

# 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**



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## 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 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 Opportunity (NOFO) published in the Federal Register (available at this link: [tinyurl.com/RCDI2025](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/22/2025-0122-rural-community-development-initiative-grants)).

## Who can answer questions?

Your local USDA Rural Development office can help. A list of state offices is available at this link: [tinyurl.com/RDStateOffices](https://www.tinyurl.com/RDStateOffices).

## What governs this program?

- Public Law 106-78, available at this link: [tinyurl.com/PublicLaw106-78](https://www.tinyurl.com/PublicLaw106-78)
- Public Law 119-4, available at this link: [tinyurl.com/PublicLaw119-4](https://www.tinyurl.com/PublicLaw119-4)
- Public Law 118-42, available at this link: [tinyurl.com/Public-Law-118-42](https://www.tinyurl.com/Public-Law-118-42)
- 2 CFR 200 and associated RCDI guidelines as published in the annual Federal Register NOFO

**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: [tinyurl.com/RDStateOffices](https://www.tinyurl.com/RDStateOffices). You will find additional RD program resources at [rd.usda.gov](https://www.rd.usda.gov). Information about other USDA programs and services is available at this link: [ask.usda.gov/s/](https://ask.usda.gov/s/). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.**

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