

Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households Grants

What does this program do?

This program helps small, financially-distressed rural communities pay for predevelopment feasibility studies, design, and technical assistance for proposed water and waste disposal projects.

Who can apply?

- **Most state and local governments**
- **Nonprofit organizations**
- **Federally-recognized Tribes**

What is an eligible area?

Eligible service areas must be rural, considered financially distressed, and:

- Be located in cities, towns, or unincorporated areas with populations of 2,500 or fewer, according to the most recent U.S. Census data
- Have median household incomes either below the poverty line - or less than 80 percent of the statewide, nonmetropolitan median household income - using 2006 - 2010 American Community Survey data.

How can funds be used?

Grant funds can be used to pay for eligible predevelopment planning costs and activities, including:

- Feasibility studies to support applications for funding water or waste disposal projects
- Preliminary design and engineering analysis
- Technical assistance to develop applications for financial assistance

Are there additional requirements?

Yes. Predevelopment planning costs must be related to a proposed project that:

- Builds, enlarges, extends, or improves rural water, wastewater, solid waste, or storm water disposal facilities

- Builds or relocates public or private buildings, roads, bridges, fences, or utilities, or makes other improvements necessary for the successful operation or protection of facilities

How do we get started?

- Applications are accepted year-round through your local USDA Rural Development office. A list is available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xtpEe>.
- Program resources such as guidance, forms, certifications, and so on, are available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xzBQD>.

What governs this program?

- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 7, Part 1774, available at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/52byeruf>
- Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xMT4s>

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: <https://go.usa.gov/xJHPE>. You will find additional resources, forms, and program information at <https://rd.usda.gov>. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.