

To be eligible for SECD funding, your project must:

- Be eligible for a covered USDA Rural Development program
- Be carried out in a rural area
- Support a multijurisdictional and multisectoral strategic community investment plan

To apply, you must meet all program requirements for the associated SECD-covered USDA Rural Development program. You also must submit RD Form 1980-88 (available at this link: tinyurl.com/y3f65upf - PDF) to your nearest USDA Rural Development office.

If you are applying for SECD funding through a covered USDA RD loan guarantee program, you can submit your forms using the OneRD Guarantee Loan Initiative application available at this link: tinyurl.com/bp8rww6w).

What are some application considerations?

Among other things, when reviewing your application, we will assess how well your project:

- Supports a multijurisdictional, multisectoral plan
- Shows evidence of collaboration among multiple stakeholders

- Acknowledges regional resources
- Identifies strategic partners' monetary and nonmonetary investments, including private and philanthropic organizations and non-USDA funding sources
- Presents a rural vision and articulates clear objectives, including implementation action steps and measurable performance metrics

How do we get started?

Each participating USDA RD-covered programs has different deadlines for application receipt. Be sure follow program guidelines carefully.

Contact your state-based USDA Rural Development office for a plan review before submitting your application. A list of state offices is available at this link: tinyurl.com/ytjhaa2x.

Who can answer questions?

Your state-based USDA Rural Development office can answer SECD-covered program questions. See the link above under “How do we get started?” You also can reach the SECD staff at this email address: rd.secd@usda.gov.

What governs this program?

SECD is authorized by Section 6401 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (PL 115 – 334, available at this link: tinyurl.com/243tpcwm)

NOTE: Because information changes, always consult official program instructions or contact your local Rural Development office for help. A list is available at this link: go.usa.gov/xJHPE. You will find additional resources, forms, and program information at rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Last revised April 2024