

Strategic Economic and Community Development

Background

Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) funding is authorized through a provision of the 2018 Farm Bill supporting regional economic and community development planning.

Purpose

With set-aside funding designed to bolster participating USDA Rural Development programs, SECD supports projects that promote and implement strategic community investment plans. Created by local stakeholders, these plans build rural prosperity by amplifying a community's unique strengths. Rural Development also can assist by identifying additional resources, convening partners, and helping leverage federal, state, local and private funding.

Who may apply for this program?

To be eligible for SECD, a project must:

- Be eligible for a participating USDA Rural Development program
- Be carried out in a rural area
- Support a multi-jurisdictional and multisectoral strategic community investment plan.

What is the application process?

To apply, applicants must meet participating Rural Development program requirements and submit Form RD 1980-88 to the nearest USDA office.

Applicants applying for SECD funding through a participating loan guarantee program may submit forms under OneRD Guarantee Loan Initiative application guidelines.

Consideration is based on:

1. How well the project supports a multi-jurisdictional plan; and
2. Whether the plan contains evidence of collaboration among multiple stakeholders, leverages regional resources - such as monetary and non-monetary investments from strategic partners including private and philanthropic organizations and government entities - and articulates clear objectives with implementation action steps and measurable performance metrics.

Applicants are encouraged to seek plan reviews prior to submitting their application. Your state-based participating Rural Development program staff can help.

Participating Rural Development Programs

Priority may be given to applications submitted through the following programs:

- Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program
- Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program
- Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program
- Water and Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees
- Business & Industry Loan Guarantees
- Rural Business Development Grants

For More Information:

Please contact Kristen.Grifka@usda.gov or Gregory.Batson@usda.gov

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, always consult the program instructions listed in the section titled "For More Information." 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.