Strategic Economic and Community Development

Background

Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) funding is authorized through a provision of the 2018 Farm Bill (information is available at this link: https://www.usda.gov/farmbill) that supports regional economic and community development planning.

Purpose

With reserved funding designed to bolster participating USDA Rural Development programs, SECD supports projects that promote and implement strategic community investment plans. 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.

Who can apply for this program?

To be eligible for SECD, a project must:

- Be eligible for a participating, covered USDA Rural Development program
- Be carried out in a rural area
- Support a multijurisdictional and multisectoral strategic community investment plan

What is the application process?

To apply, you must meet participating Rural Development program requirements, and submit Form RD 1980-88 to your nearest USDA office (available at this link: https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator).

If you are applying for SECD funding through a participating loan guarantee program, you can submit forms using OneRD Guarantee Loan Initiative application guidelines (available at this link: https://www.rd.usda.gov/onerdguarantee).

If you are applying for SECD funding through the Community Connect Grant Program, you can submit forms electronically at this link: https://www.rd.usda.gov/community-connect.

Consideration is based on:

1. How well the project supports a multijurisdictional, multisectoral plan
2. Whether the plan shows evidence of collaboration among multiple stakeholders, leverages regional resources (such as monetary and nonmonetary investments from strategic partners, including private and philanthropic organizations and government entities) and articulates clear objectives with implementation action steps and measurable performance metrics

You are encouraged to seek a plan review before you submit your application. Your state-based participating Rural Development program staff can help.

Participating Rural Development Programs

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

- Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants (available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xE8gr)
- Community Facilities Guaranteed Loans (available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/Xe8g4)
- Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants (available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/Xe8gT)
- Community Connect Grants (available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/Xe8gK)
- Rural Business Development Grants (available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/Xe8gQ)

For More Information:

Please contact rd.secd@usda.gov.

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please 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.

Last Updated December 2021