Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants

PURPOSE:
- Provide financial assistance to develop essential public community facilities in rural areas up to 20,000 population based on last decennial census (2010)
- Provide loan and grant funds for projects serving the most financially needy communities

ELIGIBLE PURPOSES:
Construct, enlarge, extend, or improve essential community facilities providing essential services, primarily to rural residents and rural businesses for health services, public safety, public services, and telecommunication (medical or educational).

- Purchase of equipment to provide essential service
- Purchase existing facilities
- Reasonable fees and costs such as: engineering/architectural, legal, administrative, environmental and planning services
- Costs of acquiring interest in land; rights of way, etc.
- Fire, rescue & public safety (fire stations, fire & rescue equipment, jails, police stations)
- Health services (clinics, nursing homes, assisted living, group homes)
- Community, social or cultural services (libraries, schools, day-care, museums)
- Transportation facilities (bridges, roads, airports, parking facilities)
- Telecommunication equipment (telemedicine and distance learning)
- Natural gas distribution
- Irrigation systems
- Support structures for rural electric and telephone systems when not eligible for RUS
- Refinance existing facility debt, if it is a secondary part of the loan

ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES:
- Fire, rescue and public safety (fire stations, fire & rescue equipment, jails, police stations)
- Health services (clinics, nursing homes, hospitals, assisted living, group homes)
- Community, social or cultural services (libraries, schools, day care, museums)
- Transportation facilities (bridges, roads, airports, parking facilities)
- Telecommunication equipment (telemedicine and distance learning)
- Natural gas distribution
- Support structures for rural electric and telephone systems (when not eligible for RUS)

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:
- Public body such as a city, county, district, or other political subdivision
- An organization operated on a not-for-profit basis such as an association, cooperative, or private corporation
- Federally recognized Indian Tribe

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:
- Facility must have broad-based community support
- Applicant must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms
- Applicant must have legal authority and responsibility to own, operate, and maintain the facility
• Lease agreement cannot contain an “option to purchase” clause
• Facility must be necessary for orderly community development and consistent with the State’s Strategic plan
• Facilities must be modest in size, cost and design

SECURITY:
• Loans will be secured by the best security position practicable in a manner that will adequately protect the interest of the Government
• Bonds or notes pledging taxes, assessments, or revenues may be accepted as security if they meet statutory requirements
• A mortgage may also be taken on the organizations facilities if the state law allows

INTEREST RATES:
• Interest rates are set periodically
• Once a loan is approved, the rate remains fixed for the term of the loan, recipient receives the lower rate in effect at approval or closing.
• Currently rates are dependent on the median household income for the service area and health or standards violations (check with the Rural Development Area Office serving your area for current rates)

TERMS:
Maximum term on all loans is 40 years. However, no repayment period will exceed any statutory limitation on the organization’s borrowing authority or the useful life of the facility or improvement to be financed.

GRANT FUNDS:
• Available on a graduated scale based upon the median household income & population of the service area, as well as the repayment ability of the facility
• Available where the median household income for the service area is below $44,604, (based on the 2006-2010 American Community Survey)
• Grant funds are very limited and will only go to the most needy projects

APPLICATIONS:
• Applications may be submitted at any time and compete for funding with other applications on hand
• USDA, Rural Development will advise the applicant on how to assemble information to determine engineering feasibility, economic soundness, cost estimates, organization, financing, and management matters in connection with the proposed improvements
• For further information contact the USDA, Rural Development Area Office serving your county

AREA OFFICES & COUNTIES SERVED:

Northern Idaho – 7830 Meadowlark Way, Ste C3, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815
Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce, Shoshone
(208) 762-4939 - Jeff Beeman x 118, Howard Lunderstadt x 126, John Lynn x 122

Western-Central Idaho – Twin Falls & Boise
Ada, Adams, Blaine, Boise, Camas, Canyon, Cassia, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Owyhee, Payette, Twin Falls, Valley, Washington

Twin Falls Area Office – 1441 Fillmore, Ste. C, Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 733-5380 – Becky Dean x119, Robert Lanford x118

Boise Sub-Area Office – 9173 W. Barnes Dr., Ste. A1, Boise, ID 83709
(208) 327-6473 – Carol Garrison

Eastern Idaho - 725 Jensen Grove Drive, Ste. 1, Blackfoot, ID 83221
Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Oneida, Power, Teton
(208) 785-5840 – Dale Lish x 119, Julie Neff x115