



Funding Opportunities for Rural Communities

USDA, Rural Development Illinois

 Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Community Programs

Water and Waste Disposal

- Clean, reliable drinking water systems
- Sanitary sewage disposal
- Storm water drainage

Key Programs and Opportunities

- Water & Waste Disposal –
 - Direct Loans
 - Grants
 - Loan Guarantees
- Predevelopment Planning Grants-
- SEARCH Grants
- Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant (ECWAG)



What do we offer?

- Competitive, low fixed rates – 3 tier system
- Longer loan terms -up to 40 years
- Technical assistance
- Experienced staff- exceptional customer service
- Partnership

Who is eligible?

- Public bodies
- Special Purpose Districts
- Not for Profits
- Indian tribes
- Population of 10,000 or less –WW
- Population of 50,000 - Guarantees



Pre-Development and Planning Grants (PPG)

Eligibility

- Most State and Local governments (Public Bodies), Not for Profit Organizations and Federally-recognized Tribes.
- Rural service areas less than 10,000
- MHI of the service area must be less than 80% of statewide non-metro and/or below poverty level.
- Pay costs associated with developing an application for a proposed water or wastewater project:
 - Preliminary Engineering Report
 - Environmental Report
 - Costs incurred prior to grant closing will not be considered eligible for PPG.
- The proposed project must be for eligible loan and grant purposes.
- Applicants must show they do **not** have resources to pay predevelopment expenses on their own.
- Grants limited to \$30,000 or 75% of the project cost, whichever is less.

SEARCH GRANT

Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and House holds Grant

Eligibility

- Most State and Local governments (Public Bodies), Not for Profit Organizations and Federally-recognized Tribes.
- **Rural and financially distressed service area:**
 - 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 2020 – 2021 American Community Survey data.
- **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

SEARCH GRANT

Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and House holds Grant

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.

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG)

Eligibility

- Most State and Local governments (Public Bodies), Not for Profit Organizations and Federally-recognized Tribes
- Rural service areas 10,000 or less.
- Helps eligible communities prepare or recover from an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water.
- Events included, but not limited to: Drought or flood, earthquake, tornado or hurricane, disease outbreak, chemical spill leak or seepage.
- Funds can be used to make repairs to water lines not to exceed \$150,000. If the water source has been negatively impacted, grants up to \$1,000,000 may be obtained.
- Simplified Engineering and Environmental Reporting Requirements.

Water & Waste Programs

- Funds can be used for new construction, improvements, renovations, replacements, extensions, engineering and legal fees, land, equipment, other soft costs, etc.
- Typical projects: Water or sewer main replacement, new treatment plants, storage tanks, extensions to serve additional users, regional water supplies, other.
- Funding could range from less than \$100,000 to millions.
- Grant funds may be available in order to keep user rates reasonable.
- Can partner with other funding sources.



FY 2024

- Applications accepted year around for core programs
 - Able to fund applications typically same year received. Looking for apps
 - Funded over \$240 M in projects in last 3 years (WEP).
 - Funded \$34M this year so far
 - Loan/Grant decisions made project by project based on qualifications/user rates/need/available funding. This year grant funding was limited.
- Low Fixed Interest Rates – 6/1/24 – 9/3/24, Up to 40 yr Terms
 - WW Loans (P) **2.375%** (I) **3.250%** (M) **4.000%**
- Online application process available – RD Apply.
- Can leverage our funds with almost any other private/state/fed sources

Illinois CP Map



