Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risks for Colonias

What does this program do?

This program helps get safe, reliable drinking water and waste disposal services to low-income communities that face significant health risks.

Who can apply?

- **State and local governments that serve eligible areas**
- **Nonprofit organizations**
- **Federally-recognized Tribes**

Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risks for Colonias

What is an eligible area?

- Rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less in areas recognized as Colonias before October 1, 1989

Residents in the area served must face significant health risks resulting from lack of access to - or use of - adequate, affordable water or waste disposal services.

How can funds be used?

Funds can be used to build basic drinking water and waste disposal systems, including systems to handle stormwater drainage.

Are matching funds required?

Usually, yes. Partnerships with other federal, state, or local entities are encouraged. However, under some circumstances — and when funding is available — a 100 percent grant is possible.

How do we get started?

Applications are accepted year-round in your local USDA Rural Development office (rd.usda.gov/browse-state).

Who can answer questions?

- You can contact your local USDA Rural Development office for help. A list of state offices is available at this link: rd.usda.gov/browse-state.
- Participating nonprofits also offer assistance and training. Ask your local RD office if any such organizations exist in your area.

What governs this program?

- 7 CFR 1777, Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risks (tinyurl.com/24pjfv9s)
- Public Law 113-79: Agricultural Act of 2014 (tinyurl.com/57whupdy)

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: rd.usda.gov/browse-state. You will find additional RD program resources at rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Last revised October 2026