



Rural Development

April 4, 2018

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TO: State Directors
Rural Development

ATTN: Community Programs Directors

FROM: Curtis M. Anderson /s/ *Curtis M. Anderson*
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SUBJECT: Use of National Office Reserve for Community Facilities
Grant Program

This unnumbered letter is issued to announce the National Office reserve of \$5,000,000 in Community Facilities (CF) Grant Program funds in Fiscal Year 2018 in accordance with 7 CFR 1940.552(g). These funds will be awarded to eligible and innovative essential community facility project applications that best address the current opioid crisis in rural America. The National Center for Health Statistics estimates that more than 63,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2016. More than half of those deaths involved opioids, including prescription drugs and heroin. This reserve is justified to help meet this emergency condition. The maximum amount of grant funds awarded to a project from this reserve will be \$150,000.

Implementation

Rural Development (RD) officials will continue to review and score applications based on project selection priorities in 7 CFR 3570.67 and the following unnumbered letters:

1. Unnumbered Letter (UL) dated February 27, 2018, "Implementation of the Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity in the Community Facilities Loan and Grant Programs."
2. UL dated April 4, 2018, Best Practices for Evaluating the Feasibility and Eligibility of Community Facilities Projects.

Discretionary points under 7 CFR 3570.67 should be used to the maximum extent permitted for projects that will address opioid misuse. Those applications may be submitted to the National Office for funding from the \$5M reserve as detailed below.

EXPIRATION DATE:
April 30, 2019

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:
Community Programs

Submission Guidelines

The deadline for submitting a funds request to the National Office for this reserve is close of business July 2, 2018. All funding requests will be submitted through CPAP.

Projects that meet the criteria for consideration of the Acting Administrator's 30 discretionary points will flag their project in CPAP at the Initial Contacts/Project tab by inserting the Project Name field beginning with "2018 I" (example 2018I First Responder Vehicle).

In the Notes and Attachments/Notes tab of CPAP, add Note Type, Proposed Facility Information. Document in this Note how the project demonstrates an innovative approach by:

1. Leveraging funds from other resources that increase investment in responses to the opioid crisis;
2. Seeking strategic partnerships to devise new and different ways to address community impacts; and/or
3. Collaborating with service providers to address health needs in the community.

Comments should be concise, addressing each approach listed above, and include a brief project description.

The project description should include key innovative strategies addressing the social and economic impacts that stem from the lack of prevention, treatment, and recovery resources for addressing opioid misuse. Such strategies may include: achieving e-Connectivity for rural America; harnessing technological innovation; contributing to the development of robust and healthy living spaces; developing the rural economy; and supporting a rural workforce and other measures that improve the quality of life.

For all projects, State Offices will complete CPAP with all applicant and project information along with documentation to support the grant request. Special attention should be given to completing the priority points section correctly.

State Offices will only submit a request for funds for complete grant applications that have been determined eligible, feasible and meet all statutory and regulatory requirements.

Selection Guidelines

All grant requests received by the deadline will be reviewed and ranked by the National Office based on the priorities outlined in 7 CFR 3570.67 and how well the application's innovative approach will address the current opioid crisis.

Awards will be made on or around August 1, 2018.

Any remaining reserve funding will be used for the regular grant pool for end of year grant funding requests which will be awarded on a regional competitive basis.

Summary

All requests for Community Facilities grant reserve funds will be considered for selection in accordance with the priorities outlined in 7 CFR 3570.67 and applicable unnumbered letters.

Because CF can play an important role in addressing substance use disorders through strategic investments in essential community facilities, projects that demonstrate innovative approaches to the opioid crisis will be considered for the Acting Administrator's 30 discretionary points. Reserve funding will be used for those innovative applications that best address the current opioid crisis.

State Offices should review Attachment A to the unnumbered letter dated April 4, 2018, Best Practices for Evaluating the Feasibility and Eligibility of Community Facilities Projects, for additional information regarding substance use disorder treatment services.

Please address any questions you have to Martha Torrez, Director, Direct Loan and Grant Division, Community Facilities Programs at martha.torrez@wdc.usda.gov.