



Faith and Opportunity Initiative

What does this initiative do?

The Faith and Opportunity initiative helps both secular and faith-based nonprofits and community organizations access USDA Rural Development financing and resources to positively impact their communities.

Who may apply for assistance through this initiative?

Organizations seeking to improve the overall quality of life in their communities by addressing social and economic issues, regardless of their religious affiliation.

Which USDA Rural Development programs are applicable?

Applicable programs include, but are not limited to:

[Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants](#)

Affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas.

Eligible areas: Rural areas including cities, villages, townships and towns, including federally recognized tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest U.S. Census data.

How funds may be used: Examples include healthcare facilities (such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes, or assisted living facilities), substance abuse and addiction facilities, day care centers, schools, and local food systems (such as food pantries, community gardens, or food banks).

Types of available funding: Loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations.

[Community Facilities Loan Guarantees](#)

Loan guarantees to eligible private lenders to help build essential community facilities in rural areas.

Eligible areas: Rural areas including cities, villages, townships and towns, including federally recognized tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest U.S. Census data.

How funds may be used: Examples include healthcare facilities (such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, substance abuse and addiction facilities, nursing homes, or assisted living facilities), day care centers, schools, and local food systems (such as food pantries, community gardens, or food banks).

Type of available funding: Loan guarantees.

[Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants](#)

Grants to help rural communities acquire technologies to connect teachers and medical providers serving rural residents.

Eligible areas: Check with your nearest USDA Rural Development [General Field Representative](#) to determine eligibility.

How funds may be used: Acquisition of eligible capital assets (such as equipment), instructional programming, and technical assistance and instruction in the use of eligible equipment.

Type of available funding: Grants.

How do we get started?

Your [local USDA Rural Development office](#) can provide guidance on eligibility, servicing, loan terms, and the regulations that govern these various programs.