

Strategic Economic and Community Development

Background

Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) is authorized through a provision of the Farm Bill promoting and supporting regional economic and community development planning.

Purpose

With covered USDA Rural Development programs' reserve funding, SECD supports projects implementing all or part of a strategic community investment plan. Created by local stakeholders, these plans build rural prosperity by amplifying a community's unique strengths. Rural Development also can assist by identifying additional resources, convening partners, and helping leverage federal, state, local and private funding.

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, always consult the program instructions listed in the section titled *"For More Information."* You may also contact [your local office](#) for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Who may apply for this program?

To be eligible for SECD, a project must:

- Be eligible for a covered USDA Rural Development program
- Be carried out in a rural area
- Support a multi-jurisdictional and multisectoral strategic community investment plan.

What is the application process?

To apply, applicants must meet covered Rural Development program requirements and submit Form RD 1980-88 to the nearest USDA Rural Development local office.

Applicants applying for SECD funding through a covered loan guarantee program may submit forms under [OneRD Guarantee Loan Initiative application guidelines](#).

Consideration is based on:

1. How well the project supports a multi-jurisdictional and multi-sectoral plan; and
2. Plan contents: evidence of collaboration among multiple stakeholders, acknowledgment of regional resources, strategic partners' monetary and non-monetary investments including private and philanthropic organizations and non-USDA government entities, presents a rural vision and articulates clear objectives with implementation action steps and measurable performance metrics.

Applicants are encouraged to seek plan reviews prior to submitting their application. Your state-based Rural Development program staff can help.

Covered Rural Development Programs

Priority may be given to applications submitted through the following programs:

- [Community Facilities Direct Loan Program](#)
- [Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program](#)
- [Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program](#)
- [Water and Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees](#)
- [Rural Business Development Grants](#)

For More Information:

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