

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY POINTS

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These days there is a lot of competition between applications. Obtaining a high score improves your chances of receiving funding. I want to take the time to review USDA – Rural Development (RD) priority point scoring system for the Water and Environmental Program (WEP). Once we receive and review your Initial Application, we score the project. You are notified of your score in the Preliminary Funding Estimate (PFE) that you receive from our office. The following priority point scoring system is from RUS Bulletin 1780-1 located on our website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/NYHome.html. Point amounts are in parenthesis.

A. Population priorities:

1. Project primarily serves a rural area equal to or less than 1,000 population. (25)
2. Project primarily serves a rural area between 1,001 and 2,500 population. (15)
3. Project primarily serves a rural area between 2,501 and 5,500 population. (5)

B. Health priorities:

1. Project alleviates emergency situation, corrects unanticipated diminution or deterioration of a water supply or meet Safe Drinking Water Act requirements which pertain to a water system. (25)
2. Project to correct inadequacies of a wastewater disposal system or to meet health or sanitary standards which pertain to a wastewater disposal system. (25)
3. Projects which are required to meet administrative orders issued to correct local, State or Federal violations pertaining to solid waste. (15)

C. Median household income (MHI) priorities:

1. MHI less than the poverty line if the poverty line is less than 80% of the state nonmetropolitan household income (SNMHI). (30)
2. Less than 80% of the SNMHI. (20)
3. Equal to or more than the poverty line and between 80% & 100% inclusive, of the SNMHI. (15)

Note: The current SNMHI for New York is \$56,882 and the poverty line is \$23,550. Income data is obtained from the American Community Survey (ACS), 2010 5-year estimate.

D. Other priorities:

1. Project to merge ownership, management, and operations of smaller systems for more efficient management and economic service. (15)
2. Project to enlarge, extend, or otherwise modify existing facilities to serve additional rural residents. (10)
3. Applicant is a public body or Indian tribe. (5)

4. Amount of other funds committed to project is:

- a. 50% or more (15)
 - b. 20-49% (10)
 - c. 5-19% (5)
5. Project will serve an Agency identified target area. (10)
 6. Project will primarily recycle solid waste products thereby limiting the need for solid waste disposal. (5)
 7. The proposed project will serve an area that has an unreliable quality or supply of drinking water. (10)

E. State Program Director's discretionary points. An additional 15 Points (max) may be awarded to projects to improve compatibility/coordination between RD's and other agencies' selection systems and to assist those projects that are most cost effective and that provides for effective RD fund utilization.

ELEMENT	POINTS
Joint Projects or Shared Services	5
Asset Management Plan (Sustainability)	5
"Green" Energy Conservation Elements	5
Strategic Planning (Proposed Project Development)	5
Notice of Violation has been Issued by Regulatory Agency	10
Very Low Median Household Income (Less than \$35,000)	10
Natural Disasters	10
Necessary to meet EPA's arsenic rule	10
Needed to meet State Director or Program Goals (to be assigned by PD)	15
Project under NYS Consent Order	15
Subsequent Phase of Project previously funded by RD	15
High Poverty Area per RD Poverty Targeting Strategy	15

Please note that the State Program Director's discretionary points are updated each year with an Administrative Notice, so are subject to change.

Having your project score well improves your chances of receiving funding, so hopefully the information listed above is beneficial. 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 or visit our website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/NYHome.html. 💧💧