

Water and Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants

What does this program do?

This program helps eligible low-income communities plan and develop applications for proposed USDA Rural Development water or waste disposal projects.

Who can apply?

- **Most state and local governments**
- **Nonprofit organizations**
- **Federally recognized Tribes**
(A list is available at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/4vfb3n4m>)

What is an eligible area?

- Rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or fewer. (Check your eligibility at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xhWZ2>)
- 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 can funds be used?

This program helps eligible low-income communities plan and develop applications for proposed USDA Rural Development water or waste disposal projects.

What are the grant terms?

- Grants cannot 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 and grant combination is not successful.
- Grants are based on demonstrated need and availability of funds.

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

Is there a maximum grant amount?

The maximum grant award is \$60,000 — or 75 percent of 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 are accepted year-round through your local Rural Development office. (A list of offices is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9ewras>)

Program resources — forms needed, guidance, certifications and more — are available online at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xzBym>.

Who can answer questions?

- Help is always available through your local Rural Development office. (A list of offices is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9ewras>)
- Participating nonprofit associations also offer assistance and training. You can work with your local Rural Development staff to learn about available help in your area.

What governs this program?

- Code of Federal Regulations, 7 CFR 1780. (Information is available at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/5t4ds79e>)
- Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (information is available at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/23hjt2et>)

Forms and Resources

NOTE: Please speak to a program specialist in the state in which your proposed project is located before you attempt to complete your application. (A list of offices is available at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9ewras>)



USDA's Water and Waste Disposal
Predevelopment Planning Grant website

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>.

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