



# News Release

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## **USDA Makes Technical Assistance Available to Help Rural Communities in Maine Recover and Increase Resiliency of Water Infrastructure Damaged By Severe Storm and Flooding in 2022**

*Technical Assistance Providers Invited to Apply by October 30, 2023*

**Bangor, October 3, 2023** – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Maine State Director Rhiannon Hampson today announced the availability of grants to help rural and Tribal communities recover and increase resiliency of water, wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste infrastructure damaged by the severe storm and flooding which took place On December 23-24, 2022 in Franklin, Knox, Oxford, Somerset, Waldo, and York counties. Technical assistance providers are encouraged to apply for the funds.

“This technical assistance funding will help make sure the rural communities impacted by last December’s severe storm have the resources they need to not only recover, but to increase the resiliency of their water, wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste infrastructure,” said Director Hampson. “This funding is critical because we know that rural municipalities are hard pressed to dedicate staff time to applying for federal grants, so at USDA RD, we’re supporting partnerships and capacity building by funding the assessment, advising, training, grant writing, and other expertise necessary.”

USDA is making more than \$8 million in grants available in 33 states and 3 territories nationwide through the [2022 Disaster Circuit Rider Technical Assistance \(CY 2022 Disaster CRTA\) Grants Program](#).

Funds may be used to provide on-site technical assistance to:

- Support post-disaster mitigation of eligible events.
- Identify and evaluate solutions to impacted water, wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste challenges.
- Help communities develop and prepare applications for water, wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste loans and grants.
- Deliver training and other resources to operators, managers, and other system personnel.
- Provide certain technical assistance efforts that support the resiliency and capacity of eligible systems.
- Pay certain expenses associated with the provision of such services.

In Maine, the grants are available to communities with populations of 35,000 or below in the six counties that were in the [presidentially declared disaster area](#) (Franklin, Knox, Oxford, Somerset, Waldo, and York counties). Entities that provide relevant technical assistance may apply for the grants. If successful, they may use the funds to provide technical assistance to eligible organizations including:

- state and local governments,
- federally recognized Tribes,
- nonprofits, and
- prefabricated home organizations operating an eligible community-based system.

Eligible applicants must be legally organized with authority to provide the proposed technical assistance and demonstrate capacity and experience to carry out the objectives of the program. For more information on how to apply, see page 66797 of the Sept. 28, 2023, [Federal Register](#) or contact your local USDA Rural Development office.

Applications for the technical assistance grants must be submitted between Sept. 28, 2023 and 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time and 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Oct. 30, 2023 via [Grants.gov](#).

USDA Rural Development also has [Community Facilities Disaster Repair](#) grants available to help pay for repairs to rural Maine community facilities that were damaged in the presidentially declared disaster area during the December 23-24, 2023 storm. Low-income homeowners in the same counties may also be eligible for [grants](#) to repair their storm damaged homes. To learn more about these programs, find information online at [www.rd.usda.gov/me](http://www.rd.usda.gov/me) or call (207) 990-9160 to be connected with program staff.

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