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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Rural Utilities Service

**RUS BULLETIN 1780-1**  
**RD-GD-2020-102**

**SUBJECT: Water & Waste Project Selection Criteria**

**TO:** State Directors, Rural Development

**ATTN:** Community Programs - Program Directors

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Date of approval

**OFFICE OF PRIMARY INTEREST:** Assistant Administrator, Water and Environmental  
Programs

**AVAILABILITY:** This Bulletin is available on the Internet at  
[http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RDU\\_Bulletins\\_Water\\_and\\_Environmental.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RDU_Bulletins_Water_and_Environmental.html)

**PURPOSE:** To lay out how priority points are awarded for Water and Waste projects.

**WATER & WASTE  
PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA**

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

<b>PRIORITIES</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
Population priorities:	
1. Project primarily serves a rural area equal to or less than 1,000 population.	25
2. Project primarily serves a rural area between 1,001 and 2,500 population.	15
3. Project primarily serves a rural area between 2,501 and 5,500 population.	5
B. Health priorities	
1. Project alleviates emergency situation, corrects unanticipated diminution or deterioration of a water supply or to meet Safe Drinking Water Act requirements which pertain to a water system.	25
2. Project to correct inadequacies of a wastewater disposal system or to meet health or sanitary standards which pertain to a wastewater disposal system.	25
3. Projects which are required to meet administrative orders issued to correct local, State or Federal violations pertaining to solid waste.	15
C. Median household income (MHI) priorities.	
1. MHI less than the poverty line if the poverty line is less than 80% of state nonmetropolitan household income (SNMHI).	30
2. Less than 80% of the SNMHI.	20
3. Equal to or more than the poverty line and between 80% & 100% inclusive, of the SNMHI.	15

D. Other priorities:

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Project to merge ownership, management, and operations of smaller systems for more efficient management and economic service. | 15 |
| 2. Project to enlarge, extend, or otherwise modify existing facilities to serve additional rural residents.                      | 10 |
| 3. Applicant is a public body or Indian tribe.   | 5  |
| 4. Amount of other funds committed to project is:  |    |
| a. 50% or more   | 15 |
| b. 20-49%  | 10 |
| c. 5-19%   | 5  |
| 5. Project will serve an Agency identified target area.  | 10 |
| 6. Project will primarily recycle solid waste products thereby limiting the need for solid waste disposal.                       | 5  |
| 7. The proposed project will serve an area that has an unreliable quality or supply of drinking water.                           | 10 |

E. State Program Director's discretionary points.  
Up to 15 Points may be awarded to projects to improve compatibility/coordination between RUS's and other agencies' selection systems and to assist those projects that are most cost effective and that provides for effective RUS fund utilization.

\_\_\_\_\_

F. Total Points.

\_\_\_\_\_

G. Administrator's discretionary points.

\_\_\_\_\_

State Program Directors should recommend and provide written justification for assignment of Administrator's point under this paragraph.

\_\_\_\_\_  
STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date