

# Rural Cooperative Development Grants

What does this program do?

**Rural Cooperative Development Grants (RCDGs) boost economic conditions in rural areas by helping start, expand, or improve cooperatives and other mutually owned businesses that operate through eligible Cooperative Development Centers.**

Who can apply?

- **Nonprofit corporations**
- **Institutions of higher education**

What is an eligible area?

While Rural Cooperative Development Centers can be located in any area regardless of population, the people and businesses assisted by RCDGs must be located in eligible rural areas. Our interactive eligibility map is available at this link: [tinyurl.com/3mvr4p4c](https://tinyurl.com/3mvr4p4c).

## How can funds be used?

Grant funds can be used to operate a Rural Cooperative Development Center that serves eligible rural areas. Here are some examples of fund usage:

- Conduct feasibility studies
- Develop business plans
- Provide leadership and operational improvement training
- Facilitate strategic planning

## What are some grant terms?

- The maximum grant award is \$200,000.
- Matching funds equal to 25 percent of total project costs (5 percent for Tribally controlled colleges and universities with 1994 Land Grant status) are required.
- If you are awarded an RCDG, you must submit regular financial and performance awards.

## How do we get started?

- Before you begin, ensure your organization has an active, current registration in the System for Award Management (SAM - available at this link: [tinyurl.com/2jyxf59e](https://tinyurl.com/2jyxf59e)).

- All active SAM.gov-registered organizations are assigned a Unique Entity ID (UEI). You will need this to apply. Instructions on how to view your UEI are available at this link: [tinyurl.com/33pn3frj](https://tinyurl.com/33pn3frj).
- You must apply at [grants.gov](https://grants.gov), available at this link: [grants.gov](https://grants.gov).

## Who can answer questions?

You can contact your nearest USDA Rural Development office for help. A list of state offices is available at this link: [tinyurl.com/bddtm6vj](https://tinyurl.com/bddtm6vj).

Additionally, you will find RCDG program information in the *Federal Register* at this link: [tinyurl.com/yc8csunn](https://tinyurl.com/yc8csunn).

## What governs this program?

The RCDG program is covered by 7 USC 1932 (310) (B)(e), available on page 1091 at this link: [tinyurl.com/y452ww2u](https://tinyurl.com/y452ww2u) - PDF).

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