

Rural Community Development Initiative Grants

What does this program do?

Rural Community Development Initiative Grants (RCDIs) help qualified nonprofit housing and community development intermediary organizations support eligible housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

Who can apply?

- **Public bodies such as state or local governments and their associated authorities, boards, commissions, or councils**
- **Nonprofit organizations**
- **Qualified for-profit organizations**
- **Federally recognized Tribes**

What is an eligible area?

Any area other than a city or town with a population greater than 50,000, and the area adjacent to such a city or town.

How can funds be used?

RCDI grants are used to provide capacity-building assistance to improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in eligible rural areas. Examples of grant uses include:

- Training sub-grantees to conduct homeownership or minority business entrepreneur education
- Providing technical assistance to sub-grantees on things such as:
 - Strategic plan development
 - Finding alternative funding sources
 - Board training
 - Creating training tools (videos, workbooks, reference guides)

What are some grant terms?

- The minimum grant award is \$50,000, and the maximum award is \$500,000.

- There is a matching fund requirement equal to the amount of the grant award.
- In-kind contributions cannot be used as matching funds.
- Partnerships with other federal, state, local, or nonprofit organizations are encouraged.

How do we get started?

Applications are accepted annually through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) published in the *Federal Register* (available at this link: [federalregister.gov/](https://www.federalregister.gov/)).

Who can answer questions?

Your local USDA Rural Development office can help. A list of state offices is available at this link: tinyurl.com/ytjhaa2x.

What governs this program?

- Public Law 106-78, available at this link: tinyurl.com/ynzwsbpd
- Public Law 117-328, available at this link: tinyurl.com/4wvwxrxh
- 2 CFR 200 and associated RCDI guidelines as published in the annual *Federal Register* NOFA.

NOTE: Because information changes, always consult official program instructions or contact your local USDA Rural Development office for help. A list is available at this link: go.usa.gov/xJHPE. You will find additional resources, forms, and program information at this link: rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.