

ELIGIBLE PURPOSES

Water and Waste Disposal loans and grants may be made to develop, extend, or improve water and wastewater systems, including solid waste disposal and storm drainage, in rural areas.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

An eligible applicant can be a public body (town, village, special purpose district) or a non-profit association serving a community with a population of 10,000 or less. Applicants must also show that they are unable to afford commercial credit.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT

Eligible projects include water improvements (source, storage, distribution, treatment, meters), sanitary sewer (collection, treatment, combined sewer separation, storm sewers), solid waste disposal (transfer station, incinerator), new systems, renovations, expansions, purchase of an existing system or "buy-in" fees to existing systems.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS

Eligible costs include funds for engineering, construction, legal costs, land and rights, interim financing interest and equipment. Individual house service connections are generally not eligible.

LOAN TERMS/RATES

In Vermont, terms are limited by state law to 30 years for sewer and 40 years for water improvements. In New Hampshire, terms are limited by state law to 30 years for water and 30 years for sewer. The interest rate is based on the median household income of the service area. For current interest rates, contact Rural Development

GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Grants are available to supplement loans when:

1. the service area is determined to be low income and
2. the projected user rates will be unreasonably high.

INFORMATION NEEDED TO DETERMINE GRANT ELIGIBILITY

1. Total project cost.
2. Projected operating costs
3. Repayment schedule of any existing long term debt.
4. Number of equivalent users (EDU).
5. Amount of other funding proposed.

PROCUREMENT METHODS

Competitive sealed bids.
There are no Federal Wage requirements (Davis- Bacon).

FREE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Free technical assistance is available to:

1. Provide operations assistance for existing systems.
2. Identify and evaluate solutions to problems.
3. Advertise for and select a consulting engineer.
4. Assist applicants with the Rural Development application process.
5. Provide income surveys.

This assistance is available through Rural Development staff, Vermont Rural Water Association 800-556-3792, Granite State Rural Water Association 603-753-4055 and RCAP Solutions, Inc. 800-488-1969.

VERY IMPORTANT
To determine the maximum assistance that can be offered, please contact Rural Development at the earliest possible stage of your planning.