

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

What does this program do?

This program helps eligible communities prepare for, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water.

Examples may include:

- Drought or flood
- Earthquake
- Tornado or hurricane
- Disease outbreak
- Chemical spill, leak, or seepage
- Other disasters

Note: A federal disaster declaration is not required.

Who can apply?

- State and local governmental entities
- Nonprofit organizations
- Federally recognized Tribes



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What is an eligible area?

- Rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less, including Tribal lands and colonias in eligible areas.
- The area must have a median household income less than the state's median household income for non-metropolitan areas.

To see if your area is eligible visit this website:

tinyurl.com/WEPRuraleligibility

How can funds be used?

Water source grants can be used to construct a water source, intake or treatment facility. The maximum amount for water source grants is \$1 million.

Water distribution systems grants can be used to:

- Construct waterline extensions
- Repair breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines
- Perform water line maintenance necessary to replenish the water supply
- Purchase or maintain water storage tanks

The maximum amount for the distribution systems grant is \$150,000.

Are matching funds required?

No, however partnerships with other federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit entities are encouraged.

How do we get started?

Contact your local state office. A list is available at this website:

tinyurl.com/RDStateOffices.

Applications are accepted year round and may be filed electronically using RD Apply (available at this link: rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rd-apply) or at your local state office.

Who can answer questions?

Your local USDA Rural Development office can help. A list of offices is available at this link:

tinyurl.com/RDStateOffices.

What law governs this program?

- Code of Federal Regulation, 7 CFR 1778, available at this website: tinyurl.com/Ch17CFR1778
- Section 306A 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/. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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