

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

Eligible Uses

Emergency Repairs, Planning and Design, Construction/Capitalization

At a Glance	<p>Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants help rural communities after a major decline in drinking water quantity or quality. Congress has previously offered funds to pay for rural utility funding programs. These programs are for repairing or reimbursing rural utilities after disasters. Rural utilities should depend on FEMA funds during disasters.</p> <p>The maximum grant is \$500,000 for Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants. A significant decline in quantity or quality of water must occur within 2 years of filing an application to receive a grant of this size. Grants of \$150,000 are for emergency repairs and replacing facilities on existing systems.</p> <p>These grants can help utilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Acquire rights associated with developing sources of, treating, storing, or distributing water.• Comply with the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) or with the Safe Drinking Water Act.
Receivers	<p>Public entities and nonprofit corporations in rural areas may be eligible. Public entities include tribes on federal and state reservations and other federally recognized tribal groups. They also include cities or towns with a population of less than 10,000 people.</p> <p>These cities must also have a median household income of no more than 100 percent of a state's non-metropolitan median household income.</p>
Eligible Activities	<p>Applicants must show a major decline in quantity or quality of water occurred within two years of the date of the application.</p>
Cost Sharing	<p>None. Grants can be for 100 percent of project costs.</p>

Applications

- Form SF424, *Application for Federal Assistance (For Construction)*
- State intergovernmental review
- Supporting documentation. This must include an engineering report, population and median household income of the service area and nature of the emergency that caused the problems associated with the project. It should show the major decline in quantity or quality of water occurred within two years of filing the application.

More Sources and Contact Information

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

USDA RUS general information

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/emergency-community-water-assistance-grants>

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)