

## Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

### Eligible Uses

#### Emergency Repairs, Planning and Design, Construction/Capitalization

**Overview (purpose, mechanisms)** Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants may be available to help rural communities that have had a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water. **However, because of budget cuts, funding for the USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants may not be available for fiscal year 2011 and 2012.** In the past for certain disasters, Congress has created special appropriations that cover rural utility funding programs for repairing/reimbursing rural water utilities. Check back for any updated information. Rural utilities should depend primarily on FEMA funding during disaster events.

For the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants, the maximum grant is \$500,000 when a significant decline in quantity or quality of water occurred within 2 years of filing an application, or \$150,000 to make emergency repairs and replacement of facilities on existing systems.

Funds may be used to:

- Extend, repair, or perform significant maintenance on existing water systems; construct new water lines, wells or other sources of water, reservoirs, and treatment plants; replace equipment; and pay costs associated with connection or tap fees.
- Pay related expenses such as legal and engineering fees and environmental impact analyses, or acquire rights associated with developing sources of, treating, storing, or distributing water.
- Achieve compliance with the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) or with the Safe Drinking Water Act when noncompliance is directly related to a recent decline in quality of potable water.

**Recipients** Public entities and nonprofit corporations serving rural areas, including cities or towns whose population does not exceed 10,000 people and a median household income of 100 percent of a state's non-metropolitan median household income may be eligible. Public entities include tribes on federal and state reservations and other federally recognized tribal groups.

**Eligibility** Applicants must demonstrate that a significant decline in quantity or quality of water occurred within 2 years of the date the application was filed with USDA Rural Development State or District offices. Congress may appropriate funds for the program after a flood, earthquake, or other disaster if Federal assistance is warranted.

**Cost Sharing** None. Grants may be made for 100 percent of eligible project costs.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development

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| <b>Application Requirements</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Form SF424, <i>Application for Federal Assistance (For Construction)</i></li><li>• State intergovernmental review</li><li>• Supporting documentation, which includes a preliminary engineering report, population and median household income of the service area, nature of the emergency that caused the problems associated with the project, and evidence that the significant decline in quantity or quality of water occurred within two years of filing the application</li></ul> |
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### Additional Sources/Contact Information

You may file applications with any USDA Rural Development (RD) State or District office.

USDA RUS general information

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/prog.htm>

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants are authorized by Section 306A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1926a).