



USDA Rural Community Development Initiative + Grant Application Tips

Thank you

for joining the
conversation today.

Send us your
questions and
comments!

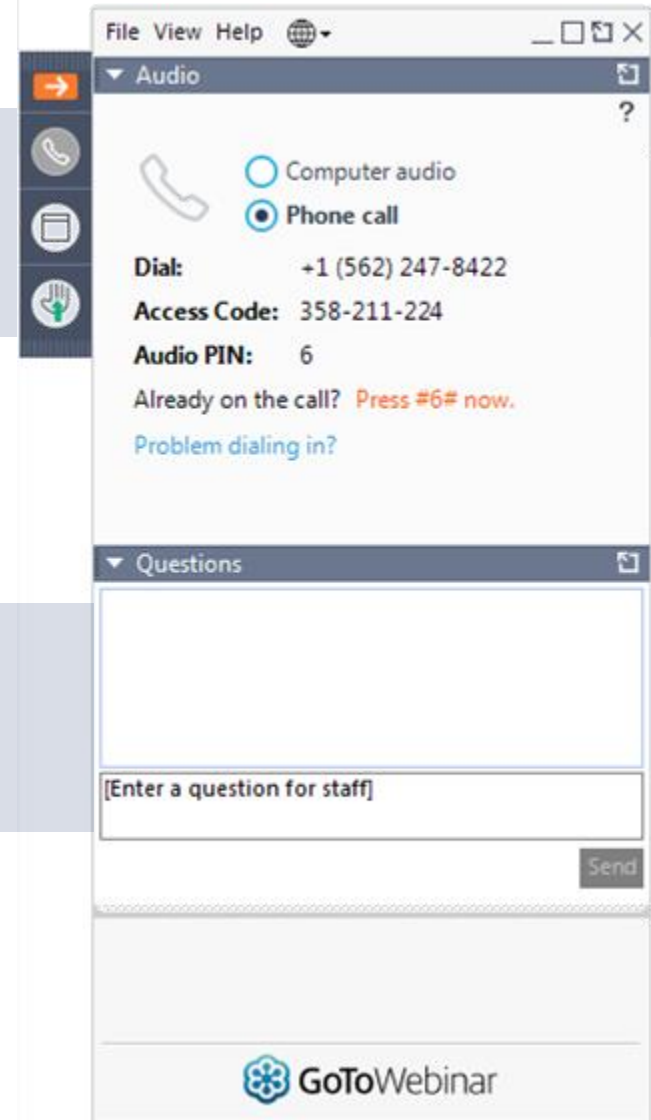
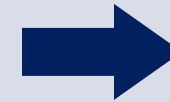
Welcome

The Broadcast will begin at 1:00 PM (Eastern)

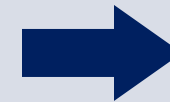


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Using your telephone will give you better audio quality.



Submit your questions to the panelists here.



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Panelists



Katie Kramer

Vice President
Council of Development Finance
Agencies



Sharen Butrum

Fund Developer II
Rural Community Assistance
Corporation



Lyndon Nichols

Area Director
U.S. Department of Agriculture



Monica McCann

Associate Director
The Conservation Fund

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What does this program do?

Provides funding to intermediary organizations to develop the capacity of nonprofits, low-income rural communities and federally recognized Native American Tribes to undertake housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas. The recipients will, in turn, provide programs to their communities (beneficiaries).

Who may apply for this program?

Qualified private, nonprofit and public (including Tribal) intermediary organizations proposing to provide financial and technical assistance programs to recipient organizations based in rural areas are eligible to receive the grant funding.

Who are qualifying recipients?

- Nonprofit community-based housing and/or development organizations
- Low-income rural communities with MHI at or below 80 percent of state or national MHI (evidence that the recipient entity is a public body such as a town, city or special purpose district is required)
- Federally recognized Tribes

What is an eligible area?

- Rural and rural area—Any area other than (i) a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants; and
- (ii) the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such city or town.
- Website:
<https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do>

What kind of funding is available?

- Minimum grant award is \$50,000; maximum grant award is \$250,000
- Grant funds are limited and are awarded through a competitive process

Matching funds

Matching funds are cash or confirmed funding commitments and must be at least equal to the grant amount and committed for a period of not less than the grant performance period.

These funds can only be used for eligible RCDI activities.

Matching funds must be used to support the overall purpose of the RCDI program.

Grant funds and matching funds must be used in equal proportions. This does not mean funds have to be used equally by line item.

In-kind contributions

In-kind contributions such as salaries, donated time and effort, real and nonexpendable personal property and goods and services cannot be used as matching funds.

Types of Eligible Projects

- Provide technical assistance to improve recipient organizations' capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development
- Rural Community Development Initiative grants may be used for, but are not limited to:
 - Training recipient organizations to conduct:
 - Homeownership education
 - Minority business entrepreneur education

Types of Eligible Projects

- Provide technical assistance to recipient organizations on:
 1. Strategic plan development
 2. Accessing alternative funding sources
 3. Board training
 4. Developing successful child care facilities
 5. Creating training tools such as videos, workbooks and reference guides
 6. Effective fundraising techniques

How do we get started?

- Applications are accepted on an annual basis through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in the **Federal Register**

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-05-26/pdf/2017-10776.pdf>

The deadline for receipt of an application is 4 p.m. local time, **July 25, 2017**. The application date and time are firm.

- Program Resources are available online (includes forms needed, guidance, certifications etc.):

- An application package can be downloaded from Grants.gov CFDA 10.446
- [Checklist of Forms](#) included in Grants.gov application package ([pdf](#) | [doc](#))



What law governs this program?

- Code of Federal Regulation; 2 CFR 200 and Guidelines announced in NOFA, published in the **Federal Register**.

Funded Projects

- YouthBuild USA, Inc. \$249,998 To fund technical assistance to support educational opportunities for youth in eight impoverished communities in Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont and West Virginia.
- RCAP Solutions, Inc. \$244,831 To help 14 recipient communities in Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico implement Geographic Information Systems mapping. The primary focus is to increase the capacity of small, rural water and wastewater systems.

Who can answer questions?

Contacts

Lyndon S. Nichols, Area Director

(413) 923-3244

(774) 345-7031

lyndon.nichols@mat.usda.gov

Jennifer Sharrow, Area Specialist, Hadley, MA

(413) 9235-3243

jennifer.sharrow@ma.usda.gov

James Lavin, Area Loan Specialist, Holden, MA

(774) 345-7032

james.lavin@ma.usda.gov





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Key Application Requirements

- One page project overview that includes:
 - Type of technical assistance to be provided
 - How the capacity and ability of the recipients will be improved
 - The overall goals to be accomplished
 - The benchmarks to measure success of the program
- Verification of source and amount of matching funds
 - Cannot be “in-kind”
- Evidence of eligibility
- A timeline of specific activities and completion dates
- A detailed project budget
 - Should include the requested RCDI amount and matching funds
 - Should be line item

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Evaluation Criteria: Building Capacity and Expertise: 40 Points

- Describe the nature of financial and technical assistance to be provided to the recipients (10 points)
- Explain how financial and technical assistance will develop or increase the recipients capacity (7 points)
- Identify which RCDI purpose areas will be addressed with this assistance (3 points)
- Provide specific and quantifiable metrics to measure success of technical assistance (5 points)
- Demonstrate that it has conducted programs of financial and technical assistance and achieved measurable results one of the three RCDI purpose areas (10 points)
- Provide in a chart or excel spreadsheet, the organization name, point of contact, address, phone number, email address, and the type and amount of the financial and technical assistance the applicant organization has provided to the following for the last 3 years (5 points)

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Evaluation Criteria: Soundness of Approach: 15 Points

- The proposal fits the objectives for which applications were invited, is clearly stated, and the applicant has defined how this proposal will be implemented (7 Points)
- The ability to provide the proposed financial and technical assistance based on prior accomplishments. (6 Points)
- Cost effectiveness of proposed budget (2 points)

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Evaluation Criteria: Population and Income: 15 Points

- Population and median income of the area as according to the American Fact Finder found at <http://www.census.gov> (15 points)

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Population	Scoring (Points)
10,000 or less	5
10,001 – 20,000	4
20,001 – 30,000	3
30,001 – 40,000	2
40,001 – 50,000	1

Average recipient median income	Scoring (Points)
Less than or equal to 70 percent of state or national median household income	10
Greater than 70, but less than or equal to 80 percent of state or national median household income	5
In excess of 80 percent of state or national median household Income	0



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Evaluation Criteria: State Director's Points: 10 Points

- Up to 10 points may be awarded by the Rural Development State Director to any application which benefits their state regardless of whether the applicant is headquartered in the state (total points awarded to all applications not to exceed 10 points)
- Assignment of any points under this criterion requires a written justification and must be tied to and awarded based on how closely the application aligns with the Rural Development State Office's strategic goals

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Evaluation Criteria: Administrator Discretionary Points: 20 Points

- These points may be awarded for several reasons (20 points max):
 - Address geographic distribution of funds
 - Emergency conditions caused by:
 - Economic problems
 - Natural disasters
 - Other initiatives identified by the secretary

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Final Questions

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NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE SUMMIT

November 15-17, 2017 • Atlanta, Georgia

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Join CDFFA in Atlanta on November 15th for the Intro Rural Finance Course



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Upcoming Events

**CDFA // BNY Mellon Development Finance Webcast Series:
Special Assessment Techniques for Transformative Community Improvements**
July 18, 2017 | 1:00 PM Eastern

CDFA Summer School
August 7-11, 2017 | Minneapolis, MN

CDFA National Development Finance Summit
November 15-17, 2017 | Atlanta, GA

Register online at www.cdfa.net

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Vice President

614-705-1316

kkramer@cdfa.net

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