

Water & Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants

What does this program do?

This program assists low-income communities with initial planning and development of applications for USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal direct loan/grant and loan guarantee programs.

Who may apply?

- **Most state and local governmental entities**
- **Nonprofit organizations**
- **Federally recognized Tribes**

What is an eligible area?

- Rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less – check eligible addresses
- Federally recognized tribal lands
- Colonias

NOTE: The area must have a median household income below the poverty line or less than 80 percent of the statewide non-metropolitan median household income.

How may the funds be used?

Grants may be used to pay part of the costs of developing a complete application for USDA Rural Development Water & Waste Disposal direct loan/grant and loan guarantee programs.

What are the terms for the grants?

- Grants may not be used to pay for work already completed.
- The amount of the grant will be subtracted from the total grant eligibility if a USDA grant is awarded for part of the water or waste disposal project.
- These grants do not have to be paid back if the application for the USDA direct loan or loan/grant combination is not successful.
- Grants are based on demonstrated need and subject to the availability of funds.

- Partnerships with other federal, state, and local entities are encouraged, and grants are awarded only when the applicant cannot afford to borrow the needed funds.

Is there a maximum grant amount?

Maximum of \$30,000 or 75 percent of the predevelopment planning costs.

Are matching funds required?

Yes, at least 25 percent of the project cost must come from the applicant or third-party sources. In-kind contributions do not count toward this minimum.

How do we get started?

Applications for this program are accepted year round through your local RD office. Program resources are available online (includes forms needed, guidance, certifications, etc.).

Who can answer questions?

- Help is always available through your local RD office.
- Participating nonprofit associations also offer assistance and training.

What governs this program?

- Code of Federal Regulations,
[7 CFR 1780](#)
- Agricultural Act of 2014

Forms & Resources

NOTE: Please select your state in the dropdown menu above to find the [state office contact information](#) and speak to a program specialist before attempting to fill out any forms or applications. This will save you time in completing your application.

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled “*What Governs This Program?*” You may also contact [your local office](#) for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at [rd.usda.gov](#). *USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*