



Subject Specific Grant Guide

Grants to Support Various Projects in Rural Areas

This guide identifies potential funding opportunities released in Fiscal year 2023 to support community development, healthcare, broadband and energy, and water related projects in rural areas. These opportunities prioritize evidence-based, cost-effective programs for many of the most pressing issues that face rural communities.

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FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



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Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Agency: Rural Development - Rural Utilities Service

FY 2023 Broadband Technical Assistance

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to encourage the expansion of broadband services in rural areas by awarding cooperative agreement funding to eligible entities. This funding supports the delivery of technical assistance and training to rural communities in need of broadband and rural broadband providers. Eligible applicants are federally recognized tribes and tribal entities, state or local governments, institutions of higher education (including 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities), nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) IRS status, cooperatives or mutual organizations, corporations, and limited liability companies or limited liability partnerships.

Program History

Program history is unavailable for this program.

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$20 million

Award Range: \$50,000 - \$1 million

Match: Not Required

Solicitation date: April 19, 2023

Application due: June 20, 2023

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/broadband-technical-assistance-program>



Tips

The funding agency encourages projects to incorporate the following priorities:

- Assisting rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to RUS programs and benefits from RUS-funded projects.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Agency: Rural Development - Rural Utilities Service

FY 2023 Broadband Technical Assistance

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to encourage the expansion of broadband services in rural areas by awarding cooperative agreement funding to eligible entities. This funding supports the delivery of technical assistance and training to eligible rural communities in need of broadband and rural broadband providers. For the purposes of this program an eligible rural area is defined as follows:

- Any area not located within a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population greater than 20,000 inhabitants
- An urbanized area adjacent to a city or town with a population greater than 50,000, as confirmed by the most recent decennial U.S. Census.

The types of activities Broadband Technical Assistance (BTA) funding supports include project planning and community engagement, financial sustainability, environmental compliance, construction planning and engineering, accessing federal resources, and data collection and reporting. Eligible activities include:

- Helping rural communities, cooperatives, consultants, or other entities identify and plan for delivering broadband service to rural areas
- Identifying public and private resources to finance broadband facilities
- Preparing feasibility studies, financial forecasts, market surveys, environmental studies, and technical design information to support broadband services
- Preparing reports and surveys necessary to document the need for broadband services, determine price ranges, and request financial assistance
- Analyzing and improving broadband facilities management and operations, including implementing automation, adopting new software, conducting training, and determining efficiency

Proposed projects must also include a component that allows for active participation and substantial involvement by the funding agency. Projects must contain examples of measurable, substantial involvement including:

- Development of training sessions and outreach materials
- Joint gatherings of community members, partners, and stakeholders
- Joint delivery of training for USDA Rural Development programs
- Joint efforts to form new broadband cooperatives and support existing cooperative efforts to expand broadband service into rural areas

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are federally recognized tribes and tribal entities; states or local governments; a territory or possession of the United States; an institution of higher education (including 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Historically Black

Colleges and Universities; non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) IRS status; cooperatives or mutual organizations; corporations; and Limited Liability Companies or Limited Liability Partnerships.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$20 million is available to support awards through this program. The maximum and minimum award amounts vary by funding category. Minimum and maximum award amounts vary depending upon the funding category the applicant selects. Applicants must choose one funding category for consideration:

- Technical Assistance Providers: up to \$7.5 million is available. to support awards between \$50,000 and \$1 million. Those applying under this funding category must propose to deliver broadband technical assistance that will benefit rural communities.
- Technical Assistance Recipients: up to \$7.5 million is available to support awards between \$50,000 and \$250,000. Those applying under this funding category must be beneficiaries of broadband technical assistance.
- Projects Supporting Cooperatives: up to \$5 million is available to support awards between \$50,000 and \$1 million. Those submitting an application under this category must propose a project supporting the establishment or growth of broadband cooperatives that will benefit rural communities.

None of these funding categories require cost share or matching funds.

Contact Information

To submit questions to program staff regarding the program, please complete the form available at www.usda.gov/reconnect/contact-us and select “Broadband Technical Assistance” from the subject dropdown menu.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/broadband-technical-assistance-program>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Utilities Service

FY 2023 Community Connect Grant Program

Grant Overview

This program provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide service at or above the broadband grant speed to all premises in rural, economically-challenged communities where broadband service does not exist. The deployment of broadband services on a “community-oriented connectivity” basis stimulates economic development and provides enhanced educational and health care opportunities in rural areas. Eligible applicants are incorporated organizations; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; state and local governments; and any other legal entity, including a cooperative, private corporation, or limited liability company organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis.

Program History

Program history is unavailable for this program.

Key Information

Total Funding: \$79 million

Award Range: \$100,000 - \$5 million

Match: 15 percent

Solicitation Date: March 20, 2023

Proposal due: June 20, 2023

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/community-connect-grants#to-apply>



Tips

- A certification from the appropriate tribal official is required if service is being proposed over or on Tribal Lands.
- Existing Community Connect awardees can submit applications for new projects.
- Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private and non-profit entities are encouraged.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Utilities Service

FY 2023 Community Connect Grant Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide service at or above the broadband grant speed to all premises in rural, economically-challenged communities where broadband service does not exist. The deployment of broadband services on a “community-oriented connectivity” basis stimulates economic development and provides enhanced educational and health care opportunities in rural areas. This program focuses on:

- Assisting rural communities to recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure.
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to RD programs and benefits from RD funded projects.
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.

Funds may be used for:

- The construction, acquisition, or leasing of facilities, spectrum, land or buildings used to deploy broadband service for:
 - All residential and business customers located within the Proposed Funded Service Area
 - All participating essential community facilities (such as public schools, fire stations, public libraries, and public safety stations)
- The cost of providing broadband service free of charge to the essential community facilities for 2 years
- Up to 10 percent of the grant may be used for the improvement, expansion, construction, or acquisition of a community center that provides online access to the public

Applicants must define a contiguous geographic, area located entirely within an eligible rural area, in which Broadband Service does not exist and where the applicant proposes to offer service at the Broadband Grant Speed to all residential and business customers. The Proposed Funded Service Area (PFSA) may consist of multiple municipalities and may be located in more than one state. In addition:

- RUS will validate that broadband service does not exist in areas that applicants describe as having no broadband access or access that is less than 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) downstream plus 3 Mbps upstream.
- The broadband grant speed is 100 Mbps downstream and 20 Mbps upstream for fixed terrestrial broadband service, whether fixed or wireless
- A PFSA must not overlap with service areas of current RUS borrowers and grantees.

- Areas receiving, or areas that have received final approval for, other federal funding to construct terrestrial facilities providing at least 25/3 Mbps service in the project Proposed Funded Service Area as of the date of this notice, and which have been reported to the agency, are ineligible.

The funding agency can consider adjusting the service area or award amount of a project selected for Community Connect funding if in the course of evaluating an application, the agency learns that the service area or a portion of it is already sufficiently served or has received final approval for federal funding to construct facilities that will provide sufficient access to broadband as defined under this notice.

Additionally, the following may be applicable for facilities improvements:

- Essential Community Facilities: The applicant must propose to offer free service at the Broadband Grant Speed to all participating Essential Community Facilities located within the PFSA for at least two years.
- Community Center: The applicant must provide a Community Center within the PFSA with a minimum of 2, and up to 10, computer access points and wireless access at the Broadband Grant Speed, free of all charges, to all users for at least two years.

A GIS layer of the proposed service areas for these projects will be made available in the Community Connect mapping tool located at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/community-connect>:

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are incorporated organizations; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; state and local governments; and any other legal entity, including a cooperative, private corporation, or limited liability company organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis.

References in this program to a state, state government, or state agency are meant to include the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands.

While prior Community Connect grants cannot be renewed, existing Community Connect awardees can submit applications for new projects. The Agency will evaluate project proposals from existing awardees as new applications. Only one grant application per applicant is eligible for approval under this grant opportunity.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$79 million is expected to be available to support an unspecified amount of awards ranging from \$100,000 - \$5 million through this program.

Grant funds used for the improvement, expansion, construction, or acquisition of a community center must not exceed the lesser of 10 percent of the requested grant amount or \$150,000.

The anticipated award date is September 2023. The period of performance is three years.

Applicants must provide a match of 15 percent of the requested grant amount. The match must be in cash and can be used to fund operations or facilities of the project.

Contact Information

For questions about the Community Connect Grant Program, contact one of the General Field Representatives (GFR) in your state. To find a GFR, visit the [GFR contact map](#).

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/community-connect-grants#to-apply>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2023 Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

Grant Overview

This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Projects supported through this program must demonstrate substantial community support, and facilities must serve the rural area where they are or will be located. Eligible applicants are public bodies, community-based non-profit corporations, and federally recognized tribes.

Program History

	Total Funding	Awards
2021	\$450 million	274
2020	\$871 million	256

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: Varies

Match: Not required

Application Due: Rolling

- Grant awards will be contingent upon the availability of grant funding
- Funds may be combined with commercial financing to finance projects if all eligibility and feasibility requirements are met

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>



Awardee Profile

El Dorado County
Community Health Center
El Dorado County, CA

AMOUNT: \$18.5 million

YEAR: 2021

The El Dorado County Community Health Center received an \$18.5 million loan to build a medical facility for residents and workers in and around Placerville. The center is a key player in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in El Dorado County. It also provides medical, behavioral health, dental, pharmacy and substance misuse treatment services.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2023 Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Projects supported through this program must demonstrate substantial community support, and facilities must serve the rural area where they are or will be located.

For the purposes of this program, an essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings. Examples of essential community facilities include:

- Health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes, or assisted-living facilities
- Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars, or street improvements
- Community support services such as child care centers, community centers, fairgrounds, or transitional housing
- Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles, or equipment
- Educational services such as museums, libraries, or private schools
- Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment
- Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs, or greenhouses

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Serve communities with populations of 5,500 or fewer
- Serve low-income communities having a median household income below 80 percent of the state non-metropolitan median household income

Funds may be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities; purchase equipment; and pay for related project expenses. Other costs include reasonable and necessary fees for:

- Legal
- Architectural and/or engineering
- Fiscal advisors
- Environmental
- Archaeological
- Mitigation measures
- Planning
- Establishing or acquiring rights

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are public bodies, community-based nonprofit corporations, and federally recognized tribes.

Facilities supported through this program must serve the rural area where they are or will be located. Rural areas include cities, villages, townships, and towns, including federally recognized tribal lands, with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest U.S. Census data, which can be found online at www.census.gov.

Additionally, in order to be eligible, applicants must have the legal authority to borrow money, obtain security, and repay loans; and to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities; and be unable to finance projects from their own resources and/or through commercial credit at reasonable rates and terms

Funding

In FY 2023, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support grants and low-interest direct loans through this program. Awards may be provided as combinations of grants and loans. Grant assistance is provided on a graduated scale, with smaller communities with the lowest median household income being eligible for projects with a higher proportion of grant funds. Grant assistance is limited to the following percentages of eligible project costs:

- Maximum of 75 percent if:
 - The project is located in a rural community having a population of 5,000 or fewer
 - The median household income of the service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 60 percent of the state non-metropolitan median household income
- Maximum of 55 percent if:
 - The project is located in a rural community having a population of 12,000 or fewer
 - The median household income of the service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 70 percent of the state non-metropolitan median household income
- Maximum of 35 percent if:
 - The project is located in a rural community having a population of 20,000 or fewer
 - The median household income of the service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 80 percent of the state non-metropolitan median household income
- Maximum of 15 percent if:
 - The project is located in a rural community having a population of 20,000 or fewer
 - The median household income of the service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 90 percent of the state non-metropolitan median household income

Grant awards will be contingent upon the availability of grant funding. Funds may be combined with commercial financing to finance projects if all eligibility and feasibility requirements are met.

Loan repayment terms may not be longer than the useful life of the facility, state statutes, the applicant's authority, or a maximum of 40 years, whichever is less. There will be no prepayment penalties. Interest rates will be set by the funding agency and are determined by the median household income of the service area. Once the loan is approved, the interest rate is fixed for the entire term of the loan. Current interest rates, when available, can be found online at www.rd.usda.gov.

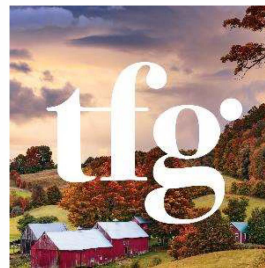
No more than 25 percent of the total floor space of the project may be used for an ineligible purpose.

Contact Information

Questions should be directed to the appropriate local office listed online at www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices. To initiate the application process, applicants must contact the appropriate local office.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2023 Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support eligible entities in providing technical assistance and/or training with respect to essential community facilities programs. Provided technical assistance and/or training will help eligible ultimate recipients to identify and plan for community facility needs that exist in their area. Eligible applicants include public bodies, private nonprofit corporations, and federally recognized tribes located on federal and state reservations.

Program History

	Total Funding	Awards
2022	\$214,241	2

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$1,265,000

Award Range: \$50,000-\$150,000

Match: Not required

Application Due: June 20, 2023

- Up to 10 percent of the total funding available through this program may be awarded to the highest-scoring ultimate recipient(s); however, awards made to ultimate recipients are limited to \$50,000.
- Awards made to technical assistance providers assisting ultimate recipients are limited to \$150,000.

https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fact-sheet/508_rd_rhs_commfactechassttraininggrant.pdf



Awardee Profile

Housing Assistance Council (HAC),
Washington, DC

AMOUNT: \$150,000

YEAR: 2022

Funding awarded to HAC focuses on developing the capacity of local leaders in nonprofit organizations to help their own communities. This is done by providing formal trainings, offering one-on-one technical assistance, and connecting local organizations to resources that can build their capacity and strengthen their communities.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2023 Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support eligible entities in providing technical assistance and/or training with respect to essential community facilities programs. Provided technical assistance and/or training will help eligible ultimate recipients to identify and plan for community facility needs that exist in their area. Once those needs have been identified, award recipients may assist in identifying public and private resources to finance identified community facility needs.

Eligible activities include:

- Assisting communities in identifying and planning for community facility needs
- Identifying resources to finance community facility needs from public and private sources
- Preparing reports and surveys necessary to request financial assistance to develop community facilities
- Preparing applications for financial assistance from the funding agency
- Improving the management, including financial management, related to the operation of community facilities
- Assisting with other areas of need identified by the Secretary of Agriculture

The funding agency encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities:

- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to RD programs and benefits from RD-funded projects
- Helping rural communities to recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants applying as technical assistance providers are:

Public bodies, including: states; counties; cities; townships; incorporated towns; villages; boroughs; authorities; districts; private nonprofit corporations; and federally recognized tribes located on federal and state reservations

Applicants applying as technical assistance providers must be legally established and located within a state or the District of Columbia, and must have the proven ability, background, experience, legal authority, and actual

capacity to provide technical assistance and/or training to ultimate recipients. To meet the requirement of actual capacity, an applicant must meet one of the following criteria:

- Have the necessary resources to provide technical assistance and/or training to associations in rural areas through its staff
- Be assisted by an affiliate or member organization that has such background and experience and that agrees, in writing, that it will provide the technical assistance
- May contract with a non-affiliated organization for not more than 49 percent of the awarded funds to provide the proposed technical service

Applicants applying as ultimate recipients must be:

- Public bodies
- Indian tribes
- Nonprofit corporations that demonstrate community ties to the local area through the methods identified by the funding agency
- Projects must serve cities, villages, townships, towns, and federally recognized tribal lands outside the boundaries of a city of 20,000 or more.

No more than one application per applicant will be accepted.

- Funding

A total of \$1,265,000 is available to support awards through this program. Up to 10 percent of the total funding available through this program may be awarded to the highest-scoring ultimate recipient(s); however, awards made to ultimate recipients are limited to \$50,000. Awards made to technical assistance providers assisting ultimate recipients are limited to \$150,000.

Awards will be made by September 15, 2023.

Award periods may last for up to three years.

Indirect/administrative costs are limited to 10 percent of the award amount.

- Matching funds are not required for this program; however, additional points will be awarded during the application evaluation process to applicants that provide at least 10 percent of the total project cost via cash contributions. The most points will be awarded to applicants that provide at least 20 percent of the total project cost via cash contributions.

In addition, partnerships with other federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit entities are encouraged.

In-kind contributions may not be used as a match.

Contact Information

Nathan Chitwood
Asset Risk Management Specialist
(573) 876-0965
nathan.chitwood@usda.gov

Or contact state USDA office: offices.sc.egov.usda.gov

Applicants must request technical assistance or other application guidance from the funding agency by June 12, 2023.

https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fact-sheet/508_rd_rhs_commfactechasstraingrant.pdf

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

FY 2023 Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

Grant Overview

This program helps rural communities use advanced telecommunications technology to connect to each other and the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density. Eligible applicants are entities that provide education or health care through telecommunications.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2021	\$52,340,060	110
2020	\$113,793,536	201

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$64 million

Award Range: \$50,000 - \$1 million

Match: 15 percent

Solicitation date: December 1, 2022

Proposal due: January 30, 2023

- Projects must benefit rural areas that have a population of no more than 20,000 people and are not contiguous or adjacent to urban areas that have a population of more than 50,000 people

[Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)



Awardee Profile

Bristol Public Schools,
Bristol VA

AMOUNT: \$993,840

YEAR: 2021

This investment will enable a consortium among Radford and Bristol City Schools and Wise County to purchase interactive video conferencing equipment to deliver distance learning and telehealth services to 21 schools in eight rural Virginia communities, serving 9,600 student and 700 teachers.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

FY 2023 Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to enable and improve distance learning and telemedicine services in rural areas. This program is intended to help rural communities use advanced telecommunications technology to connect to each other and the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density. Awards will support the use of telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents. Ultimately, awards are intended to increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources that are otherwise unavailable or limited in scope.

The funding agency encourages applicants to consider projects that promote equity and economic opportunity in America, specifically those that focus on the following priorities:

- Supporting health care needs stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and helping prepare for future pandemic events
- Ensuring racial equity and ensuring that all rural residents have equitable access to the funding agency's programs and funded projects
- Rebuilding the rural economy, including assisting rural communities recover through more and better market opportunities and improved infrastructure
- Addressing the climate crisis, including reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities

Special consideration will be given to projects that serve tribal lands, farmworker communities, or distressed energy communities. Special consideration will also be given to projects that support Native American languages and mental health services.

Funds may be used to purchase or support the following:

- Audio, video, and interactive video equipment
- Limited costs of broadband facilities used for distance learning or telemedicine
- Computer hardware, network components, and software
- Instructional programming
- Limited technical assistance and instruction on how to use distance learning and telemedicine equipment

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are entities that provide education or health care through telecommunications including state or local governmental organizations, federally recognized tribes, nonprofit organizations, incorporated for-profit businesses, and groups of eligible entities working together.

Projects may not be located in areas covered by the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. Renewal awards will not be provided through this program.

Funding

In FY 2023, an estimated \$64 million is expected to be available to support awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$1 million through this program. The funding agency will set aside \$12 million to support projects that seek to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with substance use disorder, including opioid misuse, in rural communities. The amount of this set aside is subject to change.

Applicants must provide at least 15 percent of the total funding amount requested via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions.

The project period will be three years, beginning on the date funds are released.

Contact Information

Randall Millhiser
Deputy Assistant Administrator
(202) 720-0800
randall.milhiser@usda.gov

[Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2023 Electric Infrastructure Loan and Loan Guarantee Program

Grant Overview

The electric program makes loans and loan guarantees to maintain and improve electric infrastructure in rural communities nationwide in order to increase economic opportunities and quality of life. The loans and loan guarantees finance the construction of electric distribution, transmission, and generation facilities, including system improvements to improve electric service in rural areas, as well as demand side management, smart grid, energy efficiency and conservation programs, and on-grid and off-grid renewable energy systems. Eligible applicants are state and local government entities, federally recognized tribes, nonprofits, and for-profit businesses.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$2.7 billion	64

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified

Match: Not required

Proposal due: Rolling

- Projects must serve qualified rural areas and applicants should contact the appropriate [general field representative](#) to confirm eligibility

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-infrastructure-loan-loan-guarantee-program>



Awardee Profile

C & L Electric Cooperative Corporation

LOAN AMOUNT: \$45,235,000

YEAR: 2018

This Rural Development investment will be used to connect 2,964 consumers and build and improve 331 miles of line. This loan includes various smart grid projects in the amount of \$11,467,700 including the installation of 273 miles of fiber cable for the backbone communications network

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2023 Electric Infrastructure Loan and Loan Guarantee Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to maintain and improve electric infrastructure in rural communities nationwide in order to increase economic opportunities and quality of life. This program provides investment capital in the form of insured loans and loan guarantees for the construction of electric distribution, transmission, and generation facilities, including system improvements and replacement required to furnish and improve electric service in rural areas, as well as demand-side management, energy conservation programs, and on-grid and off-grid renewable energy systems.

Funds may be used to finance:

- Maintenance
- Upgrades
- Expansion
- Replacement of distribution, subtransmission, and headquarters facilities
- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy systems

The program may also provide hardship loans for qualified applicants in rural areas that are either economically distressed or recovering from an unavoidable event, such as a natural disaster.

All facilities receiving financing through this program must be used for public purposes.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state and local government entities, federally recognized tribes, nonprofits, and for-profit businesses. Eligible nonprofits include cooperatives and limited dividend or mutual associations.

Projects must serve qualified rural areas. Applicants should contact the appropriate [general field representative \(GFR\)](#) of the funding agency for their region to determine whether the proposed service area of the project qualifies as rural.

Applicants must have the legal authority to provide, construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities or services. Partnerships with federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit entities are encouraged.

Funding

In FY 2023, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support insured loans and loan guarantees through this program.

Loan Guarantees up to 100% allow the Federal Financing Bank (FFB) to extend credit to qualified borrowers in rural areas. 100% of the construction work plan can be financed.

Hardship Loans may be used, at the sole discretion of the Rural Utilities Service, to assist applicants in rural areas that are either economically distressed or recovering from an unavoidable event, such as a natural disaster.

The interest rate for Treasury-rate loans and loan guarantees will be fixed at the time of each advance, based on rates established daily by the U.S. Treasury plus 1/8 of 1 percent. The interest rate of hardship loans will be fixed at 5 percent for up to 35 years.

In general, loan repayments may not exceed the useful life of the facility being financed, with a maximum repayment schedule of 35 years. Power supply borrowers will be limited by the terms of their wholesale power contracts.

Match and Cost Sharing

There are no stated matching requirements for this program.

Contact Information

Reach out to your [General Field Representative](#) in order to begin the application process.

Program Staff
(202) 720-0848

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-infrastructure-loan-loan-guarantee-program>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Agency: Rural Utilities Service

FY 2023 Empowering Rural America (New ERA) Program

Grant Overview

This program provides financial assistance to eligible entities, to achieve the greatest reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through electric cooperatives' voluntary transformation of rural electric systems in a way that promotes resiliency and reliability of rural electric systems and affordability for their members. Eligible applicants are electric cooperatives described in section 501(c)(12) or 1381(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 who are currently or have been in the past a RUS electric loan borrower pursuant to the RE Act, electric cooperatives serving predominantly rural areas, or wholly or jointly owned subsidiaries of such electric cooperatives.

Program History

This is a new program appropriated through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Key Information

Total Funding: \$9.7 billion

Award Range: \$970 million

Match: 25% (cash match or equity investment)

Solicitation date: May 16, 2023

Letter of Interest (LOI) due: August 31, 2023

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/16/2023-10392/notice-of-funding-opportunity-for-the-empowering-rural-america-new-era-program>



Tips:

- LOIs will be accepted starting on July 31, 2023. Applicants must submit an LOI to be considered for an Innovation to Proceed. Those receiving an Invitation will have 60 days to submit an ERA full application from the date received.
- The most competitive applications will receive the best financial offerings in terms of grant amounts and interest rates.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Agency: Rural Utilities Service

FY 2023 Empowering Rural America (New ERA) Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to achieve reductions in GHG emissions from rural electric systems in a way that promotes resiliency, reliability, and affordability of rural electric service. Project eligibility is broad and includes any Portfolio of Actions related to generation, transmission and distribution, including distributed energy resources.

Such actions include, but are not limited to:

- The purchase or construction of:
 - Renewable Energy
 - Renewable Energy Systems
 - Zero-Emission Systems
 - Carbon Capture and Storage Systems
- Activities that will enable the deployment of the aforementioned systems and/or improve energy efficiency including:
 - Instituting grid-edge, microgrid solutions, and other distributed energy strategies
 - Deploying energy Storage Systems in support of GHG emission reductions or Renewable Energy Systems
 - Installing or upgrading software and hardware to enable the integration and other system improvements
 - Modifying or refinancing existing loans from RUS or refinancing non-RUS loans for retiring non-Renewable Energy assets on an accelerated basis with savings reinvested into clean energy investments
 - Entering a long-term agreement to purchase power from a Renewable Energy System or Zero-Emissions System
 - Upgrading existing Renewable Energy Systems or Zero-Emission Systems or related transmission facilities that increase the operating energy efficiency of these systems
 - Improving transmission that can significantly enable Renewable Energy Systems and Zero-Emissions Systems, reduce congestion, and improve the efficiency of the system
 - Activities that will significantly reduce energy demand and GHG emissions

Applicants may request either a Project Award or a System Award. A Project Award is backed by assets and revenues associated with project seeking funding, while a System Award is secured with assets and revenues from the applicant's entire system. Project awards will require a greater level of cash reserves than System Awards, and a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) associated with a project award will require specific arrangements with RUS.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are electric cooperatives described in section 501(c)(12) or 1381(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 who are currently or have been in the past a RUS electric loan borrower pursuant to the RE Act, electric cooperatives serving predominantly rural areas, or wholly or jointly owned subsidiaries of such electric cooperatives.

For the purposes of this program, the term “predominantly rural” shall mean a service territory that must include at least 50 percent Rural Areas. RUS defines Rural Areas as those with less than 50,000 inhabitants adjusted to exclude individuals incarcerated on a long-term or regional basis or the first 1,500 individuals who reside in on-base military housing.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$9.7 billion is available to support awards through this program, through September 30, 2031. No one applicant may receive an amount equal to more than 10 percent of the total \$9.7 billion, which equals \$970 million.

The applicant’s Portfolio of Actions may cost more than \$970 million as long as the funded application uses less than \$970 million in budget authority.

The following types of financial assistance are offered through this program:

- Loan Only: An applicant may request an award to finance any project or combination of projects in its application with a loan only award. The interest rate for a loan only award may be set at a fixed percent at 2 percent, zero percent, or at a rate tied to the Federal government’s cost of money, based, at least in part, on level of carbon reduction. A zero percent interest rate is available to refinance stranded assets or for projects that serve predominantly distressed, disadvantaged, or energy communities.
- Loan and Grant Combinations: An applicant may request an award to finance any project or combination of projects in its application with a grant or grant/loan combination where the grant amount equals no more than 25% of the Eligible Award Costs. The interest rate for a loan only award may be set at a fixed percent at 2 percent, zero percent, or at a rate tied to the Federal government’s cost of money, based, at least in part, on level of carbon reduction. Applicants may propose substituting cash for the loan component, or any portion of the loan component, at the time of the application.
- Grants Only: An Applicant may request an award to finance any project or combination of projects in its application with a 100 percent grant. A 100 percent grant award may finance no more than 25 percent of the total eligible Project costs.
- Loan Refinancing or Loan Modification: An applicant may request to modify existing RUS or RUS guaranteed debt, or refinance debt from a third party, but only as such modification or refinancing relates to a stranded asset. The applicant must demonstrate that it will utilize the benefits of such refinancing or modification to pay for or otherwise finance eligible activities. The interest rate for a loan only award may be set at a fixed percent at 2 percent, zero percent, or at a rate tied to the Federal government’s cost of money , based, at least in part, on level of carbon reduction.

Anticipated award announcements for this program will begin on March 1, 2024. The performance period for this program is five years from the date of environmental clearance, but no later than September 30, 2031.

Matching and Cost Sharing

For project loans, RUS will finance up to 75 percent of the total capitalized cost of the project in the loan component of a project award. The awardee will be required to initially provide and maintain for the term of the project award at least 25 percent of the project's total capitalized cost in the form of cash or an equity investment.

Applicants may propose substituting cash for the loan component, or any portion of the loan component, at the time of the application.

Contact Information

Christopher McLean

Telephone: 202-690-4492

SM.RD.RUS.IRA.Questions@usda.gov

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/16/2023-10392/notice-of-funding-opportunity-for-the-empowering-rural-america-new-era-program>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Forest Service

FY 2023 Forest Service Inflation Reduction Act Forest Landowner Support

Grant Overview

This program provides financial assistance grants for projects that support underserved and small-acreage forest landowner participation in emerging private markets for climate mitigation and forest resilience. Eligible applicants are small businesses, independent school districts, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, city or township governments, county governments, state governments, special district governments, federally recognized Native American tribal governments, Native American tribal organizations other than federally recognized tribal governments, for profit organizations, non-profit organizations having a 501(c)3 status with the IRS, and non-profits that do not have a 501(c)3 status with the IRS.

Program History

This is a new program funded under the inflation Reduction Act. Program history is unavailable for this program.

Key Information

Total Funding: \$150 million

Award Range: \$50,000,000

Match: Not required

Solicitation Date: August 22, 2023

Proposal due: August 21, 2024

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/state-private-forestry/coop-forestry/ira-forest-landowner-support>



Tips

- Program activities must target nonindustrial private forest land including the proposed project area is within an eligible rural geography, has existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees, and is owned by any private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe, other private legal entity or is Tribal land held in trust by the federal government.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Forest Service

FY 2023 Forest Service Inflation Reduction Act Forest Landowner Support

Detailed Summary

This program supports forestry practices and participation of underserved landowners and small-acreage landowners (owning less than 2,500 acres) in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience. Proposals are expected from a diversity of applicants including national, regional, local, and community-based organizations; nonprofit and for-profit entities; and state and local governments. Organizations representing underserved landowners and first-time applicants for federal funds are encouraged to apply.

Multiple deadlines (or “Tracks”) are available to encourage involvement from a wide variety of applicants and to capture learning for future program development. Tracks are defined by overall proposal budget size.

Track A: Proposal budgets greater than or equal to \$2 million and less than \$25 million

Track B: Proposal budgets that are less than \$2 million

Track C: Proposals to administer a national competitive regranteeing program may also be considered. Budgets must be greater than or equal to \$5 million, less than \$50 million, and include at least 80% sub-awards.

This program emphasizes shared learning, collective action, replicability, and ability to scale. The USDA Forest Service will leverage existing opportunities and organizational structures to support practitioners, provide professional development, and support a platform for information-sharing. Extent of participation in these networks will vary with scope of award and proposed project goals and activities.

Project activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Practice development and the installation of practices on private forest land (with technical caveat that direct payments to landowners are not an eligible expenditure under this NOFO).
- Science synthesis and technical support to assist project implementers and inform program development.
- Assessment of barriers to participation in markets and proposed strategies for addressing those barriers.
- Targeted outreach, education, and/or communication tool development to increase awareness and help landowners navigate market opportunities.
- Facilitation of access to markets and/or certification systems.
- Development of innovative tools or strategies for lowering transaction costs and/or managing risk.
- Technical assistance for development of forest management plans and/or implementation of applicable forest management activities.
- Training for foresters and technical assistance providers. · Innovation for quantification, data collection, and monitoring.
- Hiring of staff or contractors to provide support services.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are small businesses, independent school districts, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, city or township governments, county governments, state governments, special district governments, federally recognized Native American tribal governments, Native American tribal organizations other than federally recognized tribal governments, for profit organizations, non-profit organizations having a 501(c)3 status with the IRS, and non-profits that do not have a 501(c)3 status with the IRS.

The following entities are eligible to submit a project proposal through Tracks A and B:

- U.S. State Governments
- U.S. Local Governments
- Tribal Governments
- Alaska Native Corporations/Villages
- Other Tribal Entities
- Education Institutions
- Non-Profit Entities
- For-Profit Entities

The following entities are eligible to submit a project proposal through Track C:

- Nonprofit organizations with a mission focused on sustainable forestry and/or forest conservation. Applicants must have demonstrated success in managing competitive subgrant programs that are regional or national in scope.

Program activities must target nonindustrial private forest land which is defined as meeting all the following criteria:

- Is rural, defined as all areas outside United States Census areas with 50,000 or more people. Please use the Landscape Scale Restoration Project Planning Tool to confirm that the proposed project area(s) is within an eligible rural geography.
- Has existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees.
- Is owned by any private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe, other private legal entity or is Tribal land held in trust by the federal government.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$150 million is expected to be available to support an unspecified number of awards of \$50,000,000 through this program in Tracks A & B. Entities may submit up to three unique proposals under Track A and/or Track B for a maximum combined total of \$25 million. Track C is not included in the \$25 million cap on the total amount requested.

Funding will support two focus areas:

1. Support the participation of underserved forest landowners in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience.
2. Support the participation of forest landowners who own less than 2,500 acres of forest land in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience.

Recipients will be expected to implement and demonstrate measurable progress within twelve months of the award. All activities and expenses must be completed within three years.

Funding agreements may be extended by a year with adequate justification; agreements may not exceed a total project period of five years and all funding must be fully expended by September 30, 2031.

Matching and Cost-Share

Matching funds are not required for this program. However, while match is not mandated, it is encouraged.

The ability to leverage non-Federal sources to increase the overall impact of the proposed project will be considered in evaluation of proposals. Project narratives should include a written description of any non-Federal contributions secured by the applicant and provide support letters or evidence of non-Federal match, if proposed in the budget.

Contact Information

Program Staff

SM.FS.LandownerIRA@usda.gov

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=349857>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Development

FY 2024 Intermediary Relending Program

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to alleviate poverty and increase economic activity and employment in rural communities, especially disadvantaged and remote communities. Eligible applicants are intermediaries which include private nonprofit corporations, public agencies, Indian tribes, and cooperative entities.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$6,250,000	8

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$18,889,000

Award Range: Up to \$1 million

Match: Not required

Solicitation date: September 14, 2023

Proposal due: Rolling quarterly through June 30, 2024

- Priority may be given to applicants whose service area will include areas not currently served by existing intermediaries.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/intermediary-relending-program>



Awardee Profile

Redevelopment Authority
of the City of Titusville, PA

AMOUNT: \$500,000

YEAR: 2022

This funding will support the Redevelopment Authority's revolving loan fund.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Development

FY 2024 Intermediary Relending Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to alleviate poverty and increase economic activity and employment in rural communities, especially disadvantaged and remote communities. This program will provide direct loans to intermediaries that will establish revolving loan programs for the purpose of providing loans to ultimate recipients to promote community development, establish new businesses, establish and support microlending programs, and create or retain employment opportunities in rural areas.

Eligible uses of loan funds may include:

- Business and industrial acquisitions when the loan will keep the business from closing, prevent the loss of employment opportunities, or provide expanded job opportunities
- Business construction, conversion, enlargement, repair, modernization, or development
- Purchase and development of land, easements, rights-of-way, buildings, facilities, leases, or materials
- Purchase of equipment, leasehold improvements, machinery, or supplies
- Pollution control and abatement
- Transportation services
- Startup costs and working capital
- Interest, including interest on interim financing, during the period before the facility becomes income-producing, but not to exceed three years
- Feasibility studies
- Debt refinancing

Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities:

- Assisting rural communities recover economically through more or better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to the funding agency's programs and benefits from projects funded by the funding agency
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through support to rural communities

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are intermediaries which include private nonprofit corporations, public agencies, Indian tribes, and cooperative entities, which, for the purposes of this program, are defined as entities that are legally chartered by a state in which they operate as cooperatively operated businesses, or entities that are not legally chartered as cooperatives but are owned and operated for the benefit of their members, with the return of residual earnings paid to such members on the basis of patronage.

Eligible ultimate recipients are individuals, public or private organizations, or other legal entities that are located in rural areas outside of cities or towns with populations of fewer than 50,000. The rural eligibility of a location can be verified online at eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov.

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Legal authority to carry out proposed loan purposes and to obtain, give security for, and repay the proposed loan
- Proven lending record of successfully assisting rural business and industry or, for intermediaries that propose to finance community development, a proven lending record of successfully assisting rural community development projects of the type planned
- The presence of staff with loan-making and servicing expertise acceptable to the funding agency
- A balance sheet with capitalization or equity acceptable to the funding agency and deemed sufficient to sustain lending and business operations
- For non-public body intermediaries, at least 51 percent of the outstanding interest or membership in the intermediary is composed of citizens

Only one loan will be issued per applicant per fiscal year, unless the additional request is from an IRP earmark that serves a different geographical area than the initial non-earmarked loan.

Previous award recipients are eligible to apply, provided that these applicants meet the criteria.

Funding

In FY 2024, approximately \$18,889,000 is expected to be available to support loans of up to \$1 million through this program. Applicants that request loans of \$750,000 or less will be awarded additional points during the application evaluation process. Total outstanding IRP indebtedness of an intermediary to the funding agency may not exceed \$15 million at any time.

Funding may be set aside for projects and intermediaries serving federally recognized Native American tribes or Mississippi Delta Region counties. Applicants applying for this set-aside funding must demonstrate that at least 75 percent of the benefits of the approved loan will assist ultimate recipients in these designated areas.

Funding may also be set aside for projects located in Rural Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities/Rural Economic Area Partnership areas. Loan closing between the intermediary and the funding agency must take place within six months of loan approval and obligation of funds. The loan term will last up to 30 years. All loans will have interest-only payments scheduled for up to the first three years following the loan closing. Loans will automatically fully amortize with principal and interest payments due in the fourth year on the anniversary of the closing date.

Ultimate recipients must use at least \$250,000 of loan funds within the first six months after closing.

Matching and Cost Sharing

There are no stated matching requirements for this program; however, applicants that contribute at least 5 percent of the total loan amount via cash contributions to the IRP revolving loan fund at the time of application will be awarded additional points during the application review process.

The IRP revolving fund share of the total eligible project cost of an ultimate recipient's project is limited to 75 percent of the total eligible project cost. Applicants that provide at least 10 percent of the ultimate recipient's total project costs via matching contributions will be awarded additional points during the application review process. IRP revolving loan fund funds that consist of revolved funds may be used as leveraging.

Contact Information

Lori Pittman

(202) 720-9815

lori.pittman1@usda.gov

Applicants should reach out to their [state office](#) for additional information and to apply for the Intermediary Relending Program.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/intermediary-relending-program>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2023 Multifamily Housing Loan Guarantees

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to increase the supply of affordable rental housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families in eligible rural areas and towns. Eligible applicants are qualified private-sector lenders including state or local housing finance agencies.

Program History

Award history is not available for this program.

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$400 million

Award Range: Unspecified

Match: Not required

Proposal due: Rolling

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/multi-family-housing-programs>



Tips

- Projects supported through this program must be located in rural areas and towns with populations of 35,000 or fewer, or on federally recognized tribal lands.
- Projects located on tribal lands will receive priority consideration.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2023 Multifamily Housing Loan Guarantees

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to increase the supply of affordable rental housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families in eligible rural areas and towns. Through this program, qualified private-sector lenders may apply for a loan guarantee on loans made to eligible borrowers who are building or preserving affordable rural rental housing.

Eligible borrowers may include state and local governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, and federally recognized tribes. Loans guaranteed through this program will be serviced through the private lender that makes the loan, just as they would be without a guarantee.

Construction, improvement, and purchase of multifamily rental housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families are the primary objectives of this program. Funding may also be used for buying and improving land and providing necessary infrastructure.

Housing supported through this program must meet the following requirements:

- Rent for individual units must be capped at 30 percent of 115 percent of area median income
- Average rent for an entire project, including tenant-paid utilities, may not exceed 30 percent of 100 percent of area median income, adjusted for family size
- Complexes must consist of at least five units
- Complexes may contain units that are detached, semi-detached, row houses, or multifamily structures

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are qualified private-sector lenders. Lenders are automatically eligible if approved and active in one of the following programs:

- Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, or Ginnie Mae
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLBank) members
- State or local housing finance agencies

Funding

In FY 2023, a total of \$400 million is available through this program to support loan guarantees in the form of permanent, construction and permanent, or continuous guarantees. Award notifications will generally be provided within 30 days of application receipt. Expenses incurred in developing the applications will be incurred at the applicant's risk and may not be funded.

Refinancing of an existing debt is not an eligible use of funds, except in the case of an existing guaranteed loan where the funding agency determines that the refinancing is in the government's interest or furthers the objectives of the program.

Matching and Cost Sharing

There are no stated matching requirements for this program; however, responses that demonstrate partnering and leveraging will receive additional points in the evaluation process.

Any form of federal, state, and conventional sources of financing may be utilized in conjunction with the loan guarantee, including:

- Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) grant funds
- Tax-exempt bonds
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)

The funding agency will charge the following program fees:

- Initial guarantee fee
- Annual guarantee fee
- Service fee of \$1,500 for the review and approval of a lender's first request to extend the term of a guarantee commitment beyond its original expiration; for any subsequent extension request, the fee is \$2,500
- Service fee of \$3,500 for the review and approval of a lender's first request to reopen an application when a commitment has expired; for any subsequent requests, the fee is \$3,500
- Service fee of \$1,500 in connection with a lender's request to approve the transfer of property or a change in composition of the ownership entity

Contact Information

Primary Contact:

Jonathan Bell

Director

(254) 742-9764

MFHprocessing1@usda.gov

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/multi-family-housing-programs>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Development

FY 2023 Rural Energy for America Program (REAP): Energy Audits (EA) and Renewable Energy Development Assistance (REDA) Grants

Grant Overview

This program assists small rural businesses and agricultural producers by conducting and promoting energy audits and providing renewable energy development assistance. Eligible applicants are state and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, rural electric cooperatives, public power utilities, instrumentalities of state, local, or tribal governments and resource conservation and development councils.

Program History

Year	Total REAP Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$1.1 million	12

Key Information

Total Funding: \$50 million

Award Range: Up to \$100,000

Match: 25 percent

Solicitation date: December 16, 2022

Proposal due: February 1, 2023

- Funding through this program is also available for the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Assistance Program

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-energy-audit-renewable-energy-development-assistance>



Awardee Profile University of Alabama Tuscaloosa, AL

Year: 2022

Amount: \$100,000

University of Alabama assist farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses statewide in developing renewable energy system improvements to their operations. The university will use this investment to conduct approximately 26 renewable energy site assessments or renewable energy technical assistance projects for rural small businesses and agricultural producers across Alabama. Additional funding includes an applicant contribution of \$20,327. This project will benefit 4,779,736 rural residents across Alabama.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Development

FY 2023 Rural Energy for America Program (REAP): Energy Audits (EA) and Renewable Energy Development Assistance (REDA) Grants

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to strengthen American energy independence by increasing the private sector supply of renewable energy and decreasing the demand for energy through energy-efficiency improvements. Funding will support eligible organizations to establish programs to assist rural small businesses and agricultural producers by conducting and promoting energy audits (EAs) and providing renewable energy development assistance (REDA), including renewable energy technical assistance and renewable energy site assessments. Additional consideration will be given to projects that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Have a service area that consists of more than a single county or municipality
- Serve 11 or more ultimate recipients

Projects must serve agricultural producers and rural small businesses. Rural small businesses must be located in eligible rural areas; however, this restriction does not apply to agricultural producers. For the purposes of this program, rural areas are defined as areas outside of cities and towns with a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants and the urbanized areas contiguous and adjacent to these cities or towns.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are states, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, rural electric cooperatives, public power utilities, instrumentalities of state, tribal, and local governments, and resource conservation and development councils.

Applicants must assist agricultural producers and rural small businesses. Rural small businesses must be located in eligible rural areas; however, this restriction does not apply to agricultural producers. For the purposes of this program, rural areas are defined as areas outside of cities and towns with a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants and the urbanized areas of those cities or towns. A map of eligible rural areas can be found online at eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov.

Projects that have a service area that consists of more than a single county or municipality will be awarded additional points during the application evaluation process.

In addition, applicants that demonstrate two years or more of experience in providing proposed energy audit (EA) or renewable energy development assistance (REDA) activities will be awarded additional points during the application evaluation process.

An applicant may submit no more than one energy audit award application and one renewable energy development assistance award application for the current funding cycle, and separate applications must be submitted for each type of funding. Applications for a combination of energy audit awards and renewable energy development assistance awards will not be accepted.

Funding

An unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards of up to \$100,000 each through this program.

The funding agency will determine, based on the applicable departmental regulations, whether awarded funds will be provided on an advance or reimbursement basis.

Applicants for energy audit awards must require the agricultural producer or rural small business receiving the audit to pay at least 25 percent of the cost of audits.

Applicants should detail any additional matching contributions for the project in the application. Applicants that provide at least 5 percent of the total project cost via matching contributions will be awarded additional points during the application evaluation process.

Project income must be used to further the objectives of the project or energy audit services offered. Administrative expenses are limited to 5 percent of the award amount.

Contact Information

Questions should be directed to the appropriate State Rural Development Energy Coordinator listed [here](#).

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-energy-audit-renewable-energy-development-assistance>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Development

FY 2024 Rural Energy for America Program (REAP): Renewable Energy Systems (RES), Energy Efficiency Improvement (EEI), and Energy Efficient Equipment and Systems (EEE) Guaranteed Loans and Grants

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to provide grants and guaranteed loans to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Eligible applicants are agricultural producers with at least 50 percent of gross income coming from agricultural operations and small businesses in rural areas, including private for-profit entities, cooperatives, electric utilities, and tribal corporations or other tribal business entities. Eligible borrowers for loan guarantees are rural small businesses and agricultural producers.

Program History

Year	Total REAP Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$111 million	289

Key Information

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: Varies

Match: Varies

Solicitation date: March 31, 2023

Proposal due: Rolling

More information can be found [here](#).



Awardee Profile

City of Fortuna, CA

AMOUNT: \$140,800

YEAR: 2022

This project received funding to purchase four new law enforcement vehicles that will be custom built for the needs of the city of Fortuna. The new vehicles will be equipped with better doors, window guards and partitions to make it safe for transporting people.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Development

FY 2024 Rural Energy for America Program (REAP): Renewable Energy Systems (RES), Energy Efficiency Improvement (EEI), and Energy Efficient Equipment and Systems (EEE) Guaranteed Loans and Grants

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide grants and guaranteed loans to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy-efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing.

Funds may be used for the purchase and installation of renewable energy systems, such as:

- Biomass, including biodiesel and ethanol, anaerobic digesters, and solid fuels
- Geothermal for electric generation or direct use
- Hydropower below 30 megawatts
- Hydrogen
- Small and large wind generation
- Small and large solar generation
- Ocean generation, including tidal, current, and thermal

Funds may also be used for the purchase, installation, and construction of energy efficiency improvements, such as:

- High-efficiency heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC)
- Insulation
- Lighting
- Cooling or refrigeration units
- Doors and windows
- Electric, solar, or gravity pumps for sprinkler pivots
- Switching from a diesel to electric irrigation motor
- Replacement of energy-inefficient equipment

The funding agency encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities:

- Assisting rural communities to recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure

- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to RD programs and benefits from RD-funded projects
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are agricultural producers with at least 50 percent of gross income coming from agricultural operations and small businesses in rural areas, including private for-profit entities, cooperatives, electric utilities, and tribal corporations or other tribal business entities.

Eligible borrowers for loan guarantees are rural small businesses and agricultural producers.

Projects must be located in rural areas with populations of 50,000 residents or fewer; however, agricultural producers may submit projects to be located in non-rural areas as long as the project is associated with an on-site production operation. Applicants may check eligible rural areas [online](#).

Private entity borrowers must demonstrate that loan funds will remain in the United States.

In addition, applicants that demonstrate two years or more of experience in providing proposed energy audit (EA) or renewable energy development assistance (REDA) activities will be awarded additional points during the application evaluation process.

Funding

An unspecified amount of funding is available to support grants, guaranteed loans, and combined grants and guaranteed loans through this program. Grant amounts will vary according to project type as follows:

- Renewable energy systems: grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$1 million
- Energy efficiency systems: grants ranging from \$1,500 to \$500,000

Awards will be issued quarterly with all fiscal year obligations made prior to September 30 of each year.

For grants, the project period may last up to 24 months. For guaranteed loans, the project period will be governed by the loan terms.

Guaranteed loan terms will be based on the use of guaranteed loan funds, the useful economic life of the assets being financed and those used as collateral, and the borrower's repayment ability. Loan terms will not exceed 40 years.

Interest rates for guaranteed loans will be negotiated between the lender and borrower. Rates may be fixed or variable; however, variable interest rates may not be adjusted more often than quarterly.

Matching requirements will vary according to award type, as follows:

- Grants: applicants must provide at least 50 percent of the total project costs
- Guaranteed loans: applicants must provide at least 25 percent of the total project costs
- Combined grants and guaranteed loans: applicants must provide at least 25 percent of the total project costs

For guaranteed loans, there is an initial guarantee fee, which is currently 1 percent of the guaranteed amount. There is also a guarantee retention fee, which is currently 0.25 percent of the outstanding principal balance, paid annually. Reasonable and customary fees for loan origination will be negotiated between the borrower and lender.

Contact Information

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CPgrants@usda.gov

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Development Office

FY 2023 Rural Business Development Grants

Grant Overview

This program technical assistance and training for small and emerging businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 new employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues. Eligible applicants are rural public entities including towns, communities, state agencies, authorities, nonprofit corporations, institutions of higher education, federally recognized tribes, and rural cooperatives.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of awards
2021	\$24.7 million	330

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$46 million

Award Range: varies

Match: Not required

Solicitation date: November 23, 2022

Proposal due: February 28, 2023

- Funds must benefit rural areas or towns outside the urbanized periphery of any city with a population of 50,000 or more
- To initiate the application process, applicants must contact their appropriate [state office](#)

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants>



Awardee Profile

City of Palatka, Florida

AMOUNT: \$150,000

YEAR: 2021

The City of Palatka, Florida received \$150,000 through the RBDG program for a technical assistance project in their community.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Development Office

FY 2023 Rural Business Development Grants

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide technical assistance and training for small and emerging businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 new employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues. Awards will promote economic development and job creation. Business opportunity projects must be consistent with any local and area-wide strategic plans for community and economic development, coordinated with other economic development activities in the project area, and consistent with any rural development state strategic plan.

The following types of awards will be provided through this program:

- **Business enterprise:** funding will support projects that finance or develop small and emerging businesses, including:
 - Training and technical assistance, such as project planning, business counseling and training, market research, feasibility studies, professional or/technical reports, or producer service improvements
 - Acquisition or development of land, easements, or rights of way; construction, conversion, and renovation of buildings; plants, machinery, equipment, access for streets and roads; and parking areas and utilities
 - Pollution control and abatement
 - Capitalization of revolving loan funds, including funds that will make loans for startups and working capital
 - Distance adult learning for job training and advancement
 - Rural transportation improvement
 - Community economic development
 - Technology-based economic development
 - Feasibility studies and business plans
 - Leadership and entrepreneur training
 - Rural business incubators
 - Long-term business strategic planning
- **Business opportunity:** funding will support projects that will provide job training and leadership development in rural areas, including:
 - Establishment of business support centers
 - Community economic development
 - Technology-based economic development
 - Feasibility studies and business plans
 - Leadership and entrepreneur training
 - Rural business incubators

- Long-term business strategic planning

Applications will compete separately within each category of award.

Projects that will advance one or more of the following key priority areas are encouraged:

- Helping rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to the funding agency's programs and benefits from projects funded by the funding agency
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities

Projects that meet one or more of the following criteria will be awarded additional points during the application evaluation process:

- Serve communities that are experiencing trauma due to a major natural disaster that occurred within the last three years, have suffered a loss of 20 percent or more in their total jobs caused by the closure of a military facility or other employers within the last three years, have experienced Long-Term poverty as demonstrated by being a former Rural empowerment zone, Rural economic area partnership zone, Rural enterprise community, champion community, or a persistent poverty county, or has experienced long-term population decline as demonstrated by the latest three decennial censuses
- Are located in communities with a population of 25,000 or fewer
- Are located in communities with a population of 25,000 or fewer
- Are located in areas where the unemployment rate exceeds the state rate
- Are located in areas where the median household income (MHI) is 85 percent or less
- Provide written evidence that small business development will be supported by startup or expansion as a result of proposed activities

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are rural public entities, including towns, communities, state agencies, authorities, nonprofits, institutions of higher education, federally recognized tribes, and rural cooperatives, if they are organized as a private nonprofit corporation.

Projects must benefit rural areas or towns outside the urbanized periphery of any city with a population of 50,000 or more. Information about eligible areas is available online at eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov.

Set-aside funding may be available for the following types of applicants:

- Federally recognized Native American tribes
- Rural Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community/Rural Economic Area partnerships
- Applicants for projects in persistent-poverty areas or Native American persistent-poverty areas
- Applicants for Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) projects

To be eligible for set-aside funds for federally recognized Native American tribes and Rural Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community/Rural Economic Area partnerships, applicants must demonstrate that at least 75 percent of the benefits of an award will assist beneficiaries in the aforementioned designated areas. To be

eligible for set-aside funds for projects in persistent-poverty areas or Native American persistent-poverty areas and SECD projects, applicants must demonstrate that 100 percent of the benefits of an award will assist beneficiaries in the aforementioned designated areas. Applicants for set-aside funds may not submit a duplicate application for regular program funds.

Funding

In FY 2023, \$46 million is available to support awards through this program. There is no maximum award amount; however, additional points will be awarded in the application evaluation process to funding requests of less than \$500,000, with additional points provided for smaller requests. Up to 10 percent of the total funding available through this program will be allocated to business opportunity awards.

Matching funds are not required for this program; however, applicants that provide at least 25 percent of the total project cost via matching contributions will be awarded additional points during the application evaluation process.

Funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis.

Set-aside awards are anticipated to be made on May 31, 2023. Regular awards are anticipated to be made on August 31, 2023. The project period will span from June 1, 2023, to September 30, 2025. Projects are expected to be completed within one year.

Pre-award costs will only be permitted with prior written approval by the funding agency.

During the application evaluation process, additional consideration will be given to projects that spend less award funds per job created. The highest consideration will be given to projects that create at least one job for less than \$5,000. Additional consideration will also be given to projects that do not request funding for administrative or indirect costs.

Contact Information

Lisa Sharp
lisa.sharp@usda.gov
(202) 720-1400

Cindy Mason
cindy.mason@usda.gov

Questions may also be directed to the appropriate state office of the funding agency. Contact information for state offices can be found online at www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Housing Services

FY 2023 Rural Community Development Initiative

Grant Overview

The goal of this program is to develop the capacity and ability of eligible applicants to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development in rural areas. The program requires that applicants (intermediaries) provide a program of financial and technical assistance to recipients. The recipients will in turn, provide programs to their communities (beneficiaries). Eligible applicants (intermediaries) are qualified private organizations; non-profit organizations, including faith-based, community, and philanthropic organizations; and public organizations, including tribal, organizations.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2021	\$5.7 million	32

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: \$50,000 - \$250,000

Match: One-to-One

Solicitation date: February 8, 2022

Proposal due: April 19, 2022

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-community-development-initiative-grants>



Awardee Profile

East Central
Intergovernmental
Association
Dubuque, IA

AMOUNT: \$150,000

YEAR: 2021

East Central Intergovernmental Association received funding to create economic development initiatives in Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson Counties.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Housing Services

FY 2023 Rural Community Development Initiative

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to develop the capacity and ability of private nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities, and federally recognized Native American tribes to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development in rural areas. The structure of this program requires that applicants (intermediaries) provide a program of financial and technical assistance to recipients. The recipients will, in turn, provide programs to their communities (beneficiaries).

Eligible uses of funds include:

- Providing technical assistance to develop recipients' capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development
- Developing the capacity of recipients to conduct community development programs
- Developing the capacity of recipients to conduct development initiatives
- Developing the capacity of recipients to increase their leveraging ability and access to alternative funding sources by providing training and staffing
- Developing the capacity of recipients to provide the technical assistance component for essential community facilities projects
- Assisting recipients in completing predevelopment requirements for housing, community facilities, or community and economic development projects by providing resources for professional services
- Improving recipients' organizational capacity by providing training and resource material on developing strategic plans, board operations, management, financial systems, and information technology
- Limited purchasing of computers, software, and printers
- Providing funds to recipients for training-related travel costs and project-related training expenses

Applicants are encouraged to develop projects that advance the following key priorities:

- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to funding agency programs and benefits from funding agency projects
- Assisting rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants (intermediaries) are qualified private organizations, nonprofit organizations, including faith-based, community, and philanthropic organizations, and public organizations, including tribal organizations.

Intermediaries must have been legally organized for at least three years and have at least three years of prior experience working with private nonprofit community-based housing and development organizations, low-income rural communities, or tribal organizations in the areas of housing, community facilities, or community and economic development.

The structure of this program requires that intermediaries provide a program of financial and technical assistance to recipients. The recipients will, in turn, provide programs to their communities (beneficiaries).

Eligible recipients are:

- Nonprofit community-based housing and development organizations
- Low-income rural communities
- Federally recognized tribes

Intermediaries proposing to serve one or more federally recognized tribes must submit a resolution of support from the respective tribes with the application.

The intermediary and the recipient may not be the same entity; however, the recipient can be a related entity to the intermediary, provided that the recipient meets all other eligibility requirements and that the relationship does not create a conflict of interest that cannot be resolved to the funding agency's satisfaction.

The recipient and the beneficiary, but not the intermediary, must be located in an eligible rural area. For the purposes of this program, an eligible rural area is defined as any area other than:

- A city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants
- The urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such cities or towns

Recipients that are low-income rural communities must provide evidence that the recipient entity is a public body and census data verifying that the median household income of the community where the recipient entity's office is located is at, or below, 80 percent of the state or national median household income, whichever is higher.

Of the total funding available for this program, limited funding will be set aside for projects located in persistent poverty counties. Eligible applicants for the persistent poverty counties set-aside must demonstrate that 100 percent of the benefits of an approved award will assist recipients in persistent poverty counties.

Intermediaries that are previous award recipients are eligible to reapply for additional awards.

Each intermediary, whether singularly or jointly, may submit no more than one application; however, intermediaries may provide matching funds for other applications. Applicants for the persistent poverty counties set-aside may not submit a duplicate application for regular program funds.

Recipients may benefit from more than one application, provided that the type of financial and technical assistance that the recipient will receive from each application is not duplicative.

Funding

In FY 2023, a total of \$6 million is available to support awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 through this program. A total of \$1.6 million of the total funding available for this program will be set aside for projects located in persistent poverty counties. Funds will be distributed on an advance or reimbursement basis. Funds must be utilized within three years from the date of award.

Intermediaries may contract with a non-affiliated organization for up to 49 percent of the total award amount to provide proposed technical assistance. Costs to purchase computers, software, and printers are limited to \$10,000 per award at the recipient level.

Matching and Cost Share

Applicants must provide at least a one-to-one match via cash contributions or confirmed funding commitments that are committed for a period of no less than the duration of the project period. Other federal funds may be used as a match if authorized by statute and if the purpose of the funds is an eligible program purpose. Matching funds may be used for travel, transportation, and subsistence costs for meetings.

Contact Information

Shirley J. Stevenson
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Shirley.Stevenson@usda.gov

Applicants may also contact their [local Rural Development Office](#) for questions regarding this program.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/rural-community-development-initiative-grants>

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Business-Cooperative Service

FY 2024 Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program

Grant Overview

This program supports projects that promote rural economic development and job creation. Eligible applicants identified under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 are corporations; states; territories; subdivisions and agencies of states and territories; municipalities; people's utility districts; and cooperative, nonprofit, or limited-dividend associations.

Program History

	Funding	Awards
2023	\$78,000,000	66

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$90,000,000

Award Range: Up to \$2 million (loans); Up to \$300,000 (grants)

Match: 20 percent

Solicitation date: September 14, 2023

Proposal due: Rolling

- Prior to applying, applicants may request technical assistance or other application guidance from the funding agency using the information provided in the Contact section, as long as such requests are made at least 15 days prior to each submission date.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program>



Awardee Profile

Singing River EPA
Lucedale, Mississippi

AMOUNT: \$2,000,000

YEAR: 2023

This Rural Development investment was used to provide a loan to assist Mississippi Export Railroad in building a 76,750 square foot shop along with 9,400 feet of track in Helena Industrial Park located in Moss Point, Mississippi. Mississippi Export will hire 24 new employees once the facility is operational, which is expected to happen within one year after construction.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Business-Cooperative Service

FY 2024 Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support projects that promote rural economic development and job creation. Awards will be provided in the form of grants or loans to successful applicants, that will pass the funding through to business and community borrowers, or ultimate recipients, in the form of loans. Grant awards must be used to create revolving loan funds (RLFs) for this purpose. Both grant and loan awards will be used by the ultimate recipients for costs such as:

- Business incubators
- Community development assistance to nonprofit organizations and public bodies, particularly for job creation or enhancement
- Facilities and equipment to educate and train rural residents to facilitate economic development
- Facilities and equipment for medical care for rural residents
- Startup venture costs, including financing fixed assets such as real estate, buildings, equipment, or working capital
- Business expansion
- Technical assistance

Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities:

- Assisting rural communities to recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to Rural Development (RD) programs and benefits from RD-funded projects
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities

Priority will be provided to projects that are located in or serve:

- Rural communities whose economic well-being ranks in the most distressed tier (distress score of 80 or higher) of the Distressed Communities Index using the Distressed Communities Look-Up Map available online at www.rd.usda.gov
- A community meeting the criteria related to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index
- Rural communities through economic support that reduces climate pollution and increases resilience to the impacts of climate change through one of the two options detailed online at www.rd.usda.gov

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are the following borrowers described in the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, including corporations, states and territories, subdivisions and agencies of states and territories, municipalities, people's utility district, and cooperative, nonprofit, or limited-dividend associations. Applicants must meet one of the following criteria:

- Are current Rural Utilities Service (RUS), electric, or telecommunications borrowers
- Are a former RUS borrower that has repaid or pre-paid an insured, direct, or guaranteed loan under the Rural Electrification Act
- Are nonprofit utilities that are eligible to receive an insured or direct loan under the Rural Electrification Act

Projects must serve rural areas or towns with a population of fewer than 50,000 residents. For persistent-poverty counties, projects may serve county seats with populations of up to 55,000.

There is no limit on the number of applications an applicant may submit.

Funding

In FY 2024, approximately \$90 million is anticipated to be available to support grants of up to an anticipated \$300,000 and loans of up to an anticipated \$2 million through this program.

Loans will be made at zero percent interest rate for ten years. Loan award recipients must pass on loan funding to local businesses or ultimate recipients for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. Award recipients may incorporate interest rates or administrative loan fees after the funds have been loaned out and revolved once. First-time loans are at zero percent interest. Repayment for loans for ultimate recipients may be deferred for up to two years for projects that include a startup venture or community facilities projects.

Grant award recipients may use funding to establish RLFs. Grant funds must be repaid to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) upon termination of RLFs.

For grant awards, operating expenses of the RLF are limited to 10 percent of the total award amount.

Pre-award costs will only be permitted with the prior written approval of the funding agency.

Project periods will begin on December 1, 2023, and end on September 30, 2025.

Awards are anticipated to be made on the following dates:

- November 30, 2023, for applications submitted by October 2, 2023
- February 29, 2024, for applications submitted by January 2, 2024
- May 31, 2024, for applications submitted by April 1, 2024
- August 31, 2024, for applications submitted by July 1, 2024

Matching and Cost-Sharing

Applicants seeking loans, or the ultimate recipients of loans, must provide a match of at least 20 percent of the loan amount.

Applicants seeking grants must establish a revolving loan fund (RLF) and provide an amount equal to at least 20 percent of the grant amount. This contribution may not be provided using other federal grants, unless permitted by law.

Contact Information

Cindy Mason

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cindy.mason@usda.gov

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Business-Cooperative Service

FY 2023 Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Program

Grant Overview

This program supports job accelerator partnerships that improve the ability of distressed rural and energy communities to create high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, and help rural communities identify and maximize local assets. Eligible applicants are rural jobs accelerator partnerships formed on or after December 20, 2018 that consist of state, local and tribal government entities, institutions of higher education, and nonprofits.

Program History

Year	Total REAP Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$8.51 million	8

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$2 million
Award Range: \$500,000 - \$2 million
Match: 20 percent
Solicitation date: January 20, 2023
Proposal due: April 20, 2023

- Priority will be given to projects that will leverage next generation gigabit broadband service to promote entrepreneurship and entities based in geographical areas with established agriculture and technology sectors which are focused on the development of precision and autonomous agriculture technologies.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-innovation-stronger-economy-rise-grants>



Awardee Profile

City of St. Johns,
AZ

AMOUNT: \$990,572

YEAR: 2022

The City of St. Johns received funding to support the local community by providing job accelerator partnerships.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Business-Cooperative Service

FY 2023 Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to help struggling communities by funding job accelerators in low-income rural communities. The primary objective of this program is to support job accelerator partnerships to improve the ability of distressed rural communities to create high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses through innovation centers, and help rural communities identify and maximize local assets.

Projects may impact the following initiatives:

- Linking rural communities and entrepreneurs to markets, networks, industry clusters, and other regional opportunities to support high-wage job creation, new business formation, business expansion, and economic growth
- Integrating small businesses into a supply chain
- Creating or expanding commercialization activities for new business formation
- Identifying and building assets in rural communities that are crucial to supporting regional economies
- Facilitating the repatriation of high-wage jobs to the United States
- Supporting the deployment of innovative processes, technologies, and products
- Enhancing the capacity of small businesses in regional industry clusters, including disadvantaged and very small businesses
- Increasing U.S. exports and business interaction with international buyers and suppliers
- Developing the skills and expertise of local workforces, entrepreneurs, and institutional partners to meet the needs of employers and prepare workers for high-wage jobs in the identified industry clusters, including the upskilling of incumbent workers
- Ensuring rural communities have the capacity and ability to carry out projects related to housing, community facilities, infrastructure, or community and economic development to support anticipated regional industry cluster growth

Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities:

- Assisting rural communities to recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to the funding agency's programs and benefits from the funding agency's funded projects
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities

Funds may be used for:

- Costs directly related to the purchase or construction of an innovation center located in a low-income rural area
- Costs directly related to operations of an innovation center, including purchase of equipment, office supplies, and administrative costs including salaries directly related to the project
- Costs directly associated with support programs to be carried out at or in direct partnership with job accelerators
- Reasonable and customary travel expenses directly related to job accelerators
- Utilities, operating expenses of the innovation center, and job accelerator programming and associated programs
- Building or supporting a business incubator facility
- Providing worker training to assist in the creation of new jobs
- Training the existing workforce with skills for higher-paying jobs
- Developing a base of skilled workers and improving their opportunities to obtain high-wage jobs in new or existing local industries

Projects must target regions that have a population of fewer than 50,000 residents, and a majority of the communities within the region must be considered a low-income community, which is defined as a median household income for the community or region at 80 percent or less of the state's median household income or a poverty rate at 20 percent or higher. The funding agency encourages applications that serve the smallest communities with the lowest incomes, with an emphasis on areas where at least 20 percent of the population is living in poverty, according to the American Community Survey data or other comparable data by census tracts or Indian reservations.

Priority will be given to projects that will leverage next generation gigabit broadband service to promote entrepreneurship and entities based in geographical areas with established agriculture and technology sectors which are focused on the development of precision and autonomous agriculture technologies.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are rural jobs accelerator partnerships formed on or after December 20, 2018 that consist of state, local and tribal government entities, institutions of higher education, and nonprofits. The applicant partnership must also have a lead applicant that is responsible for the administration of the award proceeds and activities. A lead applicant must be one of the following entities:

- A district organization
- An Indian tribe, or a political subdivision of an Indian tribe, including a special purpose unit of an Indian tribe, or a consortium of Indian tribes
- A state or a political subdivision of a state, including a special purpose unit of a state or local government engaged in economic development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions
- An institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education
- A public or private nonprofit organization

Applicants may only submit a single application.

Funding

In FY 2022, approximately \$2 million in funding is available to support awards ranging from \$500,000 to \$2 million through this program.

Applicants must provide 20 percent of the project costs using cash and in-kind contributions. Matching funds may include reasonable and customary travel expenses for staff delivering the project if written policies have been established explaining how these costs are normally reimbursed.

Awards are anticipated to be provided on September 15, 2023. Project periods may last for up to four years, beginning no earlier than September 15, 2023, and no later than January 1, 2024. Project periods must end by December 31, 2027; however, applicants may request to extend the project period for up to an additional two years at the funding agency's discretion.

Contact Information

Rachel Reister

(202) 720-1400

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<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-innovation-stronger-economy-rise-grants>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Development

FY 2024 Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP)

Grant Overview

This program provides loans and grants to microenterprise development organizations (MDOs) to help microenterprises startup and growth through a Rural Microloan Revolving Loan Fund and to provide training and technical assistance to microloan borrowers and micro entrepreneurs. Eligible applicants are MDOs which include nonprofit organizations, federally recognized tribes, and public institutions of higher education.

Program History

	# of Awards
December 2022	62
May 2022	4

Key Information

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: Up to 2.5 million

Match: 15 percent

Proposal due: September 30, 2023, December 31, 2023, Match 31, 2024, June 30, 2024

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-microentrepreneur-assistance-program>



Tips

- MDOs/lenders may be located anywhere; however, MDOs must serve businesses with up to ten full-time employees located in rural areas outside of cities or towns with a population of fewer than 50,000.
- The borrower's headquarters may be based within a larger city as long as the project service area is located in an eligible rural area.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Development

FY 2024 Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP)

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the development and ongoing success of rural microentrepreneurs and microenterprises by providing direct loans and grants to microenterprise development organizations (MDOs). Loan funds will be used by the MDO to establish or recapitalize a revolving loan program for making microloans to rural microentrepreneur businesses. Grant funds will be used by the MDO to provide technical assistance and entrepreneurship training to rural individuals and businesses.

Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities:

- Assisting rural communities to recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to Rural Development (RD) programs and benefits from RD-funded projects
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities

Microlenders may make microloans for eligible business activities, including:

- Working capital
- Debt refinancing
- Purchase of equipment and supplies
- Improvement of real estate

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are MDOs which include nonprofit organizations, federally recognized tribes, and public institutions of higher education.

Microlenders that meet all other eligibility requirements and own and operate a small business incubator are also eligible to apply.

Existing MDOs with a microentrepreneur revolving loan fund are eligible for subsequent microlender technical assistance grants. Applicants for subsequent microlender technical assistance grants must complete their reporting into the Lenders Interactive Network Connection (LINC) for the federal fiscal quarter ending June 30, 2024, by 4:30 p.m. ET on August 1, 2024.

MDOs must demonstrate experience in managing a revolving loan fund or meet one of the following criteria:

- Certify that they or their employees have received education and training from a qualified microenterprise development training entity so that the applicant has the capacity to manage such a revolving loan fund
- Demonstrate that they are actively and successfully participating as an intermediary lender in good standing under the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Microloan Program or other similar loan programs, as determined by the funding agency

MDOs must also provide an attorney's opinion regarding the potential microlender's legal status and its ability to enter into program transactions at the time of initial entry into the program.

MDOs may only submit, and have pending for consideration, one application at any given time, which is for either microlender funds or technical assistance-only funds.

Funding

In FY 2024, an unspecified amount of funding is available through this program to support loans, combination loan and technical assistance grants; and subsequent technical assistance grants through this program. Loans may range from \$50,000 to \$500,000, with a total aggregate debt cap of \$2.5 million. The aggregate outstanding balance owed to the program by any single microlender is limited to \$2.5 million.

The maximum technical assistance-only grant amount is 10 percent of the total funding available.

Subsequent microlender technical assistance grants may be provided non-competitively based on project performance and the availability of funds. The eligible grant amount will be calculated based on 20 percent of the microlender's outstanding balance of microloans as of June 30, 2024. If available grant funds are not sufficient to fully replenish each microlender's technical assistance funds to 20 percent of their outstanding loan balance, the available funds will be distributed proportionately based on the percentage of available funds to the total amount of annual technical assistance grant funds requested. Microlender applicants for loan funding may simultaneously apply for technical assistance grant funds of up to 25 percent of the total requested loan amount.

Microlenders will be eligible to receive a disbursement of up to 25 percent of the total loan amount at the time of loan closing. Funds disbursed at loan closing exceeding 25 percent of the total loan amount will only be made if, and to the extent that, the MDO has made a funding commitment to an eligible microborrower that will be closed within 60 days from the funding agency's loan date. Microlenders may request additional loan disbursements until the full loan amount is disbursed or until the end of the 36th month of the loan term, whichever occurs first.

For grants, payments will be made on no more than a quarterly basis. The first grant payment may be made in advance and will equal no more than one-fourth of the total grant amount.

Loans will have a maximum term of 20 years, with a two-year payment deferral. Each loan made to a microlender during its first five years of participation in the program will bear an interest rate of 2 percent for the life of the loan. After the fifth year of an MDO's continuous and satisfactory participation in the program, each new loan made to the microlender will bear interest at a rate of 1 percent.

The grant term for technical assistance-only grants will last 12 months from the date the grant agreement is signed.

The maximum loan amount for loans made to ultimate recipients by the MDO is 75 percent of total project costs or \$50,000, whichever is less. These loans must have a fixed interest rate.

Administrative costs are limited to 10 percent of the total grant amount.

Matching and Cost Sharing

Grant recipients must provide at least 15 percent of the total project cost via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions, including indirect costs.

For loan recipients, the federal share of the eligible project cost of a microborrower's project funded through this program is limited to 75 percent of the total project cost. This cost share requirement must be met by the microlender through one of the following options:

- The loan covenants between the funding agency and the microlender and the microlender's lending policies and procedures will limit the microlender's loan to the microborrower to no more than 75 percent of total eligible project costs and require that the microborrower obtain the remaining 25 percent of the total eligible project costs via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions
- The microlender will capitalize the rural microloan revolving fund (RMRF) at no more than 75 percent of the total loan amount provided by the funding agency and no less than 25 percent nonfederal funds, thereby allowing the microlender to finance 100 percent of the microborrower's eligible project costs

Loan recipients must establish a loan loss reserve fund at a minimum of 5 percent of the total amount owed by the microlender under the program to the funding agency.

Contact Information

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Questions can also be directed to the appropriate local office listed online at

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-microentrepreneur-assistance-program>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2023 Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees Program

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support the construction, maintenance, improvement, and expansion of telephone service and broadband in rural areas. Projects are intended to help maintain a seamless nationwide telecommunications network that also provides access to broadband for education, health care, public safety, and jobs for all Americans regardless of where they live. Eligible applicants are State and local governments; Federally recognized tribes; Nonprofit organizations, including cooperatives and limited dividend or mutual associations; and For-profit businesses that function as a corporation or limited liability company (LLC).

Program History

Year	Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$45 million	1
2021	\$71 million	4

Key Information

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: Varies

Match: Not Required

Solicitation date: July 19, 2027

Proposal due: Rolling

More information can be found [here](#).



Awardee Profile

Uprise, LLC (Pershing County, Nevada)

AMOUNT: \$27.1 million

YEAR: 2021

Funding was awarded to deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network in Pershing County, Nevada. It will connect 4,884 people, 130 businesses, 22 farms, and seven public schools to high-speed internet. Uprise LLC will offer subscribers symmetrical service tiers of 200 megabits per second (Mbps) or one gigabit per second.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2023 Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the construction, maintenance, improvement, and expansion of telephone service and broadband in rural areas. Projects are intended to help maintain a seamless nationwide telecommunications network that also provides access to broadband for education, health care, public safety, and jobs for all Americans regardless of where they live. Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private, or nonprofit entities are encouraged.

Funding is available in the form of cost-of-money loans, guaranteed loans, and hardship loans. Funds may be used for financing the improvement, expansion, construction, acquisition, and operation of systems or facilities to furnish and improve telephone service in rural areas. Guaranteed and hardship loan funds may additionally be used for station apparatus owned by the applicant, headquarters facilities, and vehicles not used primarily in construction.

Loan funds may be approved for facilities to serve non-rural subscribers only if the principal use of the loan is to furnish and improve rural service, and the use of loan funds to serve non-rural subscribers is necessary and incidental to the principal purpose of the loan.

Applicants must have the legal authority to provide, construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities or services. All supported facilities must be used for a public purpose.

Eligible project costs include:

- Improvements
- Expansions
- Construction
- Acquisitions, in certain cases
- Refinancing, in certain cases

Funds may be used for acquisitions only when the acquisition cost is necessary and incidental to furnishing or improving rural telephone service, and the service area to be acquired is eligible for financing.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are State and local governments; Federally recognized tribes; Nonprofit organizations, including cooperatives and limited dividend or mutual associations; and For-profit businesses that function as a corporation or limited liability company (LLC).

Projects must serve rural areas or towns with a population of 5,000 or fewer. Additionally, the project area must be without telecommunications facilities, or the applicant must be recognized as the telecommunications provider for the area. To confirm whether the project area is eligible, applicants may contact the appropriate general field representative (GFR) listed online at www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us.

Applicants must have the legal authority to provide, construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities or services. Projects may serve non-rural subscribers only if the principal use of the loan is to furnish and improve rural service, and the use of loan funds to serve non-rural subscribers is necessary and incidental to the principal purpose of the loan.

Preference is given to applicants already providing telephone service in rural areas, and to cooperative, nonprofit, limited dividend, or mutual associations. Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit entities are encouraged.

Matching and Cost Share

There are no stated matching requirements for this program. No fees or charges are assessed for any type of loan or guarantee under this program.

Funding

An unspecified amount of funding is available to support loans of at least \$50,000 through this program. Generally, no more than 10 percent of the funding agency's appropriations in any fiscal year may be loaned to a single borrower. The following types of loans are available through this program:

- Cost-of-money loans: Direct loans will be issued at current U.S. Treasury rates depending on loan maturity at the time of each advance, capped at 7 percent per year.
- Guaranteed loans: Loans are primarily issued by the Federal Financing Bank (FFB) at varying interest rates depending on call options and the interim maturity rate. Current interest rates are available online at www.rd.usda.gov.
- Hardship loans: Loans have a fixed rate of 5 percent for up to 20 years.

Refinancing costs are limited to 40 percent of the entire loan.

Cost-of-money loans may not be used for:

- Headquarters facilities
- Vehicles not used primarily for construction

Hardship loan funds may not be used in any exchange that has more than 1,000 existing subscribers and an average number of proposed subscribers per mile of line greater than 17.

Generally, the funding agency will not make a loan for the acquisition of an existing borrower.

Funds may not be used for:

- Duplicating similar services in the same area
- Wireline local exchange service or similar fixed-station voice service that, in the funding agency's opinion, is inconsistent with the borrower achieving the requirements stated in the state's telecommunication modernization plan within the time frame stated in the plan
- Station apparatus not owned by the applicant and any associated inside wiring
- Facilities to provide service other than one-party
- System designs or facilities to provide service that cannot withstand or are not designed to minimize damage caused by storms and other natural catastrophes
- Similar purposes as a rescinded loan through this program
- Merging or consolidating telephone organizations
- Reimbursing acquisition costs unless the funding agency has approved interim financing prior to the closing of the acquisition
- Acquiring stock or any telephone plant of an affiliate

Contact Information

Program staff

(202) 720-0800

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/telecommunications-infrastructure-loans-loan-guarantees>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Energy

Agency: Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

FY 2023 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas

Grant Overview

This program will provide financial investment, technical assistance, and other resources to advance clean energy demonstrations and energy solutions in rural and remote areas that can be replicated and scaled. Under this program a rural or remote area is defined as having less than 10,000 inhabitants. Eligible applicants include domestic institutions of higher education, nonprofits, for-profit entities, Tribal Nations, state and local governments, incorporated consortia, and unincorporated consortia.

Program History

This program is newly created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Key Information

Total Funding: \$300 million

Award Range: Between \$5 million and \$100 million

Match: Varies

Solicitation date: March 1, 2023

Due Date: April 14, 2023 (Concept Paper), June 28, 2023 (Full Application)

<https://oced-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foald90cf93a3-9947-4d2e-b1fb-f98d7b30cdab>



Tips

- The funding agency encourages projects that position rural or remote communities with energy solutions that are resilient to anticipated regional climate changes
- Projects must identify at least one area in the United States (including U.S. territories) with a population of not more than 10,000 inhabitants that benefits from the proposal
- Applicants must submit a Community Benefits Plan
- Applicants will have approximately 60 days from DOE's posting of the Concept Paper Encourage/Discourage notification to prepare and submit an Application

Department: U.S. Department of Energy

Agency: Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

FY 2023 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide financial investment, technical assistance, and other resources to advance clean energy demonstrations and energy solutions in rural and remote areas that can be replicated and scaled. Under this program a rural or remote area is defined as having less than 10,000 inhabitants. The program intends to improve the cost, reliability, environmental impact, and climate and economic resilience of energy systems in rural or remote communities by funding clean energy projects with commercially viable or near-commercially viable technologies. Projects funded through this program will de-risk investment in the energy infrastructure of rural or remote communities. Funded projects will provide insights for future investments, such as deployment of similar technologies, use of similar business models, or adoption of similar community engagement best practices and clarify pathways to future good paying union jobs. The program aims to fund clean energy projects with three specific goals in mind:

- Delivering measurable benefits to energy customers in rural or remote areas by funding replicable energy projects that lower energy costs, improve energy access and resilience, and/or reduce environmental harm
- Demonstrating new rural or remote energy system models using climate-resilient technologies, business structures that promote economic resilience, new financing mechanisms, and/or new community engagement best practices
- Building clean energy knowledge, capacity, and self-reliance in rural America.

Projects funded under this program must meet at least one of the following resilient clean energy objectives:

- Improving overall cost-effectiveness of energy generation, transmission, or distribution systems
- Siting or upgrading transmission and distribution lines
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation in rural or remote areas
- Providing or modernizing electric generation facilities
- Developing microgrids
- Increasing energy efficiency

Quantitative goals that may be used to assess benefit to rural or remote communities include, but are not limited to:

- Improving grid performance, measured through positive changes in metrics such as a reduction in total prolonged outages, reduction in threshold major event days, improvement in system average interruption duration index (SAIDI) and/or system average interruption frequency index (SAIFI), or similar metrics demonstrating improved reliability as a result of the project

- Improving resilience, measured through positive changes in metrics such as restoration time, total number of event days, and/or average number of customers impacted by fewer disruption events, as a result of the project
- Reducing energy burden and poverty, measured through positive changes in metrics such as improvement in energy burden from a baseline established prior to project implementation, reduction in the number or frequency of customer arrearages, and/or the percent of customers receiving shut-off notices as a result of the project
- Increasing economic resilience, measured in ongoing permanent jobs created in the community, wages and benefits, and build-out of the supply chain or other induced economic effects
- Improving environmental performance from energy generation to support public health, measured through positive changes in metrics such as air quality index, total dissolved solids, streamflow, and aquifer hydraulic head as a result of the project
- Reducing greenhouse gas impact of energy system, measured by change in carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions as a result of the project, relative to an established baseline
- Improving energy access by reducing the number of homes currently without access to electricity.

Under this program projects will fall under one of the following two topic areas:

Topic Area 1: Community-Scale Demonstrations: Topic Area 1 solicits proposals to implement clean energy projects using clean energy technologies that advance resilience and provide other benefits to one or more rural or remote communities. Projects must demonstrate solutions to barriers that impede broad-scale adoption of clean energy solutions, such as:

- Limited market size
- Lack of a locally trained workforce
- Higher project costs due to geographic isolation or other location factors
- Gaps in existing infrastructure

Projects proposed under this topic area should be appropriately sized to meet community energy challenges. Eligible projects include microgrid designs and service models that enable cost-competitive deployment to a broad set of rural or remote communities; small hydropower systems providing community benefits; hybrid configurations of distributed energy resources that are operable during extreme weather events; and demonstrating operation of existing technologies to new climates.

Applicants to Topic Area 1 must propose to only use commercially available technologies. Proposals must demonstrate the technology is commercially available and identify a plan to procure the proposed technology.

Topic Area 2: Large-Scale Demonstrations: Topic Area 2 solicits proposals to implement large-scale clean energy demonstration projects that benefit multiple communities, either through a single installation that benefits multiple rural or remote communities, or through a series of installations with similar or complementary characteristics across multiple communities. For multiple site proposals, the applicant must explain metrics to assess direct benefit to multiple communities. There are two Areas of Interest (AOIs) for this Topic Area. Proposals may address only one of the two AOIs, but not both, in the same proposal.

- Area of Interest 1: Aggregation: This AOI supports applications conducting similar projects at multiple locations in a manner that leads to a demonstratable benefit relative to conducting that project at only one location. The project will address one or more of the following:
 - Constraints to expanding clean energy, such as limited workforce and supply chain issues

- Common barriers to rural or remote community energy investments
- Achievement of lower capital investment costs, economies of scale in purchased equipment or materials, ability to leverage transportation of materials for multiple projects in very remote areas, or other measurable investment improvements.
- Example proposals under this AOI include: an aggregation of solar and/or wind farms, with or without energy storage, in multiple locations that share a common administrative and support staff; or grid hardening and resilience efforts to multiple substations. In these scenarios, the applicant must demonstrate benefits to all indicated communities from the energy generation and related economic activity.
- Area of Interest 2: Single-Site Projects: This AOI supports projects that involve a single installation site that can enable replication of a solution and/or benefit multiple rural or remote communities. Replication can be achieved through projects that propose investments that can unlock a previously unavailable capability for multiple rural or remote areas that spur follow-on investment in those areas. Replicability also could be demonstrated by proposing demonstration-ready technologies that are not widely commercially available but leverage unique regional resources. In this latter case, the proposed project might include technology with competitive advantage when deployed in the region, or leverage existing energy assets that have ceased operation, or may soon cease operation, due to the renewable energy transition. Examples of projects proposed under this topic area include:
 - A utility-scale solar, wind farm and/or hydrogen or battery storage facility
 - A bioreactor that uses locally available biomass to replace fossil fuel generation
 - A renewables project that delivers significant additional benefits to a local community
 - A transmission investment that reduces reliance on fossil fuels
 - Clean energy generation in an area having had trouble attracting investment due to geographic isolation

Applicants may submit more than one Concept Paper and Application to this program provided that each Concept Paper and subsequent Application describes a unique, distinct concept and provided that an eligible Concept Paper was submitted for each Application. There are no limits to submissions by topic area by the prime applicant.

Under this program projects will be categorized into nine geographic regions, each with its own set of broad energy challenges that provide applicants the opportunity to propose creative solutions at a variety of sizes and scales to address those challenges. Applicants are required to identify at least one applicable region for the project, along with any regional climate risk(s) the project is proposing to help mitigate. The funding agency seeks projects that leverage a region's natural resources, local industry, stakeholders, climate and/or economic risks, or other factors, as such factors may be critical towards the ultimate replicability of the project in other rural or remote areas within the region. The nine regions and their regional energy challenges are as follows:

- Northeast: This region includes the states of CT, D.C., DE, MA, ME, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, WV, VA, VT and common regional challenges are coastal and grid infrastructure resilience, aging infrastructure, and a reliance on fuel oil. Examples of regional technology solutions are utility-scale storage, coal to renewable energy conversion, and district heating.
- Southeast: This region includes the states of AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN and common regional challenges are coastal resilience of renewable power and grid infrastructure, aging infrastructure and energy systems integration. Examples of regional technology solutions are utility-scale solar and wind, utility-scale energy storage, and grid modernization.

- Midwest: This region includes the states of IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI and common regional challenges are aging infrastructure, wind energy integration, and reliance on coal. Examples of regional technology solutions are utility-scale solar and wind, biorefineries, decarbonizing the industrial and agricultural sectors and grid modernization.
- North Central: This region includes the states of CO, KS, ND, NE, MT, SD, UT, WY and common regional challenges are reliance on coal, grid expansion, integration, and modernization, working with tribal governments to support next-generation clean energy and efficient water use and limited transmission access and capacity. Examples of regional technology solutions are utility-scale solar and wind, biorefineries, grid modernization, and carbon-free agriculture.
- South-Central: This region includes the states of AR, LA, NM, OK, TX and common regional challenges are wind energy integration, climate impacts, and grid expansion, integration, and modernization. Examples of regional technology solutions are utility-scale solar and wind, hydrogen infrastructure and utility-scale energy storage.
- Southwest: This region includes the states of AZ, CA, NV and common regional challenges are water constraints increasing energy demand, climate impacts, limited transmission capacity, and utilities. Examples of regional technology solutions are energy-water nexus efficiency, geothermal, biomass, and distributed storage and microgrids.
- Northwest: This region includes the states of ID, OR, WA and common regional challenges are climate change impacts on energy reliability and energy demand, balancing multiple resource interests and protecting the environment, and working with tribal governments to support next-generation clean energy and efficient water use. Examples of regional technology solutions are microgrids, hydro and marine hydrokinetic power, and geothermal for generation and district heating.
- Alaska: This region includes the state of AK and common regional challenges are providing affordable, reliable, resilient energy for small, isolated populations, reliance on costly diesel fuel, and opportunities to apply available hydropower and wind resource baseload power in railbelt electric grids. Examples of regional technology solutions are microgrids, small-, large-scale, and long-duration storage.
- Islands and Territories: This region includes the states and territories of AS, GU, HI, PR, USVI, and MP and common regional challenges are reliance on relatively high-cost fuel oil and diesel generation, power quality and reliability, and climate impacts. Examples of regional technology solutions are utility and microgrid solar/wind, long-duration energy storage, and small-scale green hydrogen.

The program is designed to enable citizens in rural or remote communities, to realize material benefits as the result of investment in their energy infrastructure. These benefits can include, but are not limited to lower energy costs, improved energy access, economic resilience, and environmental protection from adverse impacts of historic energy generation. Selected projects will implement cost-effective clean energy technologies that promote the overall resilience of the local energy system against climate impacts, and support more diversified rural economies better able to weather economic shocks.

To ensure that these benefits are spread equitably across affected communities applicants are required to submit a Community Benefits Plan (CBP). This plan outlines how the project will support community and labor engagement, invest in the American workforce, contribute to the President's goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities (the Justice40 Initiative), and promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA).

The program seeks to build confidence of decision makers to invest in clean energy in rural and remote areas, including financiers, utilities, and tribal, state, and local governments, who can enable project replication.

Proposed projects can demonstrate established, commercial technologies for the first time in a new setting or place, or at a larger scale; an innovative approach to improve siting and permitting timelines; enabling energy access for homes/communities that do not have access to electricity; self-reliance, or reduction in environmental harm from generation; economic development and local job creation leading to more overall economic resilience, and/or an innovative technology application in a rural or remote area.

Projects proposed to be built outside of a rural or remote area may be considered for funding but must clearly define the rural or remote area(s) of less than 10,000 inhabitants receiving the benefits, the types of benefits, and the method through which these benefits will be quantitatively measured and accounted for in the CBP.

Projects will follow a structured, phased management approach. Applicants will describe how the project will be managed in accordance with these phases. The approach includes the following five phases:

- Phase 0 – Application
- Phase 1 – Detailed Project Planning
- Phase 2 – Project Development, Permitting, and Financing
- Phase 3 – Installation, Integration, or Construction
- Phase 4 – Ramp-Up and Sustained Operations

Each phase includes specific activities and associated requirements, which will be tailored during award and phase negotiations to the size and complexity of the proposed project. More details on each phase can be found on the funding agency's website [here](#).

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include domestic institutions of higher education, nonprofits, for-profit entities, Tribal Nations, state and local governments, incorporated consortia, and unincorporated consortia. To qualify as a domestic entity, the entity must be organized, chartered, or incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a particular state or territory of the United States; have majority domestic ownership and control; and have a physical place of business in the United States.

Federal agencies and instrumentalities (other than DOE) are not eligible to participate in projects funded under this program under any capacity. DOE/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) and nonDOE/NNSA FFRDC are not eligible to participate as prime or subrecipients.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$300 million is available to support between 7 and 28 projects through this program. Award information for each topic area is as follows:

- Topic Area 1 Community-Scale Demonstrations: An estimated \$40 million in funding is available to support 4-8 awards ranging from \$5 million to \$10 million under this topic area.
- Topic Area 2 Large-Scale Demonstrations: An estimated \$260 million in funding is available to support 3-20 awards ranging from \$10 million to \$100 million under this topic area.

In general, a minimum of 50 percent non-federal cost share is required for projects under this program. For projects where the prime recipient is a domestic institution of higher education; domestic nonprofit entity; or

U.S. state, local, or tribal government entity (including Alaska Native Corporations and Alaska Native Village Corporations) the non-federal cost share is 20 percent.

The maximum project period is 7 years, and the scope of the proposed project would determine that specific project period within the maximum project period.

Technical assistance is also available to communities to support the initial development of project concepts. Applicants can access the technical assistance through the [program website](#).

Contact Information

Program Staff

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<https://oced-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foald90cf93a3-9947-4d2e-b1fb-f98d7b30cdab>

Application Content

Concept Paper

Section	Page Limit	Description
Cover Page	1 page (Both Topic Areas)	The cover page must include the project title, the specific announcement Topic Area and Region of Interest being addressed, both the technical and business points of contact, names of all team member organizations, the project location(s), the rural or remote area(s) that will be receiving technical or community benefits through the proposed project, and any statements regarding confidentiality
Mission and Objective	1 page (Topic area 1) 2 Pages (Topic Area 2)	<p>Applicants are required to describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed project, including the technology and/or systems to be developed, construction activities, and infrastructure development • A description of the rural or remote area(s) that will benefit from the project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An outline of the current energy challenges facing rural or remote areas of the region and the sources of these challenges, and a description of how the proposed project will help overcome one or more of the outlined current energy challenges ○ To the extent possible, outline any specific energy impacts on the rural or remote communities, and, as applicable, describe how the proposed project will improve resilience ○ A description of how of the project will deliver a benefit to one or more rural or remote areas (If the project is not located in the rural or remote area of benefit)
Demonstration Plan	3 pages (Topic Area 1) 4 pages (Topic Area 2)	<p>Applicants are required to describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A preliminary development plan and timeline, including identifying some key risks and challenges to achieve deployment of the proposed project • The impact that DOE funding would have on the proposed project. • Briefly explain the plan to sustain the project after federal funds are expended. Describe how the project team will be prepared to operate and maintain the project once constructed. Provide the projected project revenue stream or other income to ensure cash flow for operations and maintenance for the life of the project. State the long-term vision to sustain and maintain the project after completing construction and achieving full operations

Management and Organization	1 Page (Topic Area 1)	<p>Applicants must describe the qualifications, experience, and capabilities of the proposed Project Team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the skills and expertise that the Lead Project Manager (LPM) and Project Team have to successfully design, develop, and operate the proposed plan. Specific details substantiating claims of expertise will be required in the application. Describe any relevant prior experience which demonstrates an ability to perform tasks of similar risk and complexity. If applicable, provide details on the applicant team’s prior work together on projects A summary organization chart of the team must be provided. Applicants may provide other graphs, charts, or data to supplement their Demonstration plan and Project Team Descriptions
	2 Pages (Topic Area 2)	
Community Benefits Plan	2 Pages (Topic Area 1)	<p>Applicants are required to clearly illustrate how the proposal benefits a rural or remote community. Briefly explain these four core elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting meaningful community and labor engagement Investing in the American workforce by creating good local jobs and supporting a skilled workforce Advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility Contributing to the Justice40 Initiative goal that 40% of the overall climate and clean energy investments flow to Disadvantaged Communities
	3 Pages (Topic Area 2)	

Full Application

Component	Page Limit
SF-424	N/A
Technical Volume (more information below)	20 pages (Topic Area 1) 50 Pages (Topic Area 2)
Community Benefits Plan	N/A
Community Partnership Documentation	N/A
Resume	2 Pages
Letters of Commitment	1 Page Per Letter
Budget and Budget Justification	N/A
Summary Slide	1
Verification of Special Cost Share Waiver Eligibility	N/A
Transparency of Foreign Connections	N/A

Potentially Duplicative Federal Funding	N/A
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	N/A

Technical Volume Topic Area 1

Cover Page (1 Page): The cover page should include the project title, the specific FOA Topic Area being addressed (if applicable), both the technical and business points of contact, names of all team member organizations, names of the senior/key personnel and their organizations, the project location(s), and any statements regarding confidentiality.

Project Overview (2 Pages) The Project Overview should contain the following information:

- A description of the energy and climate challenges that the rural or remote area(s) being targeted face, and why the proposed solution appropriately addresses these challenges.
- The impact of DOE funding and how the DOE funding, relative to prior, current, or anticipated funding from other public and private sources, is necessary to achieve the project objectives.
- An explanation of the technology being proposed, integration with the power distribution network or “grid” including any necessary infrastructure, and selected geographic region(s) and site(s). The project summary may include schematics such as process flow diagrams and a highlevel schedule.
- The ways in which the proposed project location and related infrastructure, skilled workforce, community engagement, etc. will contribute to the overall project viability and long-term success.

Business Development and Management (4 Pages): The Business Development and Management should contain the following information:

- Business Plan, including viability assessment, key contracts, permits and agreements, preliminary site selection and considerations, customer/community impact assessment, and similar.
- Management Plan, including key organizational members and structure, roles and responsibilities, and relevant prior experience.
- Financial Plan, including total project funding requirements, financial relationship between project members, plan and ability to meet cost share, including other sources of project funding or finance.

Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Operations (4 Pages): The Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Operations should contain the following:

- A description of the technologies intended to be utilized for the project.
- A description of existing infrastructure, equipment and facilities that will be impacted.
- Any preliminary engineering evaluations and designs and associated cost estimates.
- Plans for completion of engineering, design and procurement activities.
- Plans for operations and maintenance of the system.

Safety and Occupational Health, Cybersecurity, Permitting and Regulatory Requirements (1 Page): The Safety and Occupational Health, Cybersecurity, Permitting and Regulatory Requirements section should contain the following:

- Safety and Occupational Health Plans (SOHPs): Applications should include a brief description of safety culture, including safety and occupational health plan, and available performance history (such as an OSHA 300A form or Experience Modification Rating) of the entities and management involved in the award.

- **Cybersecurity:** While a detailed plan is not required, applicants should specify any potential threats or vulnerabilities that they have identified.
- **Permitting:** Applications should include a permitting workflow overview that identifies the anticipated federal, state, and local codes, regulations, and permitting requirements applicable to siting, construction, and operation of the proposed project. If an application is selected for negotiation of award, applicants will be required to complete an Environmental Considerations Summary in support of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance.

Risk Analysis and Mitigation (2 Pages): The Risk Analysis and Mitigation section should contain the following:

- Identification of the commercial, technical, construction, schedule, regulatory, permitting, safety, scale-up, infrastructure, financial, management, organizational, and market related risks.
- Assessment of the probability of occurrence of realization and potential impacts.
- Proposed mitigations

Workplan (4 Pages): The workplan should include the following:

- **Project Objectives:**
 - **Buy America Requirement for Infrastructure Projects:** Within the first 2 pages of the proposed workplan or project description, include a short statement on whether the project will involve the construction, alteration, maintenance and/or repair of public infrastructure in the United States.
- **Technical Scope Summary,** divided by performance periods in alignment with the four Project Phases and separated by discrete decision points.
- **Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) and Task Description Summary,** with a concise description of the specific activities to be conducted over the life of the project (including project construction and operations) for each task/subtask.
- **Go/No-Go Decision Points** for each project phase.
- **A summary of the End of Project Goal.**
- **Integrated Project Schedule (IPS)** for the entire project, including task and subtask durations, milestones, Community Benefits Plan, and Go/No-Go decision.

The Workplan will be utilized as the basis for the cooperative agreement that will be negotiated if selected for award.

Technical Volume Topic Area 2

Cover Page (1 Page): The Cover Page should cover the following:

- The project summary must include the project title, the specific program Topic Area and Region of Interest being addressed, the technical and business points of contact, senior/key personnel and their organizations (including collaborating organizations), the project location(s) by the city, state, and zip code + 4 for each location where project work will be performed by the prime recipient or subrecipient(s), any statements regarding confidentiality

Project Overview (3 Pages): This section is a description of the overall scope and objectives of the project. It must include:

- A description of the energy and climate challenges that the rural or remote area(s) being targeted face, and why the proposed solution appropriately addresses these challenges.
- The impact of DOE funding and how the DOE funding, relative to prior, current, or anticipated funding from other public and private sources, is necessary to achieve the project objectives.
- An explanation of the technology being proposed, integration with the power distribution network or “grid” including any necessary infrastructure, and selected geographic region(s) and site(s). The project summary may include schematics such as process flow diagrams and a highlevel schedule.
- The ways in which the proposed project location and related infrastructure, skilled workforce, community engagement, etc. will contribute to overall project viability and long-term success.

Business Development and Management (12 Pages): This section must include a Business Plan, Management Plan, and Financial Plan as necessary elements detailed below. The project’s level of development and level of detail within these plans will evolve over the life of the project.

- **Business Plan:** The plan must include key success metrics and high-level milestones to be completed throughout the project, such as signing key contracts and agreements, securing permits, completing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews, executing financial close, commencing site preparation and construction, achieving commercial operations (i.e., near or full design capacity), and evaluating/analyzing potential markets.
- **Management Plan:** This plan must include the project organizational structure, organization capabilities, and operations plan; the financial strength of the project lead and any major project partners; and the prior experience of the senior/key personnel in similar or related undertakings.
- **Financial Plan:** The plan must include funding for procurement and construction including medium-term financing for machinery and equipment; longer-term financing for the site and facility including sources and uses; and any required funding beyond internal cash flow, including working capital financing for project long term operation. This should include a detailed plan and schedule for achieving long-term financial viability, beyond DOE and other federal funding; the amount of expected traditional equity investments (identify participants and level of participation, if applicable); the timing of expected equity contributions and/or debt funding; and the timing of repayment of expected debt funding.

Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Operations (12 Pages): The Application should describe high-level engineering (which includes design), procurement, construction, and operation (EPC&O) data, information, and related documents covering technology; performance projections; engineering, design, and procurement; cost estimates; execution schedules; and operating and disposition plans for the project. It is expected that the initial plans submitted as part of the Application will be further developed as the project move through each phase.

Safety and Occupational Health, Cybersecurity, Permitting and Regulatory Requirements (6 Pages): The Safety and Occupational Health, Cybersecurity, Permitting and Regulatory Requirements document must include these mentioned requirements, NEPA requirements, and other considerations described in detailed below. For guidance and additional information on post-selection safety, security, and regulatory requirements (including NEPA and permitting) refer to the Guidance Document for this FOA available on OCED eXCHANGE under this FOA’s posting.

Risk Analysis and Mitigation (6 Pages): The application requires the development of an initial Risk Management Plan (RMP) by the applicant that is accompanied by a corresponding risk register to be used for

ongoing risk management. The RMP provides a narrative that analyzes the commercial, technical, construction, schedule, regulatory, permitting, safety, scale-up, infrastructure, financial, management, organizational, and market related risks. Each identified risk in the RMP should be clearly described, including its probability of realization, potential impacts, and proposed mitigations. As appropriate, identified risks are incorporated into other project documentation, such as execution schedules, cost estimate maturity, and contingency.

Workplan (10 Pages): The Workplan must include the Project Objectives, Technical Scope Summary, Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) and Task Description Summary, Go/No-Go Decision Points, End of Project Goal and Integrated Project Schedule (IPS) as necessary elements. Note on Buy America Requirement for Infrastructure Projects: Within the first 2 pages of the proposed workplan or project description, include a short statement on whether the project will involve the construction, alteration, maintenance and/or repair of public infrastructure in the United States

Community Benefits Plan: Job Quality and Equity

The Community Benefits Plan: Job Quality and Equity (CBP or Plan) must set forth the applicant's framework to ensure that federal investments in the power sector advance the following four priorities: (1) community and labor engagement; (2) investing in the American workforce; (3) advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA); and (4) the Justice40 Initiative. Applications must include a CBP describing how the project will incorporate these four objectives. CBP milestones and workplan descriptions should be incorporated into the project schedule, workplan, budget, and other key documents. For projects impacting multiple communities, CBPs should address all four objectives across all communities. CBP requirements, described below, are flexible to allow project teams to respond to communities, workers, and impacted groups. In case of incomplete information, applicants should explain the reason and provide plans to address gaps.

The CBP should provide the most details for Phase 1 and offer a high-level summary of proposed goals, deliverables, outcomes, and implementation strategies for Phases 2–4. DOE will provide feedback to awardees and require updates to CBPs during award negotiations. DOE will provide guidance to awardees on updating the CBP across project phases and incorporating outcomes and findings in final reports.

- **Community and Labor Engagement:** This section should describe the applicant's plans to engage with community stakeholders in all impacted communities. Engagement should be responsive to the priorities of impacted groups, ensure community and labor input can affect project decisions, and support transparency and accountability. This section should include the following elements:
 - Background and Experience - Summarize the project team's prior and ongoing efforts to engage community stakeholders, tribes, workforce organizations, and labor unions.
 - Community History, Dynamics, and Stakeholders - Describe the community/communities that will be impacted by the project, including their current and historical social, cultural, economic, labor, and environmental landscape(s), decision-making structures, and other relevant information. Identify key stakeholder groups and describe existing labor and community support for and/or concerns with the project. For projects impacting multiple communities, cover all impacted communities.
 - Strategies, Methods, and Timeline - Describe high-level objectives, approaches, and timelines for engaging stakeholders (including traditionally excluded stakeholders), workforce organizations, labor unions, and other impacted communities, matching engagement methods to project phases and goals. Describe how the project will incorporate

input from community stakeholders impacted by the project and how engagement can impact project decisions, characteristics, or site selection.

- Workforce and Community Agreements Statement - Describe plans to negotiate a Community Benefits Agreement, Good Neighbor Agreement, Project Labor Agreement, Community Workforce Agreement, and/or other collective bargaining agreements. Applicants should consider pursuing multiple agreements. Projects impacting multiple communities should strongly consider developing such agreements with each community.
- Resource Summary - Summarize the resources dedicated to implementing the plan including staff with relevant expertise, facilities, and budget. This could include an indication of how DOE funding would support resources for engagement.
- **Investing in the American Workforce:** This section should describe plans to create and retain high-paying quality jobs and develop a skilled local workforce, which can support project stability, continuity, and success, and help meet program goals. This section should include the following elements:
 - Background and Experience - Summarize previous or ongoing efforts to invest in the local workforce and create quality jobs, invest in workforce development, and protect worker rights.
 - Quality Jobs. Describe plans to attract and retain a skilled, local, and diverse workforce for construction and ongoing operations. Describe the anticipated quality of jobs benchmarking wages and benefits against local prevailing wage or average wages for the industry and occupations.
 - Workforce Development. Describe plans for investing in workforce development, including workforce education and training for local workers and support for workers' skill acquisition and opportunities for advancement.
 - Worker Rights. Describe how you will encourage worker organizing and collective bargaining, so that workers can form and join unions of their choosing, and how they will have the opportunity to organize with the purposes of exercising collective voice in the workplace in both construction and ongoing operations.
 - Milestones and Timelines. List milestones and timelines for the proposed activities.
 - Resource Summary. Describe the resources including staff with relevant expertise, facilities, and budget dedicated to these activities. This could include an indication of how DOE funding would support these resources.
- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA):** This section should detail how DEIA objectives will be incorporated into the project and describe how the applicant will partner with underrepresented businesses, educational institutions, and training organizations that serve workers facing barriers to quality jobs, and/or other partners to help support DEIA. Elements of the DEIA plan should include the following:
 - Background and Experience - Describe the team's prior and ongoing DEIA efforts.
 - Strategies, Milestones, and Timelines - Describe DEIA outcomes and implementation strategies, aligned with project phases and workplans. This may include plans to provide comprehensive supportive services (to improve representation and access to jobs) and partner with Minority-, Woman-, or Veteran-Owned Businesses and/or organizations serving under-represented communities and those facing barriers to employment.

- Resource Summary - Describe project resources dedicated to implementing DEIA activities including staff with relevant expertise, facilities, and budget. This could include an indication of how DOE funding would support resources for DEIA activities.
- **Justice40 Initiative:** This section should describe the team’s plans to advance energy and environmental justice (EEJ) through the project. It should include an assessment of project impacts and where they flow, and an implementation strategy describing actions to maximize benefits and minimize negative impacts and measure, track, and report impacts. Specifically, the Justice40 Initiative section must include:
 - Assessment of impacted communities and groups -Describe all communities or groups that could experience impacts from the proposed project and characterize the existing burdens they face using EJSCREEN,2 disadvantaged community definition tools, or other analytic tools. Identify which of these are considered disadvantaged communities
 - Assessment of project benefits - Describe all anticipated project benefits, enumerating:
 - Project benefits and metrics that will be used to track each benefit
 - Where/to whom project benefits are expected to flow and the extent to which they flow to disadvantaged communities or overburdened, underserved groups
 - How benefits align with community priorities identified through engagement. •
 - Assessment of project negative impacts - Describe all anticipated project negative impacts (including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts), enumerating:
 - Project negative impacts and metrics that could be used to track each impact
 - Where/to whom impacts are expected to flow and the extent to which these impacts flow to disadvantaged communities or overburdened, underserved groups.
 - How project negative impacts will interact with existing cumulative burdens. •
 - Implementation Plan, Milestones, and Timelines - Describe strategies, methods, and milestones aligned with project phases to maximize benefit; minimize negative impacts; measure, track, and report impacts; and fill information gaps. Describe accountability, feedback, and transparency mechanisms (e.g., Workforce and Community Agreements and public access to project data).
 - Addressing barriers - Describe potential barriers to realizing benefits and minimizing negative impacts and plans for mitigating those barriers.
 - Resource Summary - Describe resources dedicated to implementing the plan including staff with relevant expertise, facilities, and budget. This could include an indication of how DOE funding would support resources for Justice40 activities.

Evaluation Criteria

Concept Papers and Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below.

Concept Papers

Concept Papers are evaluated based on consideration of the following factors. All sub-criteria are of equal weight. To be deemed eligible, the applicant must demonstrate clearly defined activities to improve energy in rural or remote areas of the United States. The applicant must generally identify the types of activities and clearly define the remote or rural area that will benefit from these activities, using U.S. Census Bureau data or other (legal) boundary.

Concept Paper Criterion: Overall FOA Responsiveness and Viability of the Project (100%): This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The applicant clearly describes the significant energy cost, resilience, or reliability challenges facing the rural or remote area(s) targeted by the proposed project, as well as the applicability of this challenge to other similar rural or remote communities in the region.
- The applicant clearly describes the proposed scope of the demonstration project including the key technologies and systems, total cost of the project, and how the proposed project will improve or overcome one or more of the energy challenges identified for the rural or remote area(s) targeted by the proposed project, and how similar solutions could be applicable to other similar communities in the region.
- The applicant clearly describes how the project can help mitigate environmental impacts of existing generation. • The applicant has identified a preliminary project development plan and timeline, including a finance plan, any key risks, challenges, and possible mitigation strategies, and has shown the impact of DOE funding. Applicants should provide measures for improving resilience, safety, reliability, and availability of energy and environmental protection from adverse impacts of energy generation.
- The applicant and proposed team have the qualifications, experience, capabilities, and other resources necessary to design, develop, build, and operate the proposed project.
- A description of strategies to ensure meaningful community and labor engagement; quality jobs and workforce development; EEJ and the Justice40 Initiative; and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility—including methods to ensure accountability.

Full Applications

Impact, Transformation, and Technical Merit (30%) - This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- Extent to which the application specifically and convincingly demonstrates how the proposed project will meet the program technical objectives.
- The degree to which the proposed project reduces the emissions of greenhouse gas and criteria pollutants across the full life cycle that result from the generation, transmission, and/or distribution of energy to the targeted rural or remote area(s) as compared to today's baseline.
- Extent to which the proposed technology or technologies are described in sufficient detail to achieve commercial viability if the technology or technologies described are not already commercially available.
- Extent to which the applicant demonstrates understanding of the key technical, construction, regulatory, permitting, safety and occupational health, scale-up and infrastructure integration risks involved in the proposed work, and the quality of the mitigation strategies to address them.

Financial and Market (20%) - This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The degree to which the proposed project reduces energy burden and/or energy costs for consumers in the targeted rural or remote area(s).
- The degree to which the application justifies the proposed project's economic viability, sustainability, and potential growth beyond DOE funding, including the potential for the proposed project type to be replicated in other rural or remote areas with similar needs.

- The degree to which the proposed project meets the required FOA financial and market objectives.
- The adequacy and justification of the proposed budget and spend plan covering both DOE funding and non-federal cost share.
- The availability, credibility, and risk/terms of non-federal cost share sources and funds necessary to meet ongoing cost share needs. This includes the ability to leverage DOE financial assistance funding from this FOA with federal, state, and local incentives as well as private financing, as well as incentives to serve rural or remote communities.
- The degree to which the applicant addresses each key participating organization's financial commitment to the proposed project including overall financial strength and financial capability to implement the proposed plan.

Workplan (15%) - This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The overall reasonableness of the Integrated Project Schedule based on the associated complexity of the proposal.
- The degree to which the proposed Workplan and critical path have been clearly and thoroughly described and thoughtfully considered.
- The degree to which the task descriptions are clear, detailed, timely, and reasonable, resulting in a high likelihood that the proposed Workplan will succeed in meeting the project goals.
- The strength and level of clarity in the definition of the project phases, metrics, Integrated Project Schedule, and Go/No-Go criteria.
- The strength of the deliverables as defined in the application, such that DOE and independent experts will be able to review key technical, financial, regulatory, permitting, and community benefit milestones at appropriate project Go/No Go Decision Points to mitigate project risk and enable the successful design, procurement, construction, and operation of the proposed project.

Management Team and Project Partners (15%) - This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The capability of the prime recipient, the proposed team, and key personnel to manage and address all aspects of the proposed work with a high probability of success.
- The qualifications and relevant experience, including number of years, demonstrated safety performance history, occupational health history, and specific project experience, of the key project participants in performing similar projects and the allocation of responsibility commensurate with this experience.

Community Benefits Plan (20%) - This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- Community and Labor Engagement
 - Extent to which the project demonstrates a clear and appropriately robust plan to meaningfully engage local stakeholders, including labor unions, community-based organizations that support or work with disadvantaged communities and/or underserved and overburdened groups, and tribes, in a manner that can impact project decisions, for example through the use of Workforce and Community Agreements.
 - Extent to which impacted communities and workforce organizations including labor unions are appropriately included as core partners in the project and/or affirm support.
- Job Quality and Workforce Continuity
 - Extent to which the Community Benefits Plan demonstrates that the jobs supported by the proposed project will be quality jobs and provides robust and credible plan to attract, train,

- and retain skilled local workers (e.g., through a Workforce and Community Agreements; pledges to remain neutral in the face of an organizing effort; commitments to wages above prevailing wage requirements, benefits, or other worker support) extending beyond the award period of performance.
 - Extent to which the Community Benefits Plan demonstrates plans to invest in workforce education and training for local workers, support workers' skill acquisition and opportunities for advancement, and utilize an appropriately credentialed workforce.
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
 - Extent to which the Community Benefits Plan includes specific and high-quality actions to meet DEIA goals, which may include DEIA recruitment procedures, supplier diversity plans, and other DEIA initiatives.
 - Quality of any partnerships and agreements with apprenticeship readiness programs, or community-based workforce training and support organizations serving workers facing systematic barriers to employment to facilitate participation in the project's construction and operations.
- Justice40 Initiative
 - Extent to which the Community Benefits Plan identifies specific and measurable project benefits, how the benefits will flow, and how negative impacts would be mitigated—and specifically describes these impacts on disadvantaged communities; and
 - Extent to which the project would contribute to meeting the objective that 40% of the overall benefits of climate and clean energy investments flow to disadvantaged communities

In addition to the above criteria, the Selection Official may consider the following program policy factors in determining which Applications to select for award negotiations:

- The degree to which the proposed project exhibits technological diversity when compared to the existing DOE project portfolio and other projects selected from the program.
- The degree to which the proposed project exhibits a diversity of regional solutions when compared to the existing DOE project portfolio and other projects selected from the program.
- The degree to which the proposed project supports disadvantaged communities, communities with a high energy burden, or communities with an urgent energy challenge.
- The degree in which the communities are reasonably determined to be rural or remote.
- The degree to which the proposed project, including proposed cost share, optimizes the use of available DOE funding to achieve programmatic objectives.
- The degree to which the proposed project is likely to lead to increased high-quality employment in rural and remote communities.
- The degree to which the proposed project, or group of projects, represent a desired geographic distribution (considering past awards and current applications).
- The degree to which the proposed project incorporates applicant or team members from Minority Serving Institutions (e.g., Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)/Other Minority Serving Institutions); and partnerships with Minority Business Enterprises, Minority Owned Businesses, Woman Owned Businesses, Veteran Owned Businesses, or tribal nations.
- The degree to which the proposed project incorporates some form of community and/or tribal ownership.
- The degree to which the proposed project collectively represents diverse types and sizes of applicant organizations.

- The degree to which the project may produce additional benefits to communities, such as drinking water production or use of waste heat for home heating.

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Energy

Agency: Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED)

FY 2023 Energizing Rural Communities Prize

Grant Overview

This program incentivizes the development of clean energy projects in rural or remote areas of the country by offering a cash prize pool to kickstart development of clean energy projects. Funding will be provided under two categories. 1: Partner Track, to facilitate new or existing partnerships that enable development of clean energy projects in rural or remote communities and 2: Finance Track, to connect communities to capital for current or future clean energy projects by developing innovative and functional business models. Eligible applicants are private for-profit and nonprofit entities; nonfederal government entities, such as states, counties, tribes, and municipalities; and academic institutions.

Program History

This new program is part of OCED's \$1 billion Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) program, which was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Key Information

Total Funding: \$15 million

Match: None

Solicitation date: January 17, 2023

Proposal due: May 24, 2023

<https://www.herox.com/rural-energy>



Tips

- Projects must benefit a rural or remote area, which for the purposes of this program is defined as a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of no more than 10,000 inhabitants.
- Applications submitted by organizations and communities that historically have not received awards from the funding agency are encouraged.

Department: U.S. Department of Energy

Agency: Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

FY 2023 Energizing Rural Communities Prize

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to incentivize the development of clean energy projects in rural or remote areas of the country by offering a cash prize pool to kickstart development of clean energy projects. The prize is intended to encourage applicants to take the first steps necessary to develop a clean energy project, and applicants should have an idea for a future project; however, construction is not required as part of the prize.

The program is intended to:

- Demonstrate innovative and replicable partnership and financial mechanisms that act as initial steps toward clean energy projects
- Better prepare rural or remote communities to secure funding for clean energy projects
- Identify, understand, and further develop activities that prepare communities to complete clean energy projects
- Build trust and strengthen the networks between and within rural and remote communities in support of energy improvements aligned with the funding agency's Justice40 priorities

Successful projects will demonstrate strong ties to rural or remote communities and show how they will serve as bridges between the funding agency and rural or remote communities with which the agency may not have previously engaged.

The program includes two individual award tracks, each with two phases. In phase one, applicants should develop a plan to accomplish the program goals, which should include proposed activities, milestones, and metrics measuring the impact and demonstrating the success of proposed activities by leading to targeted outcomes. In phase two, award recipients will receive additional funding to leverage the award to implement their plan developed during phase one.

Funding will be provided for the following program components:

Partner Track: The purpose of the Partner Track component is to facilitate new or existing partnerships that enable development of clean energy projects in rural or remote communities. Award recipients will create connections that lead to collaborative efforts for the development of clean energy projects in rural or remote communities.

This track encourages applicants to form new or leverage existing partnerships to facilitate clean energy projects in rural or remote areas. Formal partnership formation should advance the development of clean energy projects focusing on improving the resilience, safety, reliability, and availability of energy, and reducing the adverse environmental impacts from energy generation by rural or remote communities.

Maturity of the partnerships proposed through this track will be considered in the evaluation, with preference given to established, formal relationships with organizations capable of supporting clean energy projects. Collaborative efforts may include providing engineering services to advance project concepts, encouraging multiple communities to aggregate similar energy projects to unlock economies of scale, or facilitating equipment acquisition.

Applicants must have a vision for a clean energy project they intend to pursue in a rural or remote community that is supported by their proposed activity. Partnership activities pursued under this track should advance completion of this project, and applicants are encouraged to think creatively about what partnership activities would most directly benefit the clean energy project. Examples of supported activities include:

- Building relationships among multiple rural or remote communities that intend to improve resilience of their electricity systems through upgrading transmission and distribution lines, or to achieve economies of scale by aggregation of equipment procurement or engineering services
- Creating a project development team within an organization to facilitate the development of a clean energy project
- Identifying regional impacts of climate change that reduce the resilience and reliability of local energy systems
- Developing a contract between a local government and a clean energy training organization to build a local workforce to support a specific clean energy project

Finance Track: The purpose of the Finance Track component is to connect communities to capital for current or future clean energy projects by developing innovative and functional business models, new approaches to financing clean energy projects, the expansion of existing business models to new rural and remote areas, and innovative ways to leverage other fiscal incentives, such as tax credits. Goals of this component include:

- Enabling rural or remote communities to access conventional financing for energy projects
- Creating pathways for communities to pursue unconventional capital
- Connecting finance partners that want to expand businesses to support clean energy projects for the benefit of rural or remote areas
- Other creative ideas for improving access to capital for clean energy projects in rural or remote communities

Applicants must identify one or more barriers that rural or remote communities face in financing clean energy projects, and financing activities pursued under this track should result in targeted outcomes that help overcome this barrier, either for a specific clean energy project or a type of clean energy project that is supported by the activity proposed. Applicants are encouraged to think creatively about what financing activities would most effectively enable access to capital for rural communities.

Examples of supported activities include:

- Conducting a market assessment to determine potential demand for and guide design of a clean energy loan program tailored to rural or remote communities
- Determining interest by utility customers or credit union members in a community solar project through community outreach
- Identifying sources of additional funding and developing a capital-raising strategy
- Issuing a request for information (RFI) to gather data from project developers
- Training staff that will be evaluating loan applications for clean energy projects
- Conducting community outreach to identify local partners

- Identifying tax credits and incentives that are available for projects in a specific rural or remote community
- Partnering with an organization with expertise in rural or remote communities to assist in design of financial products

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are private for-profit and nonprofit entities; nonfederal government entities, such as states, counties, tribes, and municipalities; and academic institutions.

For the Partner Track component eligible applicants may include energy project developers; nonfederal governments; utilities; community-based organizations with expertise in clean energy deployment, infrastructure, or resilience; and other organizations with creative ideas to help rural or remote communities connect with partners that enable improving the resilience, safety, reliability, and availability of energy, as well as environmental protection from adverse impacts of energy generation.

For the Finance Track component eligible applicants may include energy project developers; nonfederal governments; utilities; community development financial institutions, as defined on page 11 of the NOFA file, and credit unions; green banks and related loan funds that can adapt their current business models to rural or remote communities; and other organizations with creative ideas to help rural or remote communities fill funding gaps for clean energy projects.

Applicants must propose projects that benefit a rural or remote area, which for the purposes of this program is defined as a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of no more than 10,000 inhabitants. Applications are accepted from all U.S. states, territories, and tribal areas.

Applicants must identify at least one area in the county, including U.S. territories, with a population of no more than 10,000, using 2020 Census Bureau figures, that benefits from the project; however, the proposed project does not necessarily need to be located in a rural or remote area, as long as the area benefits from the project

Applicants are encouraged to form diverse teams while preparing their phase one submission. Applications submitted by organizations and communities that historically have not received awards from the funding agency are encouraged.

Applicants may submit multiple applications to both program tracks; however, only one submission per track per community served will be accepted and reviewed. If an applicant is unsure of which track to apply to, they may apply for consideration in both tracks. If an applicant submits the same submission under both tracks, that submission can only win a cash prize in one track. Applicants with separate, distinct submissions to each track may win a cash prize in both tracks if the funding agency determines that the submissions are sufficiently distinct and meritorious.

Additionally, phase two awards are only open to recipients selected through phase one. Recipients awarded during phase one through either track must stay within that track if they apply for a phase two award.

Funding

In FY 2023, a total of \$15 million is available through this program overall, with a total of \$10 million available to support awards through the Partner Track component and a total of \$5 million available to support awards

through the Finance Track component. Funding will be dispersed through the two individual award tracks, each with two phases.

Partner Track: With a total of \$10 million available to support awards through this component. Funding will be provided in two separate phases, as follows:

- Phase one: up to 60 winners will receive a cash prize of \$100,000, mentorship, and be eligible to compete in phase two
- Phase two: up to 20 winners will receive an additional cash prize of \$200,000 based on achievement of milestones and metrics demonstrating success, as proposed during phase one

Finance Track: With a total of \$5 million available to support awards through this component. Funding will be provided in two separate phases, as follows:

- Phase one: up to 30 winners will receive a cash prize of \$100,000, mentorship, and be eligible to compete in phase two
- Phase two: up to 10 winners will receive an additional cash prize of \$200,000 based on achievement of milestones and metrics demonstrating success, as proposed during phase one

For both components, awards will be provided as prizes, rather than as grants or cooperative agreements.

Phase one awards will be announced and provided in July 2023. Phase two awards will be announced and provided in August 2024.

Matching funds are not required for either component; however, the applicant's description of staff resources they can use to execute the proposed activity will be considered during the evaluation, as will their description of any other resources and strategies they plan to utilize to execute the proposed activity, which may include technical resources and facilities.

Contact Information

Program Staff

ruralenergyprize@nrel.gov

More information can be found [here](#).

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Energy

Agency: Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

FY 2023 Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas Fixed Award Grant Program

Grant Overview

This program will provide financial investment, technical assistance, and other resources to advance clean energy demonstrations and energy solutions that benefit rural and remote communities. Eligible applicants are state and local governments, Indian Nations, non- and for-profit entities, institutions of higher education, and consortia.

Program History

This is a new program created through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Key Information

Total Funding: \$50 million

Award Range: \$500,000 - \$5 million

Match: There is no match requirement

Solicitation Date: May 11, 2023

Proposal due: July 13, 2023 (Pre-Applications), October 12, 2023 (Full Applications; invite only)

<https://oced-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foald25339769-c6de-4818-9cb2-63c31cc79623>



Tips

- The funding agency may prioritize projects that benefit communities most impacted by high energy burden, poor energy reliability and resilience, or environmental harm from energy generation.
- Applications must include a Community Benefits Plan that describes how the project will support meaningful community and labor engagement, invest in America's workforce, advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, and contribute to the Justice40 Initiative.

Department: U.S. Department of Energy

Agency: Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

FY 2023 Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas Fixed Award Grant Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to improve energy in rural or remote areas and advance clean energy demonstrations and energy solutions that benefit rural and remote communities. Under this program a rural or remote area is defined as “city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of not more than 10,000 inhabitants.” The identified area must be either a city, town, or other unincorporated municipality, or a Census Designated Place (CDP) or similarly discreet and identifiable community that is not located within an incorporated municipality. Projects ideally should be sited within the rural or remote community or communities they are designed to benefit. Projects proposed to be built outside of a rural or remote area may be considered for funding but must clearly define the rural or remote area(s) of less than 10,000 inhabitants receiving the benefits. The funding agency aims to fund clean energy projects with three specific goals:

- Deliver measurable benefits to energy customers in rural or remote areas by funding replicable energy projects that lower energy costs, improve energy access and resilience, and/or reduce environmental harm
- Support new rural or remote energy system models using climate-resilient technologies, business structures that promote economic resilience, new financing mechanisms, and/or new community engagement practices
- Build clean energy knowledge, capacity, and self-reliance in rural America

Clean energy projects must satisfy at least one of the following “resilient clean energy” objectives:

- Improving overall cost-effectiveness of energy generation, transmission, or distribution systems
- Siting or upgrading transmission and distribution lines
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation in rural or remote areas
- Providing or modernizing electric generation facilities
- Developing microgrids
- Increasing energy efficiency

Additional benefits may include:

- Decreasing energy burden in disadvantaged communities (DACs)
- Decreasing environmental exposure and burdens for DACs
- Increasing parity in clean energy technology (e.g., solar, storage) access and adoption in DACs
- Increasing access to low-cost capital in DACs
- Increasing clean energy enterprise creation and contracting (MBE/DBE) in DACs
- Increasing clean energy jobs, job pipeline, and job training for individuals from DACs

Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas

- Increasing energy resiliency in DACs
- Increasing energy democracy in DACs.

Applicants must show that the technology is commercially available. For the purposes of this funding opportunity, commercially available technology is defined as a product that has been offered for sale, lease, or license to the public.

Applicants should also demonstrate that projects are supported by the community. This could be done by including participation by community-based organizations; local environmental justice organizations; community leadership groups; building owners and developers; local labor groups including unions; local planning, zoning, and code officials; or state, local, or Tribal governments.

Example projects include:

- Installation of standalone microgrids in critical facilities or resilience centers to ensure continuation of services during natural disasters
- Installation of a community-owned solar and battery project to reduce electricity cost and increase energy resilience
- Siting or upgrading of transmission and distribution lines, grid stability and resilience with substation improvements, or other electrical infrastructure improvements (hardware or software)
- Replacement of fossil fuel-powered heating with heat pumps in community buildings or in a residential neighborhood
- Deployment of small hydropower in existing conduits to generate recurring revenue that enables reinvestment in other community infrastructure
- Innovative siting of solar panels, such as over canals or on agricultural land, to reduce local siting constraints and enable new ownership structures
- Energy efficiency improvements for community-owned buildings (e.g., city hall, police or fire station, schools) that reduce electric loads and energy costs
- Installation of a distributed wind microgrid to reduce electricity cost and increase energy resilience through reducing demand upon diesel in a remote community
- Installation of geothermal heating or ground loops for heat pumps
- Installation of small-scale energy storage to provide power regulation or backup electricity to the grid
- Replacement of a diesel generator with combined heat and power (CHP) fed by Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) at a food waste or wastewater treatment facility
- Use of biogas from agricultural waste, either from biogas capturing or biogas generation through anaerobic digestion, to fuel onsite equipment and/or for pipeline injection
- Replacement of a non-clean backup energy generation system, such as a diesel generator, with a clean energy generation backup system and/or energy storage system, at a water treatment plant or pump station

To support the goal of building a clean and equitable energy economy, the BIL-funded projects are expected to support meaningful community and labor engagement; invest in America's workforce; advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and contribute to the President's goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. To ensure these goals are met, applications must include a Community Benefits Plan that describes how the proposed project would incorporate the four objectives stated above.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants must be domestic entities and include state and local governments, Indian Nations, non- and for-profit entities, institutions of higher education, and consortia. To qualify as a domestic entity, the entity must be organized, chartered, or incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a particular state or territory of the United States; have majority domestic ownership and control; and have a physical place of business in the United States.

An applicant may submit more than one pre-application and application provided that each pre-application and subsequent application describes a unique, distinct concept and provided that an eligible pre-application was submitted for each application. There are no limits to submissions by prime applicants.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$50 million in funding is available to support between 10 and 100 awards of \$500,000 to \$5 million. The maximum project period is five years. Funding will be provide through fixed amount grants. Fixed amount grants may include, but are not limited to:

- Partial payments, based on milestones or “triggering events”, agreed to in advance by the parties;
- Payments based on unit prices agreed to in advance; or
- One payment for the full amount upon project completion.

Matching and Cost Sharing

There are no cost sharing requirements for this funding opportunity.

Contact Information

Program Staff

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<https://oced-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foald25339769-c6de-4818-9cb2-63c31cc79623>



Department: U.S. Department of Energy

Agency: Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response

FY 2023 Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity (RMUC) Advanced Cybersecurity Technology (ACT) 1 Prize

Grant Overview

This program will improve the ability of utilities to protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity threats. ACT 1 cash prizes will be available to eligible utilities to incentivize meaningful, impactful investments in cybersecurity technologies and support training to increase the knowledge, skills, and abilities of utility staff. ACT 1 has 3 Phases, and the current competition is for Phase 1. Eligible applicants are rural electric cooperatives; utilities owned by a political subdivision of a state, such as a municipally owned electric utility; utilities owned by any agency, authority, corporation, or instrumentality of one or more political subdivisions of a state; and investor-owned electric utilities that sell less than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year.

Program History

This is a new program created through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2022.

Key Information

Total Funding: \$8.96 million

Award Range: Up to \$50,000 (Phase 1)

Match: Not Required

Solicitation Date: August 30, 2023

Proposal due: November 29, 2023

<https://www.herox.com/ACT1Prize>



Tips

- Phase 1 applicants are required to participate in both of the mandatory virtual webinars. Workshop 1: Prize Overview and How to Compete will be held Sept. 27, 2023, at 1 p.m. ET while Workshop 2: How Future Prize Phases Will Work will be held Oct. 11, 2023 at 1 p.m. ET.
- The program will prioritize utilities that have limited cybersecurity resources or serve military installations.
- Awardees of ACT 1 will be notified in March 2024.
- Commitment Application Templates can be found [here](#).

Department: U.S. Department of Energy

Agency: Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response

FY 2023 Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity (RMUC) Advanced Cybersecurity Technology (ACT) 1 Prize

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to improve the ability of utilities to protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity threats. ACT 1 cash prizes will be available to eligible utilities to incentivize meaningful, impactful investments in cybersecurity technologies and support training to increase the knowledge, skills, and abilities of utility staff. In partnership with qualified cybersecurity technical assistance (TA) providers, ACT 1 prize winners will:

- Develop network architectures of their digital systems to identify and prioritize where interventions might be most effective
- Assess current cybersecurity technical stacks for gaps, duplication of functions, and opportunities to fully utilize existing capabilities
- Create cybersecurity plans and roadmaps to improve their cybersecurity posture
- Identify solutions that can be operated and maintained by existing staff and budgets
- Develop budgets, cost projections, and purchasing plans to minimize third-party risks when selecting solutions
- Implement solutions
- Develop and implement processes to ensure solutions are installed securely and perform as intended

This program will provide assistance through three consecutive phases. Phase 1 – Commitment, is the competition that is currently open. Ability to compete in other phases will be based on whether your project was awarded in the previous phase.

Phase 1 - Commitment: The goal of the Commitment Phase is to begin identifying the cybersecurity improvements a utility would like to accomplish and gaining their leadership's commitment to making improvements. Priority will be given to utilities that have limited cybersecurity resources and cybersecurity capabilities, have a commitment and capacity to work with TA providers, have strong leadership support, and/or serve a high proportion of low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Phase 2 - Planning: Only those awarded under Phase 1 will be able to apply for Phase 2. In the Planning Phase, utilities will conduct assessments of their network and system architecture and their technology tools. This information will be used by the utility to identify cybersecurity risks and vulnerabilities, prioritize potential solutions, and develop roadmaps and budgets to support improvements to the utility's cybersecurity posture. Priority will be given to utilities that: engage all relevant staff in the discussion and prioritization of cybersecurity risks and solutions; select solutions that address prioritized risks; establish clear roles,

Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Advanced Cybersecurity Technology Prize

responsibilities, and program management strategies that can maximize the likelihood of success; and create long-term processes for continuous improvements in the ability to identify and prioritize cybersecurity risks.

Phase 3 - Implementation: Only those awarded under Phase 2 will be able to apply for Phase 3. In the Implementation Phase, utilities will collaborate with TA providers and industry experts to implement the solutions outlined in the Planning Phase. The TA providers will help utilities identify potential solutions, develop criteria for selecting appropriate solutions, coach utilities on negotiating favorable service-level agreements and contracts, facilitate continued use planning for new technologies, assist with the implementation of technology solutions, and support the development of processes to confirm the cybersecurity of solutions after they are implemented. Priority will be given to utilities that demonstrate a strong commitment to completing their roadmaps, that include solutions that specifically improve the cybersecurity posture of operational systems in the utility, can be maintained by the existing utility staff with minimal additional TA, and have strong leadership support.

Under this program entities will compete under one or both of the following competition tracks:

- **Limited Cybersecurity Track:** entities applying under this track will have limited economic and staff resources; have limited access to cybersecurity training, TA, and support services; and have a low cybersecurity maturity level.
- **Military Track:** To be eligible for this track a utility must provide service to at least one military installation in its service territory.

Utilities with mature cybersecurity programs are unlikely to win prizes under this competition unless they own or operate electric infrastructure that serves military installations.

Utilities that compete for an ACT 1 Prize must demonstrate a commitment to serving the disadvantaged communities in their service territory.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are rural electric cooperatives; utilities owned by a political subdivision of a state, such as a municipally owned electric utility; utilities owned by any agency, authority, corporation, or instrumentality of one or more political subdivisions of a state; and investor-owned electric utilities that sell less than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year.

Phase 1 applicants are required to participate in both of the mandatory virtual webinars. Workshop 1: Prize Overview and How to Compete will be held Sept. 27, 2023, at 1 p.m. ET while Workshop 2: How Future Prize Phases Will Work will be held Oct. 11, 2023 at 1 p.m. ET.

Only winners of a Commitment Prize (Phase 1) are eligible to compete in the Planning Phase for a Planning Prize (Phase 2). Only winners of a Planning Prize are eligible to compete in the Implementation Phase (Phase 3) for an Implementation Prize.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$8.96 million is available to support all phases of ACT 1 awards, ranging from \$50,000-\$100,000 through this program. Approximately 50 awards will be available under Phase 1 (the current competition) with grants up to \$50,000 and 60 hours of TA through the Limited Cybersecurity Resources Track and support an estimated 5 awards of up to \$50,000 and 120 hours of TA through the Military Track.

Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Advanced Cybersecurity Technology Prize

Specific funding amounts for each Phase is as follows:

- Phase 1 – Commitment: this phase will support an estimated 50 awards of up to \$50,000 and 60 hours of TA through the Limited Cybersecurity Resources Track and support an estimated 5 awards of up to \$50,000 and 120 hours of TA through the Military Track
- Phase 2 – Planning: this phase will support an estimated 25 awards of up to \$50,000 and 60 hours of TA through the Limited Cybersecurity Resources Track and support an estimated 5 awards of up to \$50,000 and 120 hours of TA through the Military Track
- Phase 3 – Implementation: this phase will support an estimated 25 awards of up to \$100,000 through the Limited Cybersecurity Resources Track and support an estimated 5 awards of up to \$100,000 through the Military Track

Matching and Cost Share

Prizes do not require a cost share, however, to effectively utilize the prize funding and 60 hours of TA provided, winning utilities will need leadership support and a commitment of staff time and attention.

Contact Information

Program Staff

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<https://www.herox.com/ACT1Prize>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration

FY 2023 Rural Communities Opioid Response Program: Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to reduce the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), in high-risk rural communities by establishing and expanding sustainable behavioral health care services for children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 years who live in rural communities. Eligible applicants are domestic public or private, nonprofit, or for-profit entities; tribes and tribal organizations.

Program History

Award history is not available.

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$9 million

Award Range: Up to \$1 million

Match: Not required

Solicitation Date: March 22, 2023

Proposal Due: May 12, 2023

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=342793>



Tips

- The funding agency encourages applicants to include populations that have historically suffered from poorer health outcomes, health disparities, and other inequities as compared to the rest of the population.
- A portion of the funding will be used for rural workforce expansion to combat the opioid epidemic, which has had a particularly significant impact on rural communities.

Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration

FY 2023 Rural Communities Opioid Response Program: Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to reduce the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), in high-risk rural communities by establishing and expanding sustainable behavioral health care services for children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 years who live in rural communities. For the purposes of this program, behavioral health encompasses services to address both mental health and SUDs.

Award recipients will use program funds to achieve the following three program goals through a consortium-based approach:

- **Goal 1: service delivery:** establish new behavioral health prevention, treatment, and recovery services for children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 years in the target rural service area; examples of allowable activities include:
 - Implement regular mental health and SUD screenings in school health clinics and ensure that students are referred to treatment as appropriate
 - Purchase a mobile health unit to provide family-centered behavioral health care treatment at easily accessible locations or after work hours
 - Establish a supportive housing program for adolescents in recovery
- **Goal 2: training and peer mentorship:** improve the capacity of rural health care providers, paraprofessionals, non-clinical staff, and community members to care for and support children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 years with behavioral health needs, through providing training and peer mentorship opportunities; examples of allowable activities include:
 - Implement a peer parent support program for parents and caregivers who have children diagnosed with a behavioral health disorder
 - Implement a clinical peer mentorship program to connect and support behavioral health care providers who treat children and adolescents
 - Train existing behavioral health providers on additional evidence-based therapy methods
- **Goal 3: community partnerships:** build community partnerships to ensure that children and adolescents, and their families, have access to community resources and human services that support prevention of, treatment of, and recovery from behavioral health disorders; examples of allowable activities include:

- Work with local transportation resources to provide children and adolescents with free transport to appointments
- Coordinate with a local food bank to ensure that families with a child/adolescent in recovery have consistent access and reliable access to healthy food
- Coordinate with local schools to implement recovery-friendly before- and after-school activities

As a result of the three program goals, the funding agency expects that an increased number of children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 years will receive evidence-based, coordinated behavioral health care and supportive services. Additionally, the funding agency expects that all activities implemented under this program will be sustainable by the end of the four-year project period.

The funding agency will provide a funding preference for applicants serving at rural National Health Service Corps-approved Substance Use Disorder treatment facilities that are Rural Community Opioid Response Program Consortium member sites.

The target population for this program is children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 years, and the families and caretakers of such children and adolescents, in rural counties and rural census tracts, as designated by the funding agency and defined by the Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer online at www.data.hrsa.gov/tools/rural-health, who are at risk for, have, or are recovering from a behavioral health disorder.

The funding agency encourages applicants to include populations that have historically suffered from poorer health outcomes, health disparities, and other inequities as compared to the rest of the population. Examples of these populations include racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, new immigrants, people who are homeless, and individuals with disabilities.

In addition, the funding agency expects applicants to ensure that all activities supported by this program are culturally and linguistically appropriate for the target rural population that will be served.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are domestic public or private, nonprofit, or for-profit entities, tribes, and tribal organizations.

Award recipients will be required to establish a multisectoral consortium to implement and ensure the integration and coordination of project activities. Consortia must consist of at least four separately owned entities, including the applicant organization, and represent a diversity of sectors relevant to behavioral health care for children and adolescents. The funding agency strongly encourages applicants to consider engaging consortium members from the following sectors:

- Primary care, including pediatric and family medicine practices
- Crisis care, including first responders and hospital emergency departments
- Education
- Child care
- Child welfare
- Juvenile justice

At least 50 percent of the consortium members must be physically located within the target rural service area.

Funding

In FY 2023, an estimated \$9 million is available to support approximately nine awards of up to \$1 million each through this program.

Award notices are anticipated to be issued on or around September 1, 2023. The project period is four years, beginning on September 1, 2023, and ending on August 31, 2027. Award recipients are expected to begin delivering at least three new behavioral health care services no later than the end of the first year of the award and to increase the number of children and adolescents receiving services each subsequent year of the project period.

The funding agency strongly encourages applicants to budget funds to support consortium member participation in the project.

Matching funds are not required for this program.

Contact Information

Primary contact:

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Program Coordinator

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<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=342793>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

FY 2023 Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (RCORP-NAS)

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to reduce the incidence and impact of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in rural communities by improving systems of care, family support, and social determinants of health. For the purposes of this program, the term NAS refers to a group of conditions that can occur when newborns withdraw from certain substances, including opioids, that they were exposed to before birth. Applicants must propose a service area that is entirely rural and located in a funding agency-designated rural county and census tract. Eligible applicants include all domestic public, private, nonprofit, and for-profit entities, including faith-based and community-based organizations. Tribes and tribal organizations are also eligible.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2020	\$15 million	30

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$20 million
Award Range: Up to \$500,000
Match: Not required
Solicitation date: December 7, 2022
Proposal due: March 8, 2023

<https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/HRSA-23-094>



Awardee Profile

North County Health Consortium-Littleton, NH
Amount: \$499,656

Year: 2020

North County Health Consortium received funding to create the WARM4Women program to reduce the rate and impact of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). The program provides services through prevention, education, treatment, and recovery support for women of childbearing age who may or may not be pregnant or already have children and have a history of or are at risk for Substance Abuse Disorder.

Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

FY 2023 Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (RCORP-NAS)

Detailed Summary

Projects will address the ongoing need for behavioral health care and support services for rural, pregnant, and postpartum persons and their families. Applicants must propose a service area that is entirely rural, as defined by the Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer tool available online at data.hrsa.gov, and located in a funding agency-designated rural county and census tract. All service delivery sites supported by the program must be exclusively located in funding agency-designated rural counties and rural census tracts. Within partially rural counties, activities and services supported by the award may only occur in funding agency-designated rural census tracts.

During the project period, award recipients will form multisectoral consortia to achieve the following goals within a funding agency-designated rural service area:

- Reduce structural- and systems-level barriers, such as transportation challenges, limited workforce, and reimbursement issues, to:
 - Increase access to behavioral health care, especially substance use disorder (SUD)/opioid use disorder (OUD), services for rural pregnant and postpartum persons and their families
 - Address community risk factors and social determinants of health
- Strengthen the quality and sustainability of behavioral health care services for rural pregnant and postpartum persons and their families by implementing coordinated, evidence-based, trauma-informed, family-centered SUD/OUD and other services

Award recipients will implement activities in support of these goals that target rural individuals with SUD/OUD who are at risk of becoming pregnant, are currently pregnant, and/or have recently given birth, as well as their families. Applicants are encouraged to include populations that have historically suffered from poorer health outcomes, health disparities, and other inequities, as compared to the rest of the population, including:

- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Adolescents
- LGBTQ+ individuals
- Veterans
- Limited English proficient individuals
- Socioeconomically disadvantaged populations
- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals with a history or current risk of homelessness

- Individuals with prior justice involvement

The funding agency is particularly interested in innovative approaches to service provision. For example, an award recipient could use the award to work with a rural hospital to provide NAS services in a wing of the rural hospital that is not currently in use. This could help promote the integration of care and efficient use of available space.

Award recipients are required to cooperate with a funding agency-supported technical assistance provider and evaluator throughout the duration of the award.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are all domestic public, private, nonprofit, and for-profit entities, including faith-based and community-based organizations. Tribes and tribal organizations are also eligible.

Award recipients are required to establish a formal, multisectoral consortium to implement project activities. Consortia must consist of at least four separately owned entities that represent a diversity of sectors relevant to behavioral and maternal health care, and applicants are strongly encouraged to consider engaging consortium members from the following sectors:

- Child welfare
- OB-GYN
- State Medicaid Agencies
- Criminal justice
- Primary care, including pediatric and family medicine practices

In addition, at least 50 percent of consortium members must be located in funding agency-designated rural areas.

Funding

Approximately \$20 million is expected to be available annually to support approximately 40 awards of up to \$500,000 per year, inclusive of direct and indirect costs, through this program. The total project budget is limited to \$1.5 million over the three-year project period.

Matching funds are not required for this program; however, applicants should propose activities to leverage local/community, state, and regional partnerships and leverage other funding sources to work toward sustaining project services and decrease reliance on federal funding.

Contact Information

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(301) 443-0473

<https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/HRSA-23-094>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration

FY 2023 Rural Communities Opioid Response Program: Overdose Response

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support immediate responses to the overdose crisis in rural areas through improving access to, capacity for, and sustainability of prevention, treatment, and recovery services for substance use disorder (SUD). Eligible applicants include all domestic public or private, non-profit or for-profit entities, including community-based organizations, federally recognized tribes, tribal organizations, state, local and territorial governments, and institutions of higher education.

Program History

This is a new program.

Key Information

Total Funding: \$12 million

Award Range: Up to \$300,000

Match: Not required

Solicitation date: October 21, 2022

Proposal due: January 19, 2023

<https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/HRSA-23-038>



Tips

- Applicants are encouraged to include populations that have historically suffered from poorer health outcomes, health disparities, and other inequities as compared to the rest of the rural population
- The project service area must be entirely rural as defined by the funding agency's [Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer](#)

Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration

FY 2023 Rural Communities Opioid Response Program: Overdose Response

Detailed Summary

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) is a multi-year HRSA initiative aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), in high-risk rural communities. This funding opportunity, RCORP-Overdose Response, will advance RCORP's overall goal by supporting immediate responses to the opioid crisis in rural areas. Over the course of a one-year period of performance, RCORP-Overdose Response recipients will address immediate needs in rural areas through improving access to, capacity for, and sustainability of prevention, treatment, and recovery services for substance use disorder (SUD).

Eligible activities include:

- Purchasing and distributing naloxone, fentanyl test strips, or other relevant supplies within the target rural service area
- Establishing, improving, or expanding physical SUD/opioid use disorder (OUD) care delivery sites
- Offering certification, formalized training programs, and/or professional mentorship opportunities to enhance providers' ability to care for individuals with SUD/OUD
- Assisting uninsured individuals with SUD/OUD in the target rural service area with obtaining health insurance and accessing SUD/OUD treatment and other behavioral health and social services
- Training peer recovery support specialists and coordinating placements in local SUD/OUD service delivery sites
- Enhancing capacity to provide mobile crisis intervention services for individuals with SUD/OUD in the target rural service area
- Improving capacity for, and access to, telehealth treatment services for SUD/OUD
- Providing Continuing Education Units (CEU) as well as Continuing Medical Education Units (CME) that are recognized by their respective boards, which allow for providers to enhance their ability to provide care to individuals with SUD/OUD
- Establishing services to reduce transmission of infectious diseases, such as hepatitis A and B vaccinations, pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV, and Hepatitis C treatment
- Establishing a recovery home or other supportive housing program
- Establishing social services to support individuals in recovery
- Providing community-based screenings for SUD/OUD and related infectious diseases

There is no maximum or minimum number of the aforementioned activities that should be selected to be implemented.

Projects that give special consideration to the needs of rural populations that have historically suffered from poorer health outcomes or health disparities, as compared to the rest of the rural population, such as racial and ethnic minorities; people who are pregnant; adolescents and youth; LGBTQIA+ individuals; veterans; socioeconomically disadvantaged populations; the elderly; and individuals with disabilities, are encouraged.

All projects must provide a staffing plan that includes a project director. The project director must attend monthly calls with the funding agency, and the funding agency may provide technical assistance, if needed, on an ad-hoc basis. For projects establishing a recovery home or other supportive housing program, award recipients must work closely with technical assistance providers throughout the project period to ensure they are adhering to recovery housing best practices and obtaining certification/accreditation, if feasible. In addition, up to two project staff must attend a three-day program meeting in Washington, D.C., during the project period.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include domestic public or private nonprofit or for-profit entities, including community-based organizations, federally recognized tribes, tribal organizations, state, local, and territorial governments, and institutions of higher education.

Applicants must propose a project service area that is entirely rural, as defined by the Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer available online at data.hrsa.gov. All service delivery sites supported by the program must be exclusively located in funding agency-designated rural counties and rural census tracts. Within partially rural counties, activities and services supported by the award may only occur in the agency-designated rural census tracts. Applicants may request an exception to enable partnerships outside of the target rural service area.

Funding

In FY 2023, an estimate \$12 million is available to support approximately 40 awards of up to \$300,000 through this program. In addition to providing monetary awards, this program may provide technical assistance, if needed, on an ad-hoc basis. For projects establishing a recovery home or other supportive housing program, award recipients must work closely with technical assistance providers throughout the project period to ensure they are adhering to recovery housing best practices and obtaining certification/accreditation, if feasible.

Matching funds are not required for this program. The project period will last for one year from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024.

Contact Information

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<https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/HRSA-23-038>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

FY 2023 Rural Emergency Medical Services Training Grant

Grant Overview

The Rural Emergency Medical Services Training Grant is intended to recruit and train emergency medical services (EMS) personnel in rural areas, with a particular focus on addressing substance use disorders (SUD), co-occurring disorders (COD), and substance use and mental disorders. Eligible applicants are rural emergency medical services (EMS) agencies operated by fire-based and non-fire-based local or tribal governments and nonprofit EMS agencies.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$7.1 million	40
2021	\$5.6 million	32

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$10.4 million

Award Range: Up to \$200,000

Match: 10 percent

Solicitation date: March 1, 2023

Proposal due: May 1, 2023

- Projects must serve rural areas or residents of rural areas

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=342881>



Awardee Profile

Whatcom County
Bellingham, WA

AMOUNT: \$141,410

YEAR: 2022

This project received funding to support EMS training.

Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Agency: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

FY 2023 Rural Emergency Medical Services Training Grant

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to recruit and train emergency medical services (EMS) personnel in rural areas, with a particular focus on addressing substance use disorders (SUD), co-occurring disorders (COD), and substance use and mental disorders. Funding will support projects to train EMS personnel on SUD and COD, as well as trauma-informed, recovery-based care for people with such disorders in emergency situations; and, as appropriate, to maintain licenses and certifications relevant to serve in an EMS agency. This program is intended to develop the capacity of EMS staff to support residents in rural communities.

All projects must include the following required activities:

- Ensuring EMS personnel are trained on mental and substance use disorders and trauma-informed, recovery-based care for people with such disorders in emergency situations
- Acquiring emergency medical services equipment with approval by the funding agency
- Purchasing drugs or devices approved or cleared under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) for emergency reversal of known or suspected opioid overdose
- Training EMS personnel on the use of Naloxone in emergency opioid overdose situations
- Training EMS personnel, providing resources, and implementing procedures on connecting those who have undergone overdose reversal to SUD treatment
- Training EMS personnel on the use of motivational interviewing to engage individuals who use substances and/or who suffer mental health conditions, and to provide referrals to treatment and harm reduction services
- Training EMS personnel on working with local peer-support specialists in assisting those who have undergone overdose reversal, including facilitating warm handoffs
- Developing procedures to ensure all overdoses are reported to the state and/or local public health departments so that any individual who has experienced an overdose can be followed up with and provided linkages to treatment and referral to ongoing peer recovery support
- Training EMS personnel, as appropriate, to maintain licenses and certifications relevant to serve in an EMS agency
- Conducting courses that qualify graduates to serve in an EMS agency
- Funding specific training to meet federal or state licensing or certification requirements

Projects may also include the following activities:

- Recruiting and training EMS personnel, which may include volunteer personnel
- Developing new ways to educate emergency health care providers using technology-enhanced educational methods
- Acquiring personal protective equipment (PPE) for emergency medical services personnel, as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Purchasing, distributing, and training on the use of fentanyl test strips

- Purchasing buprenorphine and training EMS personnel on the use of this medication in the field
- Creating formal agreements that link EMS data platforms and local departments of public health in order to rapidly identify overdose hotspots that may require increased surveillance and deployment of EMS personnel
- Partnering with local community organizations, health providers, behavioral health organizations, faith-based entities, schools, employers, and other entities on education and training initiatives

For the purposes of this program, EMS include:

- Resources used by a public or private nonprofit licensed entity to deliver medical care outside of a medical facility under emergency conditions that occur as a result of the condition of the patient
- Services delivered on a compensated or volunteer basis by an EMS provider or other provider that is licensed or certified by the state involved as an emergency medical technician, a paramedic, or an equivalent professional

All projects must implement high-quality programs, practices, and policies that are recovery-oriented, trauma-informed, and equity-based as a means of improving behavioral health.

Projects are encouraged to address the behavioral health needs of the following populations and consider prioritizing such populations for services, where appropriate:

- Active-duty military service members, returning veterans, and military families
- LGBTQI+ population

Eligible costs include personnel costs, fringe benefits, travel costs, equipment, supplies, contract costs, other direct costs, and indirect costs.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are rural emergency medical services (EMS) agencies operated by fire-based and non-fire-based local or tribal governments and nonprofit EMS agencies.

Projects must serve rural areas or residents of rural areas. For the purposes of this program, rural areas are defined as:

- A non-metropolitan statistical area
- An area designated as a rural area by any law or regulation of a state
- A rural census tract of a metropolitan statistical area

Funding

In FY 2022, an estimated \$10,400,000 is available to support approximately 52 awards of up to \$200,000 through this program.

Applicants must provide at least 10 percent of the total award amount via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions.

The indirect cost rate is limited to 8 percent of the proposed budget.

Applicants' budget justifications must include a description of existing resources and other support expected to be received for the proposed project. Other support is defined as funds or resources, whether federal,

nonfederal, or institutional, in direct support of activities through fellowships, gifts, prizes, in-kind contributions, or nonfederal means. Other sources of funds may be used for unallowable costs.

Awards are anticipated to be made August 31, 2023. The project period is anticipated to span up to one year, with an anticipated start date of September 30, 2023.

Contact Information

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<https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/ti-23-011>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency: Administration for Community Living

FY 2023 Rural Health Care Coordination Program

Grant Overview

This program will promote rural health care services outreach by improving and expanding delivery of health care services through the application of care coordination strategies in rural areas. This program is intended to provide initial seed funding to implement creative community-based health solutions in rural communities to expand access to and coordination of care. Eligible applicants include domestic public or private nonprofit or for-profit entities, including faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, tribes, and tribal organizations.

Program History

A program history is unavailable.

Key Information

Total Funding: \$3 million

Award Range: Up to \$300,000

Match: Not required

Solicitation date: March 23, 2023

Proposal Due: May 15, 2023

<https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/HRSA-23-125>



Tips

- Applicants must represent a network composed of members that include three or more health care providers and payers.
- Priority will be given to applicants located in a health professional shortage area, a database of which can be found online here and applicants located in medically underserved communities/populations (MUCs/MUPs), a database of which can be found online at data.hrsa.gov/tools.

Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration

FY 2023 Rural Health Care Coordination Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to promote rural health care services outreach by improving and expanding delivery of health care services through the application of care coordination strategies in rural areas. This program is intended to provide initial seed funding to implement creative community-based health solutions in rural communities to expand access to and coordination of care. Program goals include:

- Expanding access to, and quality of, equitable health care services through care coordination strategies exclusively in rural areas
- Utilizing an innovative evidence-based, promising practice and/or value-based care model(s) known or demonstrating strong evidence to improve patient health outcomes, as well as the planning and delivery of patient-centered health care services
- Increasing collaboration among multisector and multidisciplinary network partnerships to address the underlying factors related to social determinants of health
- Developing deliberate and sustainable strategies of care coordination into policies, procedures, staffing, services, and communication systems

Funding will support projects that propose innovative approaches to achieve program goals; address local health challenges, including the underlying risk factors; and improve population health outcomes through coordinated, community-wide programs that link health and human services within an established or formal network. Applicants must represent a network composed of members that include three or more health care providers and payers. All projects must address one of the following primary focus areas:

- Heart disease
- Cancer
- Chronic lower respiratory disease
- Stroke
- Maternal health

Projects may also address underlying risk factors that contribute to the selected primary focus area.

All projects must contribute to the following outcomes:

- Expanded access to, and affordability of, quality comprehensive care coordination leading to cost savings and overall health improvement status
- Improved patient health outcomes through the utilization of chronic care management and/or preventive and wellness services
- Institutionalized care coordination strategies within their policies, procedures, staffing, services, and communication systems

- Implementation of a multidisciplinary and multisector referral system
- Identification of a variety of funding and financing mechanisms to continue comprehensive care coordination strategies beyond the initial funding provided through this program

All services of the project must be provided in a fully rural county or rural census tract. A database of rural areas designated by the funding agency can be found online at data.hrsa.gov/tools.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include domestic public or private nonprofit or for-profit entities, including faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, tribes, and tribal organizations. The applicant organization must represent a network composed of members that include three or more health care providers and must serve as the lead organization for the proposed network.

The applicant organization may be located in a rural or urban area; however, the applicant organization must have demonstrated experience serving, or the capacity to serve, rural underserved populations. At least 66 percent of the represented network composition must be located in rural areas designated by the funding agency.

Priority will be given to applicants located in a health professional shortage area, a database of which can be found online [here](#) and applicants located in medically underserved communities/populations (MUCs/MUPs), a database of which can be found online at data.hrsa.gov/tools.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$3 million is available to support an estimated ten awards of up to \$300,000 per year. Matching funds are not required for this program. The project period will span four years from September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2027. At the end of the project period, award recipients should be able to identify a variety of funding and financing mechanisms to continue proposed comprehensive care coordination strategies beyond the initial funding provided through this program.

Contact Information

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<https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/HRSA-23-125>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration

FY 2023 Rural Health Network Development Program (RHND)

Grant Overview

This program promotes the planning and development of integrated health care networks in order to achieve efficiencies; expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of basic health care services; and strengthen the rural health care system as a whole. Eligible applicants are domestic public or private nonprofit or for-profit entities, including faith-based and community-based organizations as well as tribes and tribal organizations.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2020	\$13 million	45

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$13.2 million

Award Range: Up to \$300,000

Match: Not required

Solicitation Date: August 22, 2022

Proposal Due: November 22, 2022

- Applicants must list the rural counties that will be served. Proposed counties must be fully rural; however, if counties are partially rural, the rural census tract(s) must be detailed in the application.

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=HSRA%2023-030>



Tips

- The applicant must represent a network composed of participants that includes at least three or more health care provider organizations.
- The applicant organization may be located in a rural or urban area, but must have demonstrated experience serving, or the capacity to serve, rural underserved populations.

Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration

FY 2023 Rural Health Network Development Program (RHND)

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this Program is to support integrated health care networks who collaborate to achieve efficiencies; expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of basic health care services and associated health outcomes; and strengthen the rural health care system as a whole. The funding agency intends for the program to address gaps in service, enhance systems of care, and expand capacity of the local rural health care system.

The program was created in response to the need for rural providers to address changes taking place in the health care sector in order to better serve their rural communities. Furthermore, integrated health care networks are an important component of health care service delivery and system reform. Many rural providers have historically worked together to address these challenges by creating networks that foster collaboration and coordination, and address structural challenges inherent in rural health care delivery, resulting in reduced burden and costs on the rural health care system.

The program focuses on four main domains:

- Improve access: addressing gaps in care, workforce shortages, better workflows and/or improving the quality of health care services
- Expand capacity and services: creating effective systems through the development of knowledge, skills, structures, and leadership models
- Enhance outcomes: improving patient and/or network development outcomes through expanding or strengthening the network's services, activities or interventions
- Sustainability: positioning the network to prepare for sustainable health programs through value-based care and population health management.

The program encourages applicants to include populations that have historically suffered from poorer health outcomes, health disparities, and other inequities, as compared to the rest of the rural population. Examples of these populations include, but are not limited to, racial and ethnic minorities, homeless populations, pregnant women, disabled individuals, youth and adolescents, etc.

Preference will be given to projects that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- The applicant is located in an officially designated health professional shortage area (HPSA)
- The applicant is located in a medically underserved community (MUC) or serves medically underserved populations (MUPs)
- The project focuses on primary care and wellness and prevention strategies

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are domestic public or private nonprofit or for-profit entities, including faith-based and community-based organizations as well as tribes and tribal organizations. The applicant must represent a network composed of participants that includes at least three or more health care provider organizations. The applicant organization may be located in a rural or urban area, but must have demonstrated experience serving, or the capacity to serve, rural underserved populations.

The applicant organization may not previously have received an RHND award (other than a grant for planning activities) for the same or a similar project. However, existing recipients that (1) seek to expand services or expand their service areas, (2) include new or additional network member organizations, or (3) target a new population or new focus area are eligible to apply.

Applicants must propose to serve counties that are fully rural; however, if counties are partially rural, the rural census tract(s) must be detailed in the application. The applicant organization must also describe their experience and/or capacity serving rural populations.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$13,200,000 is estimated to be available to support up to 44 awards of up to \$300,000 through this program.

Matching funds are not required for this program; however, applicants should detail any additional in-kind contributions in the application.

Applicants must include travel costs for up to two project staff members to attend an award recipient meeting in Washington, DC in the budget. Equipment costs that exceed 5 percent of the total award amount may be considered unreasonable and unallowable. Legal costs that exceed 20 percent of the total award may be considered unreasonable and unallowable.

Award notifications will be made on or around July 1, 2023. The project period will last one year, from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2027.

Contact Information

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<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=HSRA%2023-030>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration

FY 2023 Rural Health Network Development Planning Program

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to promote the planning and development of integrated health care networks in order to achieve efficiencies; expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of basic health care services and associated health outcomes; and strengthen the rural health care system as a whole. Eligible applicants are domestic public or private, nonprofit, or for-profit entities. Tribes and tribal organizations are also eligible to apply.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$1.9 million	20

Key Information

Total Funding: \$2 million

Award Range: Up to \$100,000

Match: Not required

Solicitation date: October 5, 2022

Proposal due: January 6, 2023

More information can be found [here](#).



Awardee Profile:

Good Samaritan Hospital

Vincennes, IN

AMOUNT: Unspecified

YEAR: 2022

The Good Samaritan Hospital received funding to establish and improve local capacity in order to strengthen rural community health interventions and enhance care coordination.

Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration

FY 2023 Rural Health Network Development Planning Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to promote the planning and development of integrated health care networks in order to achieve efficiencies; expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of basic health care services and associated health outcomes; and strengthen the rural health care system as a whole. For the purposes of this program, an integrated health care network is defined as an organizational arrangement among at least three regional or local health care organizations that come together to develop strategies for improving health services in a community.

The program brings together key parts of a rural health care delivery system, particularly those entities that may not have collaborated in the past, to work together to establish and/or improve local capacity in order to strengthen rural community health interventions and enhance care coordination. Projects will allow rural health care partners to work together to address local challenges and achieve greater collective capacity to overcome challenges related to limited economies of scale for individual hospitals, clinics, or other key rural health care stakeholders.

Projects must support at least one of the following legislative aims:

- Achieve efficiencies:
 - Conducting a community health and/or provider needs assessment at the regional and/or local level
 - Updating a health information technology plan
 - Identifying a plan for developing regional systems of care to better meet rural patient concerns
 - Identifying opportunities for the network to better address regional and/or local population health needs
- Expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of basic health care services:
 - Development of a network business and/or operations plan
 - Identifying the degree to which the network members are ready to integrate their functions and share clinical and/or administrative resources
 - Assessing appropriateness/readiness for Patient Centered Medical Home accreditation
 - Identifying strategies to communicate with the community about changes in the health care landscape and how to maintain access to services
 - Developing a plan to expand the role of emergency medical services within the community, including loss of services as a result of a hospital closure or conversion
 - Developing a data use and sharing agreement to facilitate strategic and sustainability planning for the intervention
- Strengthen the rural health care system as a whole:

- Identifying ways to encourage cross-organizational collaboration and leadership commitment
- Assessing the network's sustainability and viability
- Identifying and establishing ways to obtain regional and/or local community support/buy-in around the development of the network
- Identifying a strategy to leverage broadband connectivity to support health information technology applications in rural communities

For FY 2023, funding will be offered through the following tracks:

- Regular network planning track
- Advancing health equity (AHE) track

AHE applicants will focus on collaboration between entities to establish or improve local capacity and care coordination among rural Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; LGBTQ+ persons; persons with disabilities; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

For both tracks, planning activities are those that prepare a community to provide direct services, including rural health care network integration, strengthening operations, creating or improving care coordination policies and procedures, and making the necessary infrastructure changes in order to increase and sustain health care delivery among underserved communities. This may also include development of data use and sharing agreements, and data collection to facilitate strategic and sustainability planning of the intervention if publicly available data does not exist, specifically for the AHE track.

Applicants for both tracks of this program should address the community health needs within their rural service area, but if applying for the AHE track, at least one network partner must have a demonstrated history of working with the identified underserved community, expertise in serving the identified underserved community, affiliation with the identified underserved community, and work plan activities should focus on planning for improved health outcomes among the underserved population(s) identified.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are domestic public or private, nonprofit, or for-profit entities. Tribes and tribal organizations are also eligible to apply.

Applicants must represent a network composed of participants that includes at least three health care provider organizations that may be rural, urban, nonprofit, or for-profit entities. At least 66 percent of network members located in a rural area as designated by the funding agency.

Applicants may be located in a rural or urban area, but must have demonstrated experience serving, or the capacity to serve, rural underserved populations. All planning activities must benefit rural communities. Proposed counties should be fully rural, but if counties are partially rural counties, applicants must include the rural census tract(s) in the project abstract. Rural service areas can be found [here](#).

Funding preference will be given to applicants that meet the following qualifications:

- Qualification 1: health professional shortage area (HPSA): applicant or the service area of the applicant is in an officially designated HPSA

- Qualification 2: medically underserved community/populations (MUC/MUPs): applicant or the service area of the applicant is in an MUC and/or the applicant serves MUPs
- Qualification 3: focus on primary care and wellness and prevention strategies: project focuses on primary care and wellness and prevention strategies

Applicants may submit only one application to request funding through only one of this program's two funding tracks; however, multiple applications from an organization with the same Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number may be permitted if the applications propose separate and distinct projects.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$2 million is available to support an estimated 20 awards of up to \$100,000 each through this program. Funding is divided between tracks as follows:

- Regular network planning: approximately \$1.5 million is available to support approximately 15 awards
- Advancing health equity (AHE): approximately \$500,000 is available to support up to five awards

Award notifications will be made on or around July 1, 2023.

The project period is one year, beginning on July 1, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2024.

Contact Information

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<https://grants.hrsa.gov/2010/Web2External/Interface/FundingCycle/ExternalView.aspx?fCycleID=44ad6ffc-0f99-4d99-9329-e9dd935176fa>



Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration

FY 2023 Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to advance efforts to improve health care and quality of care in rural areas by supporting quality measure implementation, data reporting, and the use of data to drive improvements in care. Eligible applicants are domestic public or private, non-profit or for-profit organizations. Institutions of higher education, faith-based and community-based organizations, tribes, and tribal organizations are eligible to apply.

Program History

There is no available history for this program.

Key Information

Total Funding: \$640,000

Award Range: Up to \$640,000

Match: Not required

Solicitation date: November 28, 2022

Proposal due: February 17, 2023

More information can be found [here](#).



Tips

- This program prioritizes the coordination and alignment of national TA efforts related to quality measurement and improvement, and the identification of a rural-relevant measure core set.
- Reducing provider burden of participation in quality measurement reporting is a priority of this program.

Department: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration

FY 2023 Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to advance efforts to improve health care and quality of care in rural areas by supporting quality measure implementation, data reporting, and the use of data to drive improvements in care. This program directly supports critical access hospitals (CAHs) as Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program beneficiaries in carrying out activities of the Flex Program, and to meet the goals of the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Program (MBQIP). The purpose of MBQIP is to improve quality of care provided in CAHs by increasing quality data reporting and drive quality improvement activities based on the data.

Technical assistance (TA) shall be provided to beneficiaries of the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) quality initiatives, such as award recipients, CAHs, small rural health care providers, and other health care facilities/providers in rural areas. Reducing provider burden of participation in quality measurement reporting is a priority of this program. TA support for quality measurement and improvement should include, but is not limited to the following:

- Expanding capacity to use data for quality improvement
- Providing TA to improve understanding of health information technology and related quality measurement and improvement efforts (including electronic clinical measures)
- Supporting implementation of quality measures, measure reporting, and identifying rural-relevant measures for MBQIP
- Identifying and disseminating strategies and evidence-based practices for using data to drive quality improvement efforts, in alignment with federal quality measurement and improvement priorities
- Providing TA and developing products or adapting existing products to support rural quality measure reporting and uptake.

Through this program the funding agency aims to identify opportunities to integrate quality measurement and improvement using a systems-level approach to help overcome public health challenges in rural areas that impact health and quality outcomes. Data collection and analyses should incorporate national, state, health system, and hospital/provider levels. Analyses should also incorporate health equity considerations to demonstrate impact across levels.

This program seeks to address emerging quality improvement needs in rural health systems that are identified through existing, rural-relevant initiatives, and to ensure measure alignment with other federal quality reporting programs in order to fill this gap

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are domestic public or private, non-profit or for-profit organizations. Institutions of higher education, faith-based and community-based organizations, tribes, and tribal organizations are eligible to apply.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$640,000 is available to support 1 award through this program. Applicants may apply for a ceiling amount of up to \$640,000 annually.

The period of performance is September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2028 (5 years).

Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program.

Contact Information

MBQIP Program Lead

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<https://grants.hrsa.gov/2010/Web2External/Interface/FundingCycle/ExternalView.aspx?fCycleID=3df889c3-1269-4bba-b919-90be55e81636>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Justice

Agency: Bureau of Justice Assistance

FY 2023 Rural and Small Department Violent Crime Reduction Program

Grant Overview

The goal of this program is to increase the capacity of rural or small jurisdiction police departments or prosecutors' offices to combat violent crime through enhanced implementation of critical crime reduction elements, and to provide tools and resources needed to implement critical elements.. Eligible applicants are small law enforcement agencies, including prosecutors, and agencies serving rural communities, including prosecutors serving rural communities or small departments and include local governments and federally recognized Native American tribal governments.

Program History

Program history unavailable. None. In 2021, \$2.8 million was awarded under a similar program, the Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative for Law Enforcement Agencies.

Key Information

Total Funding: \$10,800,000

Award Range: up to \$300,000

Match: None

Solicitation date: April 17, 2023

Proposal due: June 13, 2023 (Grants.gov); June 30, 2023 (JustGrants)

<https://bia.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bia-2023-171729>



Tips

- OJP strongly encourages the use of data and evidence in policymaking and program development for criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services.
- This grant includes Priority Considerations Supporting Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government and Priority Considerations Supporting Executive Order 14074, Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety
- Applicants are encouraged to review the resources available on the [Public Safety Clearinghouse for strategic solutions](#)

FY 2023 Rural and Small Department Violent Crime Reduction Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide funding to small and/or rural agencies and/or to prosecutors who are interested in implementing or improving the capacity of their organization around one or more critical elements found in the Violent Crime Reductions Operations Guide or the Prosecutors' Guide to Reducing Violence and Building Safer Communities. The goal of the program is to increase the capacity of police departments or prosecutors' offices to fully implement the critical elements found in the guides to build capacity to combat violent crime.

Project deliverables under this program are to:

1. Complete the Violent Crime Reduction Operations Guide online assessment tool provided to successful applicants.
2. Select one or more of the critical elements within the guide to improve capacity as part of an overall violent crime reduction strategy. The strategy should incorporate the key concepts: A. Community collaboration B. Criminal justice partner cooperation C. Victim-centered approaches D. Evidence-based strategies E. Commitment to measuring crime reduction outcomes in meaningful terms, commensurate with the scope of the violence problem and funding amount requested
3. Partner with a researcher or subject matter expert to plan, execute, and monitor the capacity/enhancement activities selected to ensure organizational growth within the capacity area and a direct link to the crime reduction strategy. Strategies may necessitate the purchase of technology. This should be part of a comprehensive plan and should be adequately justified in the implementation stage. Submit this plan to BJA prior to implementation.
4. Implement programming and activities that reflect an enhanced capacity in these areas, per the guide. Deploy agency resources such as personnel, services, or analytical tools that meet the capacity enhancement goal.
5. Document the development and implementation of strategies to reduce the violent crime problem or problems identified in their applications. These program descriptions should be memorialized in official agency documents and in a manner consistent with professional standards. Relevant agency policies and procedural manuals should be developed and/or updated as necessary.
6. Track progress and outcomes, making adjustments as needed.
7. Participate and/or host a regional "crime fighters conference" in collaboration with the funding agency.
8. Provide a final report of activities and outcomes to the funding agency

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are small law enforcement agencies, including prosecutors, and agencies serving rural communities, including prosecutors serving rural communities or small departments. These include city or township governments, County governments, and Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized). For the purposes of this program, a small agency is any law enforcement agency with 250 or fewer sworn

officers. In addition, a rural agency is an agency serving any area or community, no part of which is within an area designated as a standard metropolitan area by the Office of Management and Budget, or any agency serving one or more rural census tracts. Additionally, a tribal agency is defined as any federally recognized tribe with a designated law enforcement agency. The funding agency will consider applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant.

Priority will be given to applicants that propose project(s) that are designed to promote racial equity and the removal of barriers to access and opportunity for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$10,800,000 is available to support awards through this program. Approximately 36 awards are expected to be distributed through this program. Matching funds are not required for this program; however, applicants seeking priority consideration, and that have proposed activities to incorporate the input and participation of communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality, must show financial support for the identified activities and participation in the application.

Project period is 36 months with an anticipated grant start date of 10/1/2023.

BJA may, in certain cases, provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this solicitation through continuation awards. OJP will consider, among other factors, OJP's strategic priorities, a recipient's overall management of the award, and the award-funded work's progress, when making continuation award decisions.

Contact Information

OJP Response Center

800-851-3420

grants@ncjrs.gov

<https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2023-171729>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Transportation
Agency: Office of the Secretary of Transportation

FY 2023/2024 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) - Rural Surface Transportation Grant (Rural)

Grant Overview

The Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program will support projects to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas. Eligible projects for Rural grants include highway, bridge, and tunnel projects that help improve freight, safety, and provide or increase access to agricultural, commercial, energy, or transportation facilities that support the economy of a rural area. Eligible applicants are states, regional transportation planning organizations, units of local government, tribal governments or consortiums of tribal governments, and multijurisdictional groups of public entities.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$273.9 million	12

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$675 million

Award Range: Unspecified

Match: 20 percent

Solicitation date: June 26, 2023

Proposal due: August 21, 2023

- Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program funds may be used to fulfill non-federal match requirements

More information is available [here](#).



Awardee Profile

Todd County, SD

AMOUNT: \$26.2 million

YEAR: 2022

Todd County received funding for the reconstruction of approximately 24 miles of roadway stretching from US Route 18 to US Route 83. The project will provide improved access for Tribal residents of the Town of Rosebud and the essential services there.

Department: U.S. Department of Transportation

Agency: Office of the Secretary of Transportation

FY 2023/2024 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) - Rural Surface Transportation Grant (Rural)

Detailed Summary

The Rural Program will support projects to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas. Eligible projects include:

- A highway, bridge, or tunnel project eligible under National Highway Performance Program (23 U.S.C.119)
- A highway, bridge, or tunnel project eligible under Surface Transportation Block Grant (23 U.S.C. 133)
- A highway, bridge, or tunnel project eligible under Tribal Transportation Program (23 U.S.C. 202)
- A highway freight project eligible under National Highway Freight Program (23 U.S.C.167)
- A highway safety improvement project, including a project to improve a high-risk rural road as defined by the Highway Safety Improvement Program (23 U.S.C. 148)
- A project on a publicly owned highway or bridge that provides or increases access to an agricultural, commercial, energy, or intermodal facility that supports the economy of a rural area
- A project to develop, establish, or maintain an integrated mobility management system, a transportation demand management system, or on-demand mobility services

Rural grants may be used for development phase activities, including planning, feasibility analysis, revenue forecasting, environmental review, preliminary engineering and design work, and other preconstruction activities; and construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, acquisition of real property (including land related to the project and improvements to the land), environmental mitigation, construction contingencies, acquisition of equipment, and operational improvements.

An eligible entity may bundle two or more similar eligible projects under the Rural program if projects are included as a bundled project in a statewide transportation improvement program and will be awarded to a single contractor or consultant pursuant to a contract for engineering and design or construction between the contractor and the eligible entity.

Additional consideration will be given to projects that benefit an Area of Persistent Poverty or a Historically Disadvantaged Community. DOT will also consider whether the project is located in the Department or Federally designated area such as a qualified opportunity zone, Empowerment Zone, Promise Zone, Choice Neighborhoods, DOE-Energy Communities, USDA's Rural Partner Network, DOT Thriving Communities, or the Interagency Thriving Communities Network. A project located in a Federally designated community development zone is more competitive than a similar project that is not located in a Federally designated community development zone.

Projects that receive a Highly Recommended rating, but are not awarded, will be automatically designated **MPDG Extra Projects**, unless the Department determines that they are not reasonably likely to satisfy the

Transportation Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (TIFIA) project type eligibilities. This designation provides the sponsors of these projects the opportunity to apply for TIFIA credit assistance for up to 49% of eligible project costs. Under current policy, TIFIA credit assistance is limited to 33 percent of eligible project costs unless the applicant provides a strong rationale for requiring additional assistance.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants for Rural grants are a state; a regional transportation planning organization; a unit of local government; a tribal government or a consortium of tribal governments; or a multijurisdictional group of entities above.

Definitions

Under the Rural Program DOT defines a **rural area** as an area outside an **Urbanized Area** with a population of over 200,000, as designated by the U.S. Census Bureau. [Click here](#) for a list of Urbanized Areas that are considered urban for the purposes of the INFRA grant program. A project located in both an urban area with a population over 200,000 according to the 2020 Census, and a rural area will be designated as urban if the majority of the project's costs will be spent in the urban area with population over 200,000. Conversely, a project located in both an urban area with population over 200,000 and a rural area will be designated as rural if the majority of the project's costs will be spent in the rural areas. However, if a project consists of multiple components, then for each separate component the Department will determine whether that component is rural or urban. In some circumstances, including networks of projects under that cover wide geographic regions, this component-by-component determination may result in awards that include urban and rural funds.

An **Area of Persistent Poverty** means: (1) any county that has consistently had greater than or equal to 20 percent of the population living in poverty during the 30-year period preceding November 15, 2021, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial census and the most recent (2021) annual Small Area Income Poverty Estimates as estimated by the Bureau of the Census; (2) any census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2014-2018 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census; or (3) any territory or possession of the United States. A county satisfies this definition only if 20 percent of its population was living in poverty in all three of the listed datasets: (1) the 1990 decennial census; (2) the 2000 decennial census; and (3) the 2021 Small Area Income Poverty Estimates. USDOT has published a [map](#) to help applicants identify if a project meets the Area of Persistent Poverty definition for a County or Census Tract.

A **Historically Disadvantaged Community** is defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)'s Interim Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative and the 2023 Addendum to this Guidance. Specifically, a project is located in a Historically Disadvantaged Community if:

- The project is located in certain qualifying census tracts that are identified as "disadvantaged" in this [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#); or
- The project is located on Tribal land.

Common Application

To help **streamline the grant process** for applicants, the DOT has combined the applications for the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Grant Program (Mega), Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA), and Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (Rural) into the MPDG common application.

Applicants may choose to apply to one, two, or all three of these grant programs by submitting only one application. Applicants are encouraged to apply for multiple programs, to maximize their potential of receiving Federal support. Applicants to MPDG will be considered across all three programs unless they opt out of a specific program. To support applicants through the application process, the Department will provide technical assistance and resources.

DOT will consider the extent to which the project addresses the following project outcome criteria: **(1) safety; (2) state of good repair; (3) economic impacts, freight movement, and job creation; (4) climate change, resiliency, and the environment; (5) equity, multimodal options, and quality of life; and (6) innovation areas: technology, project delivery, and financing.** Projects seeking funding from the Rural program in amounts less than \$25 million are not expected to address all six outcome areas. Instead, Rural program applicants seeking amounts less than \$25 million may submit a streamlined application that only addresses three outcome areas: Safety; Climate Change, Resiliency, and the Environment; and Equity, Multimodal Options, and Quality of Life.

Additional statutory selection requirements for the Rural program include generation of regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits, cost-effectiveness, contribution to one or more national goals, preliminary engineering, and construction timeline.

Funding

In FY 2023 and FY 2024, up to \$675 million is available for awards through the Rural Program. At least 90 percent of Rural grant amounts must be at least \$25 million, and up to 10 percent of Rural grants may be for grant amounts of less than \$25 million.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) specifies that 15 percent of the Rural Program funds be reserved for eligible projects located in states that have rural roadway fatalities as a result of lane departures that are greater than the average of rural roadway fatalities as a result of lane departures in the United States. This is defined based on a five-year rolling average of rural roadway departure fatality rate per 100 million VMT. Additionally, IIJA specifies that 25 percent of the Rural program funds shall be reserved for eligible projects that further the completion of designated routes of the Appalachian Development Highway System.

Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants will be required to provide a cost-share of 20 percent, except eligible projects that further the completion of a designated segment of the Appalachian Development Highway System under section or address a surface transportation infrastructure need identified for the Denali access system program under section 309 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 may apply for up to 100 percent of the project costs. Other Federal assistance may satisfy the non-Rural share requirement for a Rural grant up to 100 percent of project costs.

The Rural Program has a higher statutory maximum Federal share than Mega and INFRA. Applications which seek funding above the statutory maximum share for MEGA and INFRA will only be eligible for an award from

the Rural program. Previously incurred costs or previously expended or encumbered funds cannot be used to meet match requirements.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program funds may be used to fulfill non-federal match requirements.

Contact Information

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<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=348890>

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Transportation
Agency: Build America Bureau

FY 2023 Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program

Grant Overview

This program will augment organizational capacity in communities that may not have resources available to evaluate and develop projects that qualify for federal funding and financing programs. Funding will support the hiring of staff or the procurement of expert firms to provide financial, technical, and legal assistance; assistance with development phase activities; and information regarding innovative financing best practices and case studies. Eligible applicants are states and local governments representing an area with less than 150,000 residents, tribal governments, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Program History

This is a new program funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Key Information

Total Funding: \$3.4 million

Award Range: \$150,000 - \$360,000

Match: Not required

Solicitation Date: June 15, 2023

Proposal due: Rolling

Click [here](#) for more information.



Tips

- The grants can support legal, technical, and financial advisors to help them advance infrastructure projects.
- Under this program, it is anticipated that there will be a round of funding each fiscal year until FY 2026, with progressively more funding available each year.

Department: U.S. Department of Transportation

Agency: Build America Bureau

FY 2023 Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to augment organizational capacity in communities that may not have resources available to evaluate and develop transportation infrastructure projects that qualify for federal funding and financing programs. Funding will support the hiring of staff or the procurement of expert firms to provide financial, technical, and legal assistance; assistance with development phase activities; and information regarding innovative financing best practices and case studies.

Program funds may be used to select advisors to assist with predevelopment phase activities, including but not limited to:

- Revenue forecasting
- Project planning
- Statutory and regulatory framework analysis
- Economic assessments and cost-benefit analyses
- Feasibility studies
- Drafting and negotiation of concession agreements
- Value for money analysis and procurement options
- Environmental review and permitting
- Drafting and negotiation of interagency agreements
- Evaluating opportunities for private financing and project bundling
- Preliminary engineering and design
- Procurement support
- Financial feasibility analysis; funding and financing options analysis
- Funding application assistance
- Evaluation of costs to sustain the project (such as operations and maintenance costs)
- Public engagement
- Property development and land use feasibility analysis
- Public Benefit Studies
- Cost estimation

Projects supported under this program are expected to be developed in a manner that will make them reasonably eligible for funding through the following Department of Transportation programs:

- [Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act \(TIFIA\) Program](#): This program provides credit assistance to finance up to 49 percent of eligible project costs for qualified projects, including: highway and bridge projects; public transportation projects; international bridges and tunnels; intercity passenger bus or rail facilities and vehicles; freight rail projects and intermodal freight

- transfer facilities; certain projects located within the boundaries of a port terminal; transit-oriented development projects; and airport projects.
- [Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing \(RRIF\) Program](#): This program provides credit assistance to finance development of railroad infrastructure up to 100 percent of eligible project costs, including intermodal or railroad equipment or facilities; landside port infrastructure for seaports serviced by rail; refinancing of outstanding debt incurred for the above eligible projects; planning, permitting, and design expenses relating to the above eligible projects; and transit-oriented development projects.
 - [Nationally Significant Freight & Highway Projects Program \(INFRA\)](#): This program awards competitive grants for multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people in and across rural and urban areas, including but not limited to: highway freight projects on the National Highway Freight Network (NHFN); highway or bridge projects on the National Highway System; freight intermodal project or freight rail projects; freight projects that are within the boundaries of a public or private freight rail, water (including ports), or intermodal facility and are surface transportation infrastructure projects necessary to facilitate direct intermodal interchange, transfer, or access into or out of the facility; and highway-railway grade crossing or grade separation projects.
 - [National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program \(MEGA\)](#): This program supports large, complex projects that are difficult to fund by other means and likely to generate national or regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits, including but not limited to: highway or bridge projects on the National Multimodal Freight Network; highway or bridge projects on the NHFN; and highway or bridge projects on the National Highway System.
 - [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity \(RAISE\)](#): This program supports investments in surface transportation infrastructure that will have a significant local or regional impact. Eligible projects include both planning and implementation activities.
 - [National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program](#): This program supports the replacement, removal, and repair of culverts or weirs that meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish. Anadromous fish migrate upstream for breeding. Eligible projects include the replacement, removal, or repair of culverts that would meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish, replacement, removal, or repair of weirs that would meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are local governments and political subdivisions located outside of an urbanized area with a population of more than 150,000, states seeking to advance a project in an area located outside of an urbanized area with a population of more than 150,000 residents, federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Funding

In FY 2023, a total of \$3.4 million will be available to support awards ranging from \$150,000 - \$360,000. No more than twenty percent of available funds for a single fiscal year may be awarded for projects in a single state.

Matching and Cost Share

There is no requirement for cost sharing or matching the grant funds.

Contact Information

Program Staff

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<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalGrants>

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Transportation
Agency: Build America Bureau

FY 2023 Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program Rural Project Initiative

Grant Overview

This program improves transportation infrastructure in rural communities by providing low-cost, fixed-rate, long-term loans for critical infrastructure projects. This program is intended to support transportation infrastructure that will improve the economy and the quality of life in rural areas. Eligible applicants are state and local governments, transit agencies, private entities, special authorities such as government-sponsored corporations, transportation improvement districts, and state infrastructure banks.

Program History

A program history is unavailable.

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified

Match: 51 percent

Proposal due: Rolling

<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/financing/tifia/tifia-rural-project-initiative-rpi>



Tips

- The application process for this program is the same as the general TIFIA program; applicants must submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) prior to submitting an application
- Projects must directly benefit rural communities that have a population of fewer than 150,000 and that are located outside a census-defined urban area

Department: U.S. Department of Transportation

Agency: Build America Bureau

FY 2023 Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program Rural Project Initiative

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to improve transportation infrastructure in rural communities by providing low-cost, fixed-rate, long-term loans for critical infrastructure projects. This program is intended to support transportation infrastructure that will improve the economy and the quality of life in rural areas. Eligible projects include:

- Roads, bridges, and tunnels
- Transit systems, including infrastructure, bus and train stations, and buses and passenger rail vehicles and facilities
- Intermodal connectors
- Pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure
- Freight transfer facilities
- Sea and inland waterway ports
- Airports under certain circumstances

All projects must directly benefit rural communities that have a population of fewer than 150,000 and that are located outside a census-defined urbanized area.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state and local governments, transit agencies, private entities, special authorities such as government-sponsored corporations, transportation improvement districts, and state infrastructure banks.

Funding

In FY 2023, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support fixed interest rate loans through this program. The project must have a total cost ranging from \$10 million to \$100 million. Loan interest rates will be equal to half of the U.S. Treasury rate of equivalent maturity of the loan at the time of loan closing.

Matching and Cost Share

Applicants must provide at least 51 percent of the total project cost via matching contributions. Up to 80 percent of total project costs may be funded with federal funds, which may include funding from other federal programs. Applicants may be responsible for borrower fees, which often amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars; however, while funds last, the funding agency may pay these fees on behalf of applicants for projects under \$75 million.

Contact Information

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<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/financing/tifia/tifia-rural-project-initiative-rpi>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

FY 2024 Small Communities, Big Challenges- Rural Environmental Public Health Needs Prize Competition

Grant Overview

This competition seeks to identify innovative and inclusive approaches local governments have developed for working with citizens, community groups, and other interested parties in rural communities to identify and address environmental public health concerns facing their people. This competition also seeks to better understand what barriers these communities have associated with these public health concerns. Eligible applicants are units of local governments; local utility providers, wastewater management officials, environmental agencies, and housing authorities; departments of fish and wildlife; and Tribal and territorial governments.

Program History

No program history is available.

Key Information

Total Funding: \$250,000

Award Range: Each awardee will receive \$25,000

Match: Not required

Solicitation date: November 1, 2023

Applications due: January 31, 2024

[Small Communities, Big Challenges | US EPA](#)



Tips

- **Informational Webinar:** November 29, 2023; 2-3 PM EST. Register [online](#) to receive an invitation.
- Submissions must be sent via email to SCBCCompetition@epa.gov
- Award announcements are expected to be made between February-March 2024.

Department: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

FY 2024 Small Communities, Big Challenges- Rural Environmental Public Health Needs Prize Competition

Detailed Summary

Local governments are on the frontlines for working with rural communities on environmental public health issues. Rural communities across America have unique perspectives on pressing environmental and public health issues their community faces, particularly on issues that are not well understood, challenging to address, and need additional scientific understanding. This competition seeks to identify innovative and inclusive approaches local governments have developed for working with citizens, community groups, and other interested parties in rural communities to identify and address environmental public health concerns facing their people. This competition also seeks to better understand what barriers these communities have associated with these public health concerns.

To gain a better understanding of environmental and public health challenges facing rural communities, The funding agency and its partners are launching the “Small Communities, Big Challenges” Competition. The goal of this competition is for local governments to identify innovative and effective ways to holistically engage rural communities around environmental health issues and to identify any associated barriers to better protecting human health. Through increased engagement, this competition would ideally help local governments and communities better identify and understand rural community-based environmental public health issues, which may help in the protection of the community’s environmental public health. The funding agency will use the solutions from this competition to learn of unique or innovative strategies for engaging with rural communities and of the environmental public health issues that rural communities are faced with. Local governments that participate in the competition will demonstrate their innovative strategies for engaging rural communities and present collaboratively identified findings from these engagements through a brief engagement strategy report and a short video.

Submissions will be judged by a panel of experts based on the following criteria:

- **Community Engagement (40%)** – The degree to which local governments clearly engaged with the rural community members and/or community-based organizations and provided inclusive and equitable* opportunities to collaboratively identify environmental and public health issues the community faces that needs further scientific understanding.
- **Creativity/Innovation (20%)** – The degree to which the community engagement strategy and communication video shows an innovative approach to community engagement and collaboratively identify environmental public health issues the community faces.
- **Community Engagement Strategy (15%)** - The degree to which the community engagement strategy report fulfills all the expected requirements.
- **Communication Product (15%)** – The degree to which the communication product fulfills all the expected requirements noted above.

- Impacts and Solutions (10%) – The degree to which the environmental and public health issue identified has broad impacts to specific populations (i.e., at-risk, disadvantaged communities, etc.) and solutions to address the issue could be transferred to other communities.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants must be individuals or groups employed by local governments, including, but not limited to:

- City and county health departments
- Local environmental agencies
- Local departments of fish and wildlife
- Local utility providers
- Local waste management officials
- Local departments of housing
- Water and sewer district boards
- Tribal and territorial government leaders
- City/municipality governments
- Mayors
- Village and city managers
- Commissioners
- City planners
- City administrators
- County executives

Funding

Up to **ten** selected winners will each receive **\$25,000** (totaling \$250,000). **Five** individual Challenge winners will be given a one-year National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) membership.

Matching and Cost Sharing

There are no matching or cost-sharing requirements for this program.

Contact Information

Program Staff

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[Small Communities, Big Challenges | US EPA](#)