

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

RUS BULLETIN 1777-2

**SUBJECT: Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risks
Project Selection Criteria**

TO: RUS Water and Environmental Programs (WEP) Staff.

ATTN: Rural Development State and Program Directors

EFFECTIVE DATE: Date of approval.

OFFICE OF PRIMARY INTEREST: Office of the Assistant Administrator, WEP, RUS.

INSTRUCTIONS: This bulletin replaces previous versions.

AVAILABILITY: This Bulletin is available on
https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/rd_rus_wep/SitePages/Home.aspx

PURPOSE: To provide a worksheet for Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risks Project Selection Criteria.

Acting Assistant Administrator
Water and Environmental Programs

Date

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide current project selection criteria that will be used when reviewing public infrastructure applications seeking funding through programs administered in accordance with 7 CFR Part 1777, Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risks Program. Specific priority criteria can be found in 7 CFR 1777.14(c), Scoring.

2 APPLICABILITY

The application, along with supporting information, will be used to determine applicant eligibility. Agency officials must consider the priority items met by each application and the degree to which those priorities are met. The priority items are listed in the Project Selection Criteria Worksheet included as Exhibits A and B of this Bulletin.

3 INSTRUCTIONS

All applications will be processed, scored and reviewed for funding priority. The priorities listed in 7 CFR Part 1777 and included in Exhibits A and B of this Bulletin will be used to rank applications and will be a factor in selecting projects for funding. The completed Project Selection Criteria Worksheet, as provided in Exhibits A and B, will be placed in the processing file for future reference.

Select from the appropriate Exhibit A or B for the project. If using Exhibit A, complete Sections A through E by selecting the points for the priorities that are met by the proposed project and enter them in their respective section. Similar action should be taken if using Exhibit B, but for Sections A through D. The State Director can recommend up to 15 discretionary points by providing a written justification which must be attached to this worksheet and included in the processing file. Once the above actions are completed, the total points scored should be calculated and added to the Exhibit.

The RUS Administrator or designee may assign up to 15 additional points that will be considered in the total points for items including but not limited to the geographic distribution of funds nationally and within the state, and the severity of health risks.

Exhibit A

Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risks
Colonia Project Selection Criteria

Name of Applicant _____

Name of Project _____

State _____ County _____

Statewide Median Household Income _____

Median Household Income of Population Served _____

<u>Priorities</u>	<u>Available Points</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
A. Population: The proposed project will primarily serve a rural area having a population:		
1. Not in excess of 1,000	25	
2. Between 1,001 and 2,500	15	_____
3. Between 2,501 and 5,500	5	
B. Income: The median household income of population to be served by the proposed project is:		
1. Not in excess of 50 percent of the statewide nonmetropolitan median household income	30	
2. More than 50 percent and not in excess of 60 percent of the statewide nonmetropolitan median household income	20	_____
3. More than 60 percent and not in excess of 70 percent of the statewide nonmetropolitan median household income	15	

C. Joint financing: The amount of other than RUS funds committed to the proposed project is:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|-------|
| 1. Fifty percent or more | 15 | |
| 2. Twenty to forty-nine percent | 10 | _____ |
| 3. Five to nineteen percent | 5 | |

D. Colonia: The proposed project will provide water or waste disposal services to the residents of a recognized Colonia

25 _____

E. Access and Health Risks:

- | | | |
|---|----|-------|
| 1. A service area that lacks access to both water and waste disposal facilities, resulting in a significant health risk | 50 | |
| 2. A service area that lacks access to either water or waste disposal facilities, resulting in a significant health risk | 40 | _____ |
| 3. A service area that has access to water and waste disposal facilities, but has a significant health risk | 20 | |

F. Discretionary: In certain cases, the State Director or designee may assign up to 15 points for administrative and programmatic priorities for items including, but not limited to, natural disasters, priority coordination between RUS and other agencies, including leveraged funding or other initiatives identified by the administration, to assist those projects that are the most cost effective, or to projects located in areas experiencing high unemployment and poverty rates and severe health risks. A written justification must be prepared and attached to this worksheet each time the State Director or designee assigns these points.

Total Points Scored

 State Director or Designee

 Date

Discretionary: In certain cases, the RUS Administrator may assign up to 15 additional points that will be considered in the total points for items including but not limited to geographic distribution of funds nationally and within the state, and the severity of health risks. Written justification for Administrator points will also be included in the processing file.

Total Points Scored including Discretionary

Exhibit B

**Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risks
Tribal Project Selection Criteria**

Name of Applicant _____

Name of Project _____

State _____ County _____

Per Capita Income of Service Area _____ Unemployment Rate of Service Area _____

Statewide Median Household Income _____

Median Household Income of Population Served _____

<u>Priorities</u>	<u>Available Points</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
A. Population: The proposed project will primarily serve a rural area having a population:		
1. Not in excess of 1,000	25	
2. Between 1,001 and 2,500	15	_____
3. Between 2,501 and 5,500	5	
B. Income: The median household income of population to be served by the proposed project is:		
1. Not in excess of 50 percent of the statewide nonmetropolitan median household income	30	
2. More than 50 percent and not in excess of 60 percent of the statewide nonmetropolitan median household income	20	_____
3. More than 60 percent and not in excess of 70 percent of the statewide nonmetropolitan median household income	15	

C. Joint financing: The amount of other than RUS funds committed to the proposed project is:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|-------|
| 1. Fifty percent or more | 15 | |
| 2. Twenty to forty-nine percent | 10 | _____ |
| 3. Five to nineteen percent | 5 | |

D. Access and Health Risks:

- | | | |
|---|----|-------|
| 1. Service area that lacks access to both water and waste disposal facilities, resulting in a significant health risk | 50 | |
| 2. Service area that lacks access to either water or waste disposal facilities, resulting in a significant health risk | 40 | _____ |
| 3. Service area that has access to water and waste disposal facilities, but is facing a significant health risk | 20 | |

E. Discretionary: In certain cases, the State Director or designee may assign up to 15 points for administrative and programmatic priorities for items including, but not limited to, natural disasters, priority coordination between RUS and other agencies, including leveraged funding or other initiatives identified by the administration, to assist those projects that are the most cost effective, or to projects located in areas experiencing high unemployment and poverty rates and severe health risks. A written justification must be prepared and attached to this worksheet each time the State Director or designee assigns these points. _____

Total Points Scored _____

 State Director or Designee

 Date

Discretionary: In certain cases, the RUS Administrator may assign up to 15 additional points that will be considered in the total points for items including but not limited to geographic distribution of funds nationally and within the state, and the severity of health risks. Written justification for Administrator points will also be included in the processing file.

Total Points Scored including Discretionary
