

COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM

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Last issue I detailed the Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG) program. I received some positive feedback, and had communities calling to discuss the possibilities of applying for the program. On that note I thought I would provide some information on one of our other more popular programs that benefit communities and reaches out to the same audience that works with NYRWA.

The Community Facility (CF) program provides loans and grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas. This is a very versatile program that benefits a large range of projects. Some of the types of projects eligible under the CF program include:

- Municipal Buildings
- Public Vehicles (fire trucks, rescue vehicles, snow plows, etc.)
- Community Centers
- Museums
- Food Banks
- Libraries
- Street Improvements
- Prisons/Jails
- Health Care (clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers)
- Schools (classrooms, dormitories, child care)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- Public bodies serving rural areas (population of less than 20,000).
- Not-for-profit organizations.
- Native American tribes on Federal or State reservations or other federally recognized tribes.
- Applicants unable to obtain commercial credit at reasonable rates and terms.

HOW CAN FUNDS BE USED?

- Construction of a facility.
- Purchase of equipment, buildings, or land.
- Repairs / improvements to facilities.
- Project expenses, such as legal, engineering, and environmental fees.

HOW MUCH ASSISTANCE CAN A COMMUNITY RECEIVE?

LOAN

- We have both a direct loan and guarantee loan program.
- Direct loan interest rates are based on the median household income of the service area (typically range between 4 - 4.5%).
- Loan repayment terms are the useful life of the facility or equipment.
- Typical loan terms: New Construction – 30 years; Rehabilitation – 20 years; Vehicles – varies (5 to 15 years).

GRANTS

- Applicants are eligible on a graduated scale, based on median household income, and population of the service area.
- Grants are limited to the minimum amount needed for economic feasibility.
- Typical grants range from \$10,000 - \$30,000.

SPECIALTY GRANTS — In addition to the grants detailed above we have two set aside grant programs, that provide additional funds to applicants that meet their requirements

- **Economic Impact Initiative (EII) Grants** – Grants available to rural communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression. Areas reaching a not employed rate of 19.5% or higher and meet all other grant application requirements are eligible to apply.
- **Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Grants** – Grants available to eligible CF applicants located in Sullivan and Tioga counties.

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Applicants may contact our local Area Offices to discuss potential projects. Visit our website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/NYHome.html to find out what office serves your county.

While most of you who have worked with USDA Rural Development in the past are probably most familiar with our Water and Environmental Program (loans and grants for water and wastewater systems), I wanted to take the time to introduce you to the Community Facilities program, and give you the opportunity to take advantage of a popular program that could benefit your community. We are currently accepting applications, so please submit your application now. Your comments and/or questions are always welcome. Please feel free to contact me at (315) 477-6465 or titus.falkenburg@ny.usda.gov. 💧💧💧