Solid Waste Management Grants

What does this program do?
This program reduces or eliminates the pollution of water resources by funding eligible organizations that provide technical assistance or training to improve planning for – and management of – solid waste disposal sites.

What is an eligible area?
Rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or fewer. To check your eligibility, visit https://go.usa.gov/xMwaC.

Special consideration may be given to projects serving:
- Areas with populations of fewer than 5,500, or 2,500, respectively
- Regional, multistate, or national areas
- Lower-income populations

Who can apply?
- Public bodies
- Nonprofits
- Federally-recognized Tribes
- Academic institutions

All applicants must have:
- Proven ability, background, or experience to successfully complete a project similar to the one proposed
- Legal authority and capacity to provide technical assistance or training

How can funds be used?
- Evaluate current landfill conditions to identify threats to water resources
- Provide technical assistance or training to enhance the operation and maintenance of active landfills
- Provide technical assistance or training to help communities reduce the amount of solid waste coming into a landfill
- Provide technical assistance or training to prepare for closure and future use of a landfill site

These grants cannot be used to:
- Duplicate current services, or replace or substitute support or services already provided by a consultant during project development
- Duplicate assistance provided by the U.S. Forest Service
- Pay for capital assets, real estate, or vehicles
- Pay for construction, operation, or maintenance

Are there terms for grants?
- This is a nationally-competitive grant
- Projects must be completed within 12 months
- Grants are subject to the availability of funds

Are matching funds required?
Matching funds are not required for this grant. However, applicant and in-kind contributions are encouraged.

Who currently participates in this program?
A list of current Solid Waste Management Grant recipients is available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xM6Pe.

How do we get started?
- Application materials and resources can be found under the “To Apply” tab on the Solid Waste Management program webpage, available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xMwxT.
- The annual application period for Solid Waste Management Grants is open from October 1 - December 31. Applications must be submitted using https://www.grants.gov.
Solid Waste Management Grants

Who can answer questions?
Contact the grant manager at water-rd@usda.gov.

What governs this program?
• 7 CFR 1775 in the Code of Federal Regulations, available at this link: https://www.ecfr.gov
• Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xMwTC

Why does USDA Rural Development do this?
This program helps small communities and utilities better manage solid waste disposal.

NOTE: Because information changes, always consult official program instructions or contact your local Rural Development office for help. A list is available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xJHPE. You will find additional resources, forms, and program information at https://rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Last Updated November 2022