

## **USDA Rural Development Loan/Grant Program**

USDA Rural Development Water and Environmental Programs (WEP) rural communities obtain the technical assistance and financing necessary to develop drinking water and waste disposal systems. WEP provides funding for the construction of water and waste facilities in rural communities serving fewer than 10,000. WEP also provides funding to organizations that provide technical assistance and training to assist rural communities with their water and wastewater activities.

### **Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants**

This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. The funds are available to most state and local governmental entities, as well as private nonprofits. If funds are available, a grant may be combined with a loan if necessary to keep user costs reasonable.

### **Loan Terms**

- Fixed rate loan with terms are up to 40 years. Interest rates are reset quarterly and may be obtained from any Rural Development office.

Other Grants for utilities are available in four general forms:

- Water & Waste Disposal Technical Assistance and Training Grants
- Solid Waste Management Grants
- Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants
- Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant

The Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program is designed to:

1. Identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste disposal problems in rural areas.

2. Assist applicants in preparing applications for water and waste grants made at the State level offices.
3. Improve operation and maintenance of existing water and waste disposal facilities in rural areas.

The Solid Waste Management Grant Program is designed to 1) Reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources in rural areas and 2) Improve planning and management of solid waste sites in rural areas.

The Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant Program helps eligible communities prepare, or recover from, an emergency (i.e., drought or flood, earthquake, tornado, disease outbreak) that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water.

The Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program helps qualified nonprofits create a revolving loan fund to increase access to clean, reliable water and septic systems for households in eligible rural areas.

Forms for all the programs discussed above are available on the USDA website:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/water-environmental-programs>