

Who to Contact

State Office

St. Paul | 651.602.7800

Northwest Area

Detroit Lakes | 218.847.9392

Thief River Falls | 218.681.2843

Alexandria | 320.763.3191

Northeast Area

Baxter | 218.829.5965

Virginia | 218.741.3929

Bemidji | 218.751.1942

East Central Area

Cambridge | 763.689.3354

Southwest Area

Marshall | 507.532.3234

Worthington | 507.372.7784

Willmar | 320.235.5612

Southeast Area

Faribault | 507.332.7418

Austin | 507.437.8247



A step above the rest...

Safe drinking water and sanitary waste disposal systems are vital not only to public health, but also to the economic vitality of rural America. Rural Development is a leader in helping rural America improve the quality of life and increase the economic opportunities for rural people.

WEP provides funding for the construction of water and waste facilities in rural communities and is proud to be the only Federal program exclusively focused on rural water and waste infrastructure needs of rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less.

visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn

State Office | 651-602-7800
375 Jackson Street, Suite 410
Saint Paul, MN 55101

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to:

USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights
Washington DC 20250-9410



Water & Environmental Programs

Providing safe and sanitary drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities for rural communities in Minnesota.



FOUNDATION FOR GROWTH



USDA Rural Development is committed to preserving the environment and improving the health and safety of rural communities.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Water and Environmental Programs (WEP) provide funding for the following types of projects:

- drinking water treatment facilities
- wastewater treatment facilities
- storm water systems
- solid waste management systems

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Water and Environmental Programs (WEP) are available to:

- public bodies,
- non-profit organizations, and
- tribal communities

Direct Loans & Grants

To develop water and waste disposal systems in rural areas and towns with a population of 10,000 or less.

- Loans are made directly through Rural Development - no external lender.
- Interest rates are set quarterly based on an index of current market yields for municipal obligations.
- Grant amounts are determined by the area's median household income and project affordability.
- Rural Development works with each community to ensure a loan/grant combination that maintains an affordable user rate.

Guaranteed Loans

To provide a loan guarantee for the construction or improvement of water and waste disposal projects in areas of 10,000 or less.

- Rural Development guarantees the loan through a traditional commercial lender.
- Interest rates are determined by the lender and guaranteed by Rural Development.



Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH) and Predevelopment Planning Grants (PPGs)

The SEARCH and PPG programs are meant to assist in paying costs associated with Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Reports for projects likely to be funded by Rural Development.

- Grant approval must be obtained prior to costs being incurred.
- Median Household Income must be less than \$46,036 (<80% statewide MHI)
- SEARCH grant population is limited to 2,500 or less
- PPG population is limited to 10,000 or less
- Maximum PPGs are up to \$15,000 or 75 percent of the project costs, whichever is less;
- Maximum SEARCH grants are up to \$30,000.

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant (ECWAG)

To assist in paying costs associated with water quality or quantity issues directly caused by a documented event.

- Must apply for financing within two years of the date of the documented event.
- Financing is only provided for water projects.
- Maximum grant for a loss of water supply is \$500,000
- Maximum grant for repairs to water distribution is \$150,000