

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Water and Waste Disposal Programs

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) administers a water and wastewater loan and grant program to improve the quality of life and promote economic development in rural America. RUS is a new agency created in October 1994 by the reorganization of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

***WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOANS**

- ~ Purpose: Direct loans may be made to develop water and wastewater systems, including solid waste disposal and storm drainage, in rural areas and to cities and towns with a population of 10,000 or less. Funds are available to public entities, such as municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, and Indian tribes. In addition, funds may be made available to corporations operated on a not-for-profit basis. Priority will be given to public entities in areas with less than 5,500 people, to restore a deteriorating water supply, or to improve, enlarge, or modify a water facility or an inadequate waste facility. Also, preference will be given to requests which involve the merging of small facilities and those serving low-income communities.
- ~ Applicants must be unable to obtain funds from other sources at reasonable rates and terms. The maximum term for all loans is 40 years, however, no repayment period will exceed state statutes or the useful life of the facility. Interest rates may be obtained from Rural Development field offices. Guaranteed loans may be made for the same purpose as direct loans. They are made and serviced by lenders, such as, banks and savings and loan associations. Normally, guarantees will not exceed 80 percent on any loss of interest and principle on the loan.

***WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL GRANTS**

- ~ Purpose: Reduce water and waste disposal costs to a reasonable level for users of the system. Grants may be made, in some instances, up to 75 percent of eligible project costs. Eligible applicants are the same as for loans.

*** TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING GRANTS**

- ~ Purpose: Make grants to non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance and/or training to associations located in rural areas and to cities and towns with a population of 10,000 or less. Assistance may be provided to identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste disposal problems, to improve the operation and maintenance of existing water and waste disposal facilities, and to assist associations in preparing applications for water and waste disposal facilities.

***SOLID WATER MANAGEMENT GRANTS**

- ~ Purpose: Make grants to public and private non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance and/or training to associations located in rural areas and to cities and towns with a population of 10,000 or less to reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources, and to improve planning and management of solid waste facilities. Assistance may be provided to enhance operator skills in operations and maintenance, identify threats to water resources, and reduce the solid waste stream.

***RURAL WATER CIRCUIT RIDER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

- ~ Purpose: Provide on-site technical assistance to help assure cost-effective operation of rural water systems. RUS has assisted rural water systems, via contracting, with day-to-day operational, financial and management problems. The assistance is provided at no charge and may be requested by officials of rural water systems or by Rural Development personnel. It complements supervisory assistance provided by Rural Development personnel.

*APPLICATIONS

~ Information about the water and waste disposal programs and advice on how to assemble information to determine engineering feasibility, economic soundness, cost estimates, organization, financing and management matters, may be obtained from Rural Development field offices. These offices are usually listed in local telephone directories under "U.S. Department of Agriculture."

*FOR MORE INFORMATION

~ Contact the Maine State USDA Rural Development Office at:

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Rural Development
967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4
Bangor, ME 04401-2767
TEL: (207) 990-9121
FAX: (207) 990-9129
TDD/TTY: (207) 942-7331

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Or the Area Office serving your county:

PRESQUE ISLE AREA OFFICE

Aroostook, Washington, and Northern
Penobscot Counties

735 Main Street, Suite 1
Presque Isle ME 04769-2285
Tel: (207) 764-4157
Fax: (207) 764-2246

AREA SPECIALIST

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BANGOR AREA OFFICE

Somerset, Piscataquis, Penobscot,
Hancock, Waldo, and Knox Counties

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Bangor, ME 04401-2468

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LEWISTON AREA OFFICE

Androscoggin, Franklin, Oxford,
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Lewiston ME 04240
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SCARBOROUGH AREA OFFICE

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