

Individual Water and Wastewater Grants

What does this program do?

This program provides funds to households in areas recognized as a Colonia before October 1, 1989, to connect service lines to a residence, pay utility hook-up fees and install plumbing and related fixtures such as bathtubs, showers, toilets, sinks, water heater and outside spigots.

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. The community must be designated as a Colonia in writing by the state or county in which it is located, on the basis of objective criteria including lack of: potable water supply, adequate sewage systems, decent, safe and sanitary housing, or have inadequate roads and drainage. Grants are only available in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas.



Individual Water and Wastewater Grants

How may funds be used?

Grant funds may be used to:

- Extend or connect service lines from a system to a residence.
- Pay the fees for connecting to a water and sewer system.
- Pay for the necessary installation of plumbing and plumbing fixtures within a home that lacks them. This is limited to one bath tub, bathroom sink, toilet, kitchen sink, water heater, and outside spigot.
- Construct or partition off a portion of the dwelling for a bathroom.
- Pay to close abandoned septic tanks and water wells when necessary to protect the health and safety of recipients of a grant.
- Make other improvements to the home to allow the use of the water and waste disposal system.

Who can apply?

Applicants must:

- Own and occupy a dwelling located in a Colonia and have evidence of ownership.
- Have a total taxable income (based on the latest federal income tax form from all individuals residing in the household) that is below the most

recent poverty income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- Have no delinquencies on any federal debt.

What are some of the terms of the grant?

- Lifetime assistance may not exceed a cumulative total of \$25,000.

How do we get started?

Applications for this program are accepted year round. Please apply through your local Rural Development office. A list of state offices can be found at this link:

tinyurl.com/RDStateOffices

Who can answer questions?

Staff in your local RD office can answer questions. A list of state offices can be found at this link:

tinyurl.com/RDStateOffices

What governs this program?

- 7 CFR Part 3550, Subpart C and HB-1-3550, Appendix 8 available at this link: tinyurl.com/ywcjr93s.
- Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, available at this website: tinyurl.com/FarmandRDAct

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. You will find additional RD program resources at rd.usda.gov. Information about other USDA programs and services is available at this link: ask.usda.gov/s/.

Last Updated July 2025