

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Development

FY 2026 Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG)

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to help rural communities prepare for or recover from an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Eligible projects may take place in communities that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water due to an emergency, or in which such decline is considered imminent. Funding is intended to maintain the standards prescribed by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Eligible applicants are local governments, state governments, federally recognized tribes, and non-profit organizations.

Program History

Program history is unavailable for this program.

Key Information

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: Varies

Match: None

Solicitation Date: Rolling

Proposal due: Rolling

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



Tips:

- Projects must serve rural areas and towns with a population of 10,000 or less, tribal lands in rural areas, or colonias. Eligible rural addresses can be found [here](#).
- Priority consideration will be given to smaller rural communities and communities with a lower percentage of the state's median household income.
- Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit entities are encouraged.

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Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to help rural communities prepare for or recover from an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Eligible projects may take place in communities that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water due to an emergency, or in which such decline is considered imminent. Funding is intended to maintain the standards prescribed by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Qualifying emergencies may include droughts, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, disease outbreaks, chemical spills/leaks/seepage, and other disasters. A federal disaster declaration is not required.

Eligible project types include:

- Water transmission line projects to construct waterline extensions, repair breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines, and address related maintenance necessary to replenish the water supply
- Water source projects to construct new wells, reservoirs, transmission lines, treatment plants, and/or other sources of water, including treatment plants

Eligible activities include:

- Waterline extensions from existing systems
- Construction of new waterlines
- Repairs to an existing system
- Significant maintenance to an existing system
- Construction of new wells, reservoirs, transmission lines, treatment plants, and other sources of water
- Equipment replacement
- Connection and/or tap fees
- Costs incurred within six months of the date of the application to correct an emergency situation that would have otherwise been eligible for funding
- Other appropriate purposes, such as legal fees; engineering fees; recording costs; environmental impact analyses; archaeological surveys; possible salvage or other mitigation measures; and planning, establishing, or acquiring rights associated with developing sources of, treating, storing, or distributing water
- Costs of complying with applicable regulations
- Providing potable water to communities through means other than those covered above, but for a period of no longer than 120 days, when a more permanent solution is not feasible in a shorter time frame

All applicants must demonstrate that a major decline in the quantity or quality of water has occurred within two years of the date of the application, or a significant decline in quality and quantity of water is imminent. Qualifying emergencies may include droughts; floods; earthquakes; tornadoes; hurricanes; disease outbreaks; chemical spills, leaks, or seepage; and other disasters. A federal disaster declaration is not required.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include most state and local governments, including rurally located public bodies; nonprofit organizations; and federally recognized tribes.

Projects must serve rural areas and towns with a population of 10,000 or less, tribal lands in rural areas, or colonias. Eligible rural addresses can be found [here](#).

The project area must also have a median household income no greater than the state's non-metropolitan median household income.

Funding

In FY 2026, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards through this program as follows:

- Awards of up to \$150,000 for water transmission line projects to construct waterline extensions, repair breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines, and address related maintenance necessary to replenish that water supply
- Awards of up to \$1 million for water source projects for the construction of new wells, reservoirs, transmission lines, treatment plants, and/or other sources of water, including treatment plants

At least 70 percent of all awards will be for projects that alleviate a significant decline in quantity or quality of water available to a rural area that occurred within two years, or to attempt to avoid a significant decline that is expected to occur during the next 12 months; such awards may be for up to \$500,000.

At least 50 percent of all funds will be allocated to rural areas with populations of fewer than 3,000.

Pre-award costs that were incurred within six months of application submission to correct an emergency situation that would have been otherwise eligible for funding may be allowable.

Matching and Cost Sharing

There are no stated matching requirements for this program; however, partnerships with other federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit entities are encouraged.

Contact Information

Questions should be directed to the appropriate contact listed [here](#).

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