USDA Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

EDA
U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Stronger Together

Federal funding and planning strategies designed to promote sustainable economic development in rural America

Presented by:
U.S. Department of Agriculture: Rural Development
U.S. Department of Commerce: Economic Development Administration

Joint Planning Resource Guide

Strategic economic development revitalizes communities. Approached holistically, it attracts investments, builds wealth, and promotes sustainability. As a foundational first step, planning is crucial to successful economic development. It encourages us to leverage resources, build partnerships, advance the principles of equity, and strengthen systems to address global threats like climate change. By sequencing – or "stacking" – funding opportunities, you can effectively meet your community's economic development goals. There is a wide range of federal resources available to help you identify complementary programs, but it can be daunting to know where to begin. Together, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) are pleased to offer this joint planning resource guide, designed to help you eliminate barriers and encourage collaboration among your stakeholders.

The guide is separated into four key focus areas:

- Planning and Technical Assistance
- Entrepreneurship and Business Assistance
- Infrastructure and Broadband Expansion
- Workforce Development and Livability

Additional program information is available at USDA RD (https://www.rd.usda.gov) and EDA (https://www.eda.gov). Use this guide as a launch point to begin discussions with USDA RD and EDA specialists. We stand ready to be your collaborative partner in prosperity, because *Together, America Prospers*.

Complementary Programs by Investment Focus Area*

*Visible links to each program below are available in Appendix A, beginning on page 28.

Program	EDA	USDA RD
Planning and Technical Assistance	• Planning Program • Local Technical Assistance • Economic Adjustment Assistance • Research and National Technical Assistance	• Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge (RPIC) • Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training (CF-TAT) Grant • Rural Cooperative Development Initiative (RCDI) Grant • Solid Waste Management Grants • Rural Cooperative Development Grants
Infrastructure and Broadband Expansion	• Economic Adjustment Assistance • Public Works	• Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program • Community Facilities (CF) Direct Loans, Grants, Loan Guarantees • Electric Infrastructure Loans and Grants • Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants • Telecom Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees • Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grants • Broadband ReConnect Program • Community Connect Program • Business and Industry Loan Guarantees
Entrepreneurship and Business Assistance	• Economic Adjustment Assistance • Public Works • Build to Scale	• Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program • Rural Energy for America Guaranteed Loans and Grants Program (REAP) • Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) • Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance • Value Added Producer Grants • Business and Industry Loan Guarantees • Intermediary Relending Program • The Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Program
Workforce Development and Livability	• Economic Adjustment Assistance • Public Works • STEM Talent Challenge	• Rural Cooperative Development Initiative (RCDI) Grants • Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) • Intermediary Relending Program • The Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Program • Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP) • Multifamily Housing Loan Guarantees • Delta Health Care Services Grant below the Multifamily Housing Loan Guarantee

For information on other EDA programs and funding opportunities, including EDA's $3 billion American Rescue Plan Act programs, visit **www.eda.gov**.

For information on other USDA RD programs and funding opportunities, including our Pandemic Resources, please visit **https://www.rd.usda.gov/**.

A note about USDA rural area eligibility criteria:

By law, the definition of "eligible rural area" differs for each USDA Rural Development program, and the statutory rural area eligibility criteria can be complex. Additionally, statues can include exceptions for specific communities based on regional circumstances. Please use Rural Development's Eligibility Tool (available at this link: https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov) to help determine if your project is in an eligible rural area and you are otherwise eligible to apply.

Investment Focus: Planning and Technical Assistance

EDA Programs					
Program	**Purpose**	**Types of Assistance**	**Eligible Recipients**	**How to Apply**	**Contact**
Planning Program	Two components: 1. **Partnership Planning** supports regional planning through Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) 2. **Short-term Planning** encourages high-quality jobs and motivates private investment. https://go.usa.gov/xeR6Z	• Grants	**Partnership Planning:** • EDA-designated Economic Development District Organizations (EDDs) • Federally-recognized Tribes **Short-Term Planning:** • EDA-designated Economic Development District Organizations (EDDs) • Federally-recognized Tribes • State and local governments • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit organizations	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. EDA strongly suggests reaching out to your state Economic Development Representative before submitting (see contacts).	You will find your EDA state representative at this link: www.eda.gov/contact
EDA Local Technical Assistance	Supports EDA-designated University Center and regionally-focused projects that help communities analyze the feasibility of potential economic development projects. https://go.usa.gov/xeR68	• Grants	• EDA-designated Economic Development District Organizations (EDDs) • Federally-recognized Tribes • State and local governments • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit organizations	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. EDA strongly suggests reaching out to your state Economic Development Representative before submitting (see contacts).	You will find your EDA state representative at this link: www.eda.gov/contact

EDA Programs					
Program	**Purpose**	**Types of Assistance**	**Eligible Recipients**	**How to Apply**	**Contact**
EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance	Supports a range of economic development activities including: • market and environmental studies • planning • construction • revolving loan funds capital • natural disaster recovery https://go.usa.gov/xeR6X	• Grants	• EDA-designated Economic Development District Organizations (EDDs) • Federally-recognized Tribes • State and local governments • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit organizations	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. EDA strongly suggests reaching out to your state Economic Development Representative before submitting (see contacts).	You will find your EDA state representative at this link: www.eda.gov/contact
EDA Research and National Technical Assistance (RNTA)	Funds national projects to support best practices among communities working to advance innovation, competitiveness and related economic development goals. https://eda.gov/programs/rnta/	• Grants • Cooperative Agreements • Technical assistance	• EDA-designated Economic Development District Organizations (EDDs) • Federally-recognized Tribes • State and local governments • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit organizations • Private individuals and for-profit organizations	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis through a two-step process: 1. Concept Proposal 2. Full Application	Contact the EDA RNTA program office by emailing RNTA@eda.gov

Investment Focus: Planning and Technical Assistance

USDA Rural Development Programs

Program	Purpose	Types of Assistance	Eligible Recipients	How to Apply	Contact
USDA RD Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge (RPIC)	RPIC helps rural communities create plans to build broadband capacity and access, preserve cultural and historic structures, and support the development of transportation, housing, and recreational spaces. With RPIC, placemaking is defined as "a collaborative process among public, private, philanthropic and community partners to strategically improve the social, cultural, and economic structure of a community." https://go.usa.gov/xenP6	• Cooperative Agreements	• Federally-recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations • Institutions of higher education, including 1862, 1890, and 1994 Land-grant and Hispanic-serving institutions, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities • Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) IRS status • Public bodies or small, private entities that meet size standards established by the U.S. Small Business Administration	Applications are accepted after funding is announced through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in the *Federal Register*. Please refer to www.grants.gov.	Email the USDA RD Innovation Center at RD.RPIC@usda.gov
Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training (CF-TAT) Grants	CF-TAT grants help awardees identify and plan for community facility needs in their area. Once needs have been identified, the grantee can then work to find additional public and private resources to meet those es needs. The maximum grant award is $150,000. https://go.usa.gov/xenmJ	• Grants	• Public entities • Private, nonprofit organizations • Federally-recognized Tribes Eligible areas include rural cities, towns, villages, and townships, along with federally-recognized Tribal lands **outside** the boundaries of cities with populations of 20,000 or more.	Application guidelines are announced annually through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) or Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) in the *Federal Register*. Please refer to www.grants.gov.	Applications are accepted through the USDA RD state office where your project is located. You will find a list of state office-based CF contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xeny2.

USDA Rural Development Programs

Program	Purpose	Types of Assistance	Eligible Recipients	How to Apply	Contact
Rural Community Development Initiative Grants (RCDI)	RCDI grants support housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas through technical assistance and training. Fund uses include training subgrantees to conduct home-ownership and minority business entrepreneur education, strategic plan development, accessing alternative funding sources, board training, and creating training tools such as videos, workbooks and reference guides. Grants range from $50,000 - $250,000. A match equal to the grant award is required, and must not come from in-kind contributions. https://go.usa.gov/xenV5	• Grants	• Public bodies • Nonprofit organizations • Qualified private, for-profit organizations	Application guidelines are announced annually through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) or Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) in the *Federal Register*. Please refer to www.grants.gov/.	Applications are accepted through the USDA RD state office where your project is located. You will find a list of state office-based CF contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xeny2.
Solid Waste Management Grants	SWMGs reduce or eliminate the pollution of water resources by helping organizations that provide technical assistance or training improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. https://go.usa.gov/xenVw	• Grants	• Public bodies • Nonprofit organizations • Federally-recognized Tribes • Academic institutions Eligible areas include rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or fewer. To check your eligibility, visit https://go.usa.gov/xMwaC.	The application period is open annually from October 1 – December 31. Applications must be submitted using www.grants.gov/.	Contact the national office Solid Waste Management Grant Program manager at Water-RD@usda.gov

USDA Rural Development Programs

Program	Purpose	Types of Assistance	Eligible Recipients	How to Apply	Contact
Rural Cooperative Development Grants	RCDI grants improve economic conditions in rural areas by helping people start, expand or improve rural cooperatives and other mutually-owned businesses through Cooperative Development Centers. Examples of fund usage include undertaking feasibility studies, providing leadership and operational improvement training, and facilitating strategic planning. A center can be located anywhere, but the people and businesses being helped must be located in eligible rural areas. https://go.usa.gov/xenpr	• Grants	• Nonprofit corporations • Institutions of higher education Public bodies, for-profit business and individuals are not eligible to apply.	These highly-competitive grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the Federal Register and an announcement posted on www.grants.gov.	Applications are accepted through the USDA RD state office where your project is located. You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2

Investment Focus: Infrastructure and Broadband Expansion

EDA Programs					
Program	**Purpose**	**Types of Assistance**	**Eligible Recipients**	**How to Apply**	**Contact**
Economic Adjustment Assistance	Supports a range of economic development activities including: • market and environmental studies • planning • construction • revolving loan funds capital • natural disaster recovery https://go.usa.gov/xende	• Grants	• EDA-designated Economic Development District Organizations (EDDs) • Federally-recognized Tribes • State and local governments • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit organizations	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. EDA strongly suggests reaching out to your state Economic Development Representative before submitting (see contacts).	You will find your EDA state representative at this link: www.eda.gov/contact
Public Works	Helps communities revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure. https://go.usa.gov/xenvY	• Grants	• EDA-designated Economic Development District Organizations (EDDs) • Federally-recognized Tribes • State and local governments • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit organizations	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. EDA strongly suggests reaching out to your state Economic Development Representative before submitting (see contacts).	You will find your EDA state representative at this link: www.eda.gov/contact

	USDA Rural Development Programs				
Program	**Purpose**	**Types of Assistance**	**Eligible Recipients**	**How to Apply**	**Contact**
Rural Economic Development Loans (REDL) and Grants (REDG)	REDLGs offer zero-interest loans to qualified local utilities. In turn, the utilities pass the loans through to local businesses for use in projects that create and keep employment in rural areas. In the REDG program, local utilities use grants to establish revolving loan funds to support projects that create or save rural jobs. Intermediaries can use funds to lend for projects in rural areas or towns with populations of fewer than 50,000. https://go.usa.gov/xenta	• Loans • Grants	• Former Rural Utilities Service borrowers who prepaid or repaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan • Nonprofit utilities eligible to receive assistance from Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Programs	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.	Applications are accepted through the USDA RD state office where your project is located. You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2
Community Facilities (CF) Direct Loan and Grant Program and Loan Guarantees	CF funds can help offset the cost of constructing, expanding, or improving public service buildings. Examples include fire and first responder stations, health care clinics, hospitals, child care centers, assisted living and rehabilitation centers, schools, and libraries, among others. Financing also can cover the cost of land acquisition. A typical grant award ranges between 15 – 75 percent of eligible project costs. For loans, a project must be able to show cashflow and debt repayment ability. https://go.usa.gov/xenzC	• Loans • Grants • Loan Guarantees • Combination Loans and Grants	• Public bodies • Community-based nonprofit corporations • Federally-recognized Tribes • Rural cities, towns, villages, and townships, along with federally- recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest U.S. Census Data (link available here: http://www.census.gov/) • The CF Loan Guarantee Program supports rural areas with populations of 50,000 or fewer.	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.	Applications are accepted through the USDA RD state office where your project is located. You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2 For **Loan Guarantees**, please also visit: https://go.usa.gov/xentW

USDA Rural Development Programs

Program	Purpose	Types of Assistance	Eligible Recipients	How to Apply	Contact
Electric Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees	This program finances the construction of electric distribution, transmission, and generation facilities, including system upgrades necessary to provide and improve rural electric service. It also supports demand-side management, energy conservation programs, and on- and off-grid renewable energy systems. https://go.usa.gov/xenuT	• Loans • Loan Guarantees	Electric distribution, generation, and transmission providers serving qualified rural areas, such as: • State and local government entities • Federally-recognized Tribes • Nonprofits, including cooperatives and limited dividend or mutual associations • For-profit businesses (must be a corporation or limited liability company)	Applications are accepted year-round through state-based Electric General Field Representatives. You will find a GFR map and list at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xenuH.	Contact the Electric GFR representing the state in which your project is located: https://go.usa.gov/xenuH.
Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program	WEP loans and grants provide funding for clean, reliable drinking water systems, wastewater and solid waste treatment systems, and storm water drainage systems to homes and businesses in eligible rural areas with populations of 10,000 or fewer. https://go.usa.gov/xenJG Information about grants for **Rural and Native Alaskan Villages** is available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xenJH	• Loans • Grants • Loan Guarantees • Combination Loans and Grants	• Most state and local government entities • Private, nonprofit organizations • Federally-recognized Tribes An **eligibility map** is available at this link: https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis through the USDA RD state or area office where your project is located.	You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2. For **Loan Guarantees**, please also visit: https://go.usa.gov/xentW.

USDA Rural Development Programs

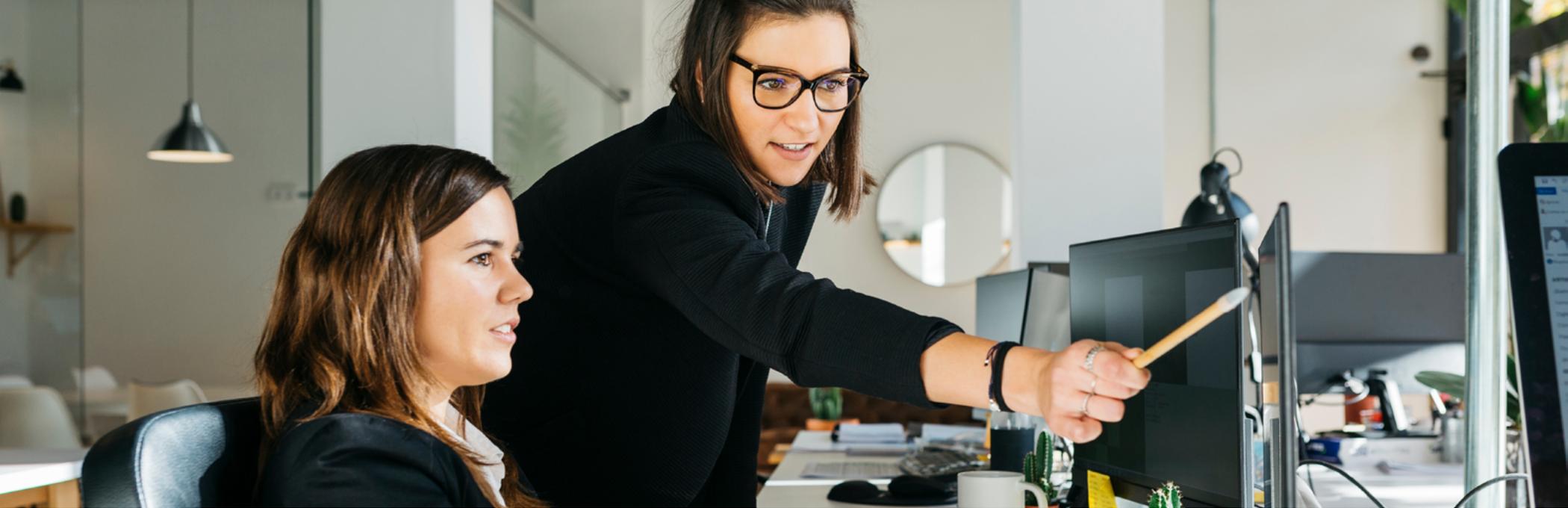| Program	Purpose	Types of Assistance	Eligible Recipients	How to Apply	Contact
Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan and Loan Guarantees	This program provides funding for direct loans and loan guarantees to construct, maintain, improve, and expand telephone and broadband services in rural areas. https://go.usa.gov/xenSD	• Loans • Loan Guarantees	Most entities that provide telecommunications in qualified rural area, such as: • State and local governments • Federally-recognized Tribes • Nonprofits, including cooperatives and limited dividend or mutual associations. • For-profit businesses (must be a corporation or limited liability company). Eligible areas include rural areas and towns with populations of 5,000 or fewer, areas without telecommunications facilities or where the applicant is the recognized telecommunications provider.	Applications are accepted year-round in the national office.	Contact the Telecommunications General Field Representative (GFR) assigned to the state in which your project is located: https://go.usa.gov/xenSy
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants	DLT grants help rural communities connect to each other and the world, overcoming the negative effects of remoteness and low population density. Grant funds can be used to acquire facilities, interactive audio-visual equipment, computer hardware, network components and related infrastructure. Funds also can be used for technical assistance and training on eligible equipment. A minimum 15 percent match (not from another federal source) is required. https://go.usa.gov/xenhm	• Grants	Eligible applicants include most entities that provide education or health care through telecommunications, along with: • Most state and local government entities • Federally-recognized Tribes • Nonprofits • For-profit businesses	Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the Federal Register and on www.grants.gov.	Contact the Telecommunications GFR assigned to the state in which your project is located: https://go.usa.gov/xenSy Or, email: dltinfo@usda.gov

USDA Rural Development Programs					
Program	**Purpose**	**Types of Assistance**	**Eligible Recipients**	**How to Apply**	**Contact**
Broadband ReConnect Program	ReConnect helps fund the construction, acquisition, or improvement of facilities and equipment necessary to provide high-speed, fixed-terrestrial broadband service to eligible rural areas. https://www.usda.gov/reconnect	• Loans • Grants • Combination Loans and Grants	The types of funding and award amounts are determined by the most recent Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). For all funding categories, applicants must propose to build a network capable of providing service to all premises in the proposed funded service area at pre-defined speeds.	The ReConnect funding cycle varies, and the application window for the funding is posted in the *Federal Register*.	Contact the Telecommunications GFR assigned to the state in which your project is located: https://go.usa.gov/xenSy
Community Connect Grants	This program helps rural communities extend broadband access where service is least likely to be commercially available. Community Connect grants are for rural areas that lack existing broadband speeds of at least 10 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and 1 Mbps upstream. A 15 percent match from non-federal sources is required. https://go.usa.gov/xeQUR	• Grants	• Nonprofit organizations • Federally-recognized Tribes • State and local governments • Cooperatives • For-profit corporations • Limited liability companies	Grants are awarded through a national competition. Applications are requested periodically through a notice published in the *Federal Register* and on www.grants.gov.	Contact the Telecommunications GFR assigned to the state in which your project is located: https://go.usa.gov/xenSy Or, email: community.connect@usda.gov

USDA Rural Development Programs					
Program	**Purpose**	**Types of Assistance**	**Eligible Recipients**	**How to Apply**	**Contact**
Business and Industry Loan Guarantees	This program provides loan guarantees to lenders to finance eligible rural businesses located in areas **outside** cities with populations greater than 50,000. Examples of eligible uses include business conversion, expansion, repair and modernization; the purchase and development of land, buildings and associated infrastructure for commercial or industrial properties, and the purchase and installation of machinery and equipment, supplies and inventory. https://go.usa.gov/xeQw3	• Loan Guarantees	• For- or nonprofit businesses • Cooperatives • Federally-recognized Tribes • Public bodies • Individuals engaged – or proposing to engage – in a business **NOTE:** A borrower's headquarters can be based in a larger city as long as the project itself is located in an eligible rural area. Lenders can be located anywhere in the United States.	Applicants work directly with approved lenders, and lender-generated applications are accepted in the state office where the rural business is located.	Contact the state office where the project is located: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2. You also can check eligible addresses for RD Business programs at this link: https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do?pageAction=ONERD

Investment Focus: Entrepreneurship and Business Assistance

EDA Programs					
Program	**Purpose**	**Types of Assistance**	**Eligible Recipients**	**How to Apply**	**Contact**
Economic Adjustment Assistance	Supports a range of economic development activities including: • market and environmental studies • planning • construction • revolving loan funds capital • natural disaster recovery https://go.usa.gov/xeQPG	• Grants	• EDA-designated Economic Development District Organizations (EDDs) • Federally-recognized Tribes • State and local governments • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit organizations	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. EDA strongly suggests reaching out to your state Economic Development Representative before submitting (see contacts).	You will find your EDA state representative at this link: www.eda.gov/contact
Public Works	Helps communities revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure. https://go.usa.gov/xeQER	• Grants	• EDA-designated Economic Development District Organizations (EDDs) • Federally-recognized Tribes • State and local governments • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit organizations	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. EDA strongly suggests reaching out to your state Economic Development Representative before submitting (see contacts).	You will find your EDA state representative at this link: www.eda.gov/contact

EDA Programs					
Program	**Purpose**	**Types of Assistance**	**Eligible Recipients**	**How to Apply**	**Contact**

Build to Scale	Three components:
	
	1. **Venture Challenge:** Builds regional economies by awarding grants to eligible intermediary organizations supporting scalable new business ventures.
	
	2. **Capital Challenge:** Provides operational support to form, launch, or scale investment funds for startup organizations.
	
	3. **Industry Challenge:** Supports organizations within a designated industry that commercialize technology; improve industry competitiveness, connectivity, and collaboration; and create jobs (offered periodically).
	
	https://eda.gov/oie/buildtoscale/
		• Grants	• State and local governments
			• Federally-recognized Tribes
			• Entities supported by a state or political subdivision of a state **AND** are among the following:
			  – a nonprofit organization
			  – an institution of higher education
			  – a public-private partnership
			  – a science or research park
			  – a federal laboratory
			  – a venture or economic development organizations
			  – a consortium of any of the above
				This is an annual competition. Program deadlines are available at this link: www.eda.gov/oie	Information is available at this link: www.eda.gov/oie
					
					Or, email EDA's Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship: oie@eda.gov

USDA Rural Development Programs					
Program	**Purpose**	**Types of Assistance**	**Eligible Recipients**	**How to Apply**	**Contact**
Rural Economic Development Loans (REDL) and Grants (REDG)	REDLGs offer zero-interest loans to qualified local utilities. In turn, the utilities pass the loans through to local businesses for use in projects that create and keep employment in rural areas. In the REDG program, local utilities use grants to establish revolving loan funds to support projects that create or save rural jobs. Intermediaries can use funds to lend for projects in rural areas or towns with populations of fewer than 50,000. https://go.usa.gov/xenta	• Loans • Grants	• Former Rural Utilities Service borrowers who prepaid or repaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan • Nonprofit utilities eligible to receive assistance from Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Programs	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.	Applications are accepted through the USDA RD state office where your project is located. You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2
Rural Energy for America Guaranteed Loan and Grant Program (REAP)	REAP provides guaranteed loans and grants to qualified agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvement projects. Agricultural producers also can apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing. https://go.usa.gov/xeQVd	• Grants • Loan Guarantees	**Grants:** Agricultural producers with at least 50 percent of their gross income coming from agricultural operations, and small businesses in eligible rural areas. **Loan guarantees:** Rural small businesses and Agricultural producers.	Applications are accepted year-round in the RD state office in which your business or agricultural operation is located. Please visit **www.grants.gov** to learn when funding is available.	You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2. For **Loan Guarantees**, please also visit: https://go.usa.gov/xentW.
Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG)	RBDGs support the development and expansion of rural small and emerging private businesses with fewer than 50 employees and less than $1 million in gross revenues. Funds can be used to acquire and develop land; for easements and rights-of-way, and for the construction, conversion, or renovation of buildings, among other things. https://go.usa.gov/xeQpU	• Grants	Rural public entities including: • Towns and communities • State agencies • Nonprofit corporations • Institutions of higher education • Federally-recognized Tribes • Rural cooperatives organized as private, nonprofit corporations	Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the *Federal Register* and on **www.grants.gov**.	Contact the state office where your project is located to learn about application timelines and local requirements. You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2.

		USDA Rural Development Programs			
Program	**Purpose**	**Types of Assistance**	**Eligible Recipients**	**How to Apply**	**Contact**
Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program	This program provides loan guarantees up to $250 million to assist in the development, construction and retrofitting of new and emerging renewable energy technologies, including advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, and biobased products. Lenders must have legal authority, experience and expertise, and demonstrate they meet the FDIC definition of "well capitalized" upon application. https://go.usa.gov/xeQdE	• Loan Guarantees	• Individuals • Public and private entities • State and local governments • Corporations • Federally-recognized Tribes • Farm cooperatives and organizations • Associations of agricultural producers • National laboratories • Institutions of higher education • Public power entities	Applications are requested each fiscal year through a notice published in the *Federal Register* and on www.grants.gov.	Email: EnergyPrograms@usda.gov.
Value-Added Producer Grant Program	The VAPG helps agricultural producers identify and start value-added activities related to processing and marketing new products. Program goals include generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income. Maximum awards: • **Planning grants:** $75,000 • **Working Capital grants:** $250,000 https://go.usa.gov/xeQva	• Grants	• Independent producers • Agricultural producer groups • Farmer and rancher cooperatives • Majority-controlled, producer-based business ventures	Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the *Federal Register* and on www.grants.gov.	Contact the state office where your project is located to learn about application timelines and local requirements. You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2.

USDA Rural Development Programs

Program	Purpose	Types of Assistance	Eligible Recipients	How to Apply	Contact
Business and Industry Loan Guarantees	This program provides loan guarantees to lenders to finance eligible rural businesses located in areas **outside** cities with populations greater than 50,000. Examples of eligible uses include business conversion, expansion, repair and modernization; the purchase and development of land, buildings and associated infrastructure for commercial or industrial properties, and the purchase and installation of machinery and equipment, supplies and inventory. https://go.usa.gov/xeQw3	• Loan Guarantees	• For- or nonprofit businesses • Cooperatives • Federally-recognized Tribes • Public bodies • Individuals engaged – or proposing to engage – in a business **NOTE:** A borrower's headquarters can be based in a larger city as long as the project itself is located in an eligible rural area. Lenders can be located anywhere in the United States. You can check eligible addresses for Business Programs at this link: https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do?pageAction=ONERD	Applicants work directly with approved lenders, and lender-generated applications are accepted in the state office where the rural business is located.	Contact the state office where the project is located: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2. You also can check eligible addresses for RD Business programs at this link: https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do?pageAction=ONERD

USDA Rural Development Programs

Program	Purpose	Types of Assistance	Eligible Recipients	How to Apply	Contact
Intermediary Relending Program	The IRP provides low-interest loans to local lenders (intermediaries) that re-lend to businesses (ultimate recipients) to improve economic conditions and create jobs in rural communities. Ultimate recipients can be individuals, public or private organizations, or other legal entities. Eligible areas include rural areas **outside** cities with populations fewer than 50,000. A borrower's headquarters can be based in a larger city as long as the project itself is in an eligible rural area. Lenders can be located anywhere in the United States. https://go.usa.gov/xeQfc	• Loans	• Nonprofit organizations • Cooperatives • Federally-recognized Tribes • Public agencies	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.	Contact the state office where your project is located to learn about application timelines and local requirements. You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2.
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grants	RISE grants help build business incubators and provide training to create jobs. This program encourages a region to leverage existing community assets by establishing and operating job development and training innovation centers. RISE also supports new or improved broadband service for use by jobs accelerators. These competitively-awarded grants range from $500,000 - $2 million. https://go.usa.gov/xeQfT	• Grants	RISE grant applications are available to rural jobs accelerator partnerships with expertise in delivering economic and job training programs. Partner examples include: • Nonprofit organizations • State entities • Tribal entities • Institutions of higher education • Public bodies	Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the *Federal Register* and on www.grants.gov.	Contact the state office where your project is located to learn about application timelines and local requirements. You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2.

Investment Focus: Workforce Development and Livability

EDA Programs					
Program	**Purpose**	**Types of Assistance**	**Eligible Recipients**	**How to Apply**	**Contact**
Economic Adjustment Assistance	Supports a range of economic development activities including: • market and environmental studies • planning • construction • revolving loan funds capital • natural disaster recovery https://go.usa.gov/xeQGC	• Grants	• EDA-designated Economic Development District Organizations (EDDs) • Federally-recognized Tribes • State and local governments • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit organizations	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. EDA strongly suggests reaching out to your state Economic Development Representative before submitting (see contacts).	You will find your EDA state representative at this link: www.eda.gov/contact
Public Works	Helps communities revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure. https://go.usa.gov/xeQG8	• Grants	• EDA-designated Economic Development District Organizations (EDDs) • Federally-recognized Tribes • State and local governments • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit organizations	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. EDA strongly suggests reaching out to your state Economic Development Representative before submitting (see contacts).	You will find your EDA state representative at this link: www.eda.gov/contact

STEM Talent Challenge	Funds projects that use work-based learning models to expand regional STEM-capable workforce capacity and build the workforce of tomorrow.
	https://eda.gov/oie/stem/
		• Grants	• State and local governments
			• Federally-recognized Tribes
			• Entities supported by a state or political subdivision of a state **AND** are among the following:
			  – a nonprofit organization
			  – an institution of higher education
			  – a public-private partnership
			  – a science or research park
			  – a federal laboratory
			  – a venture or economic development organizations
			  – a consortium of any of the above
				This is an annual competition. Program deadlines are available at this link: www.eda.gov/oie	Information is available at this link: www.eda.gov/oie
					Or, email EDA's Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship: oie@eda.gov

USDA Rural Development Programs

Program	Purpose	Types of Assistance	Eligible Recipients	How to Apply	Contact
Rural Community Development Initiative Grants	RCDIs improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas. Funds can be used to train sub-grantees to conduct homeownership and minority business entrepreneur education. RCDIs also help sub-grantees with strategic plan development, identifying funding sources, and creating training tools such as videos, workbooks and reference guides. Awards range from $50,000 - $250,000. A match equal to the grant award is required, and must not come from in-kind contributions. https://go.usa.gov/xeQ7q	• Grants	• Public bodies • Nonprofit organizations • Qualified private, for-profit organizations	Application guidelines are announced annually through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) or Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) in the *Federal Register* and on **www.grants.gov**.	Applications are accepted through the USDA RD state office where your project is located. You will find a list of state office-based CF contacts at this link: **https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2**.
Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG)	RBDGs support targeted planning and technical assistance to develop and expand small and emerging rural businesses with fewer than 50 employees and less than $1 million in gross revenues. Funding uses include project planning, business counseling and training, market research, feasibility studies, professional and technical reports, and producer service improvements. https://go.usa.gov/xenEQ	• Grants	• Towns and communities • State agencies • Authorities • Nonprofit organizations • Institutions of higher education • Federally-recognized Tribes • Private, nonprofit rural cooperatives	Application guidelines are announced annually through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) or Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) in the *Federal Register.* Please refer to **www.grants.gov**.	Applications are accepted through the USDA RD state office where your project is located. You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: **https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2**.

USDA Rural Development Programs

Program	Purpose	Types of Assistance	Eligible Recipients	How to Apply	Contact
Intermediary Relending Program	The IRP provides low-interest loans to local lenders (intermediaries) that re-lend to businesses (ultimate recipients) to improve economic conditions and create jobs in rural communities. Ultimate recipients can be individuals, public or private organizations, or other legal entities. Eligible areas include rural areas **outside** cities with populations fewer than 50,000. A borrower's headquarters can be based in a larger city as long as the project itself is in an eligible rural area. Lenders can be located anywhere in the United States. https://go.usa.gov/xeQfc	• Loans	• Nonprofit organizations • Cooperatives • Federally-recognized Tribes • Public agencies	Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.	Contact the state office where your project is located to learn about application timelines and local requirements. You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2.
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grants	RISE grants help build business incubators and provide training to create jobs. This program encourages a region to leverage existing community assets by establishing and operating job development and training innovation centers. RISE also supports new or improved broadband service for use by jobs accelerators. These competitively-awarded grants range from $500,000 - $2 million. https://go.usa.gov/xeQfT	• Grants	RISE grant applications are available to rural jobs accelerator partnerships with expertise in delivering economic and job training programs. Partner examples include: • Nonprofit organizations • State entities • Tribal entities • Institutions of higher education • Public bodies	Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the *Federal Register* and on www.grants.gov.	Contact the state office where your project is located to learn about application timelines and local requirements. You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2.

USDA Rural Development Programs					
Program	**Purpose**	**Types of Assistance**	**Eligible Recipients**	**How to Apply**	**Contact**
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program	RMAPs offer loans and grants to eligible Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs) to help businesses start and grow using a Rural Microloan Revolving Fund. RMAPs also provide funding for training and technical assistance to microloan borrowers and microentrepreneurs. https://go.usa.gov/xeQ7P	• Grants	Examples of MDOs include: • Nonprofits • Federally-recognized Tribes • Institutions of higher education. **Ultimate recipients** eligible to apply for a loan from an MDO include rural businesses with 10 or fewer full-time employees located in an eligible area. **Eligible areas** are rural areas **outside** cities or towns with populations fewer than 50,000. A borrower's headquarters can be based in a larger city as long as the project service area is located in an eligible rural area. A lender can be located anywhere in the United States.	Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the *Federal Register* and on www.grants.gov.	Contact the state office where your project is located to learn about application timelines and local requirements. You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2.
Multifamily Housing Loan Guarantees	This program works with qualified private-sector lenders to finance qualified borrowers who develop affordable rental and workforce housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families in eligible rural areas and towns with populations of 35,000 or fewer. https://go.usa.gov/xeQUt	• Loan Guarantees	• Most state and local government entities • Nonprofit organizations • For-profit organizations • Limited liability corporations • Federally-recognized Tribes and Tribal lands	Applications are accepted on an annual basis. A Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is posted in the *Federal Register* and on www.grants.gov.	You will find a list of Multifamily Housing Contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xeQPC

USDA Rural Development Programs

Program	Purpose	Types of Assistance	Eligible Recipients	How to Apply	Contact
Delta Health Care Services Grant	This program provides financial assistance to promote cooperation among health care professionals, institutions of higher education, research institutions, and other entities in the Delta Region. https://go.usa.gov/xzjWA	• Grants	• Regional institutions of higher education • Academic health and research institutes • Economic development entities located in the Delta Region	Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the *Federal Register* and on www.grants.gov.	Contact the state office where your project is located to learn about application timelines and local requirements. You will find a list of RD state office contacts at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xuxr2.

*See Appendix A on Page 28 for visible links to all programs in this guide.

About the U.S. Economic Development Administration (www.eda.gov)

An agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) leads the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. EDA invests in communities and supports regional collaboration to create jobs for U.S. workers, promotes American innovation, and accelerates long-term, sustainable economic growth.

- Visit these links for information about EDA's $3 billion in **American Rescue Plan** programs: https://eda.gov/arpa/ and applicant resources: https://eda.gov/arpa/resources/
- Review **EDA's Investment Priorities** at this link: https://eda.gov/about/investment-priorities/
- See more **EDA Funding Opportunities** at this link: https://eda.gov/funding-opportunities/
- Find the **EDA Economic Development Representative** or Regional Office for your area at this link: https://eda.gov/contact/
- Learn more about our **Economic Development Integration** (EDI) assistance and contacts at this link: https://eda.gov/integration/

- Check **EDA's Resource Directory** to find your Economic Development District organization, University Center, Revolving Loan Fund and more, all at this link: https://eda.gov/resources/
- Learn how to create a **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)** and find useful links to regional CEDS plans and best practices at this link: https://eda.gov/ceds/
- To receive the latest information and funding opportunities, **subscribe** to our newsletter at this link: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USEDA/subscriber/new

Stay connected with EDA

About USDA Rural Development (www.rd.usda.gov)

USDA Rural Development is committed to improving the economy and quality of life in rural America. We offer loans, grants and loan guarantees that help create jobs, support economic development, and bolster essential services such as health care, first responder services and equipment, and water, electric and communications infrastructure. We promote rural economic development by backing loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools. We support technical assistance and training to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started or improve the effectiveness of their operations, and we also help rural residents buy or rent safe, affordable housing and make repairs necessary for health and safety to their homes.

- **The Rural Development Summary of Programs** is available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xeQAq.
- **Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD)** funding (available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xeQAB) supports regional economic and community development planning
- **USDA Rural Development Key Priorities** (available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xeQAN) offer information about how preference points are applied in specific programs
- **USDA Rural Development Resource Guides** (available at this link: https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/publications/resource-guides) are available for your community development needs
- **OneRD Guarantee Loan Initiative** (available at this link: https://www.rd.usda.gov/onerdguarantee) offers consistency and ease in applying

- **USDA Rural Development Resources and Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic:** https://www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus
- **USDA Rural Development Searchable Funding Opportunities:** https://www.rd.usda.gov/newsroom/federal-funding-opportunities
- To stay current on USDA RD funding opportunities, events and other resources, subscribe to our newsletter, **Innovation Matters**, available at this link: https://tinyurl.com/ysn4zedv
- **USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDC)** (available at this link: https://nifa.usda.gov/regional-rural-development-centers)

Stay connected with USDA Rural Development

Appendix A: How to Access USDA RD and EDA Programs and Resources

Alphabetical links to EDA Programs and Resources:

EDA American Rescue Plan Act programs:
https://eda.gov/arpa/

EDA Build to Scale:
https://eda.gov/oie/buildtoscale/

EDA Contacts:
https://eda.gov/contact/

EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpXe (PDF)

EDA Investment Priorities:
https://eda.gov/about/investment-priorities/

EDA Planning Program:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpXS (PDF)

EDA Local Technical Assistance:
https://go.usa.gov/xzp5x (PDF)

EDA Public Works:
https://go.usa.gov/xzp5r (PDF)

EDA Research and National Technical Assistance (RNTA):
https://eda.gov/programs/rnta/

EDA STEM Talent Challenge:
https://eda.gov/oie/stem/

Alphabetical links to USDA RD Programs and Resources:

Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program:
https://go.usa.gov/xzp5B

Broadband ReConnect Program:
https://www.usda.gov/reconnect

Business and Industry Loan Guarantees:
https://go.usa.gov/xzp5N

Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program Local and Regional Food System Initiative: https://go.usa.gov/xzp5E

Community Connect:
https://go.usa.gov/xzp5V

Community Facilities (CF) homepage:
https://go.usa.gov/xzp5f

CF Direct Loan and Grant Program:
https://go.usa.gov/xzp5G

CF Direct Loan guidance book:
https://go.usa.gov/xzp5A (PDF)

CF Guaranteed Loan Program:
https://go.usa.gov/xzp5H

CF Technical Assistance and Training Grant (CF-TAT): https://go.usa.gov/xzp5e

CF Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) Grant Program:
https://go.usa.gov/xzp5z

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program
https://go.usa.gov/xzpNc

Electric Infrastructure Loan and Loan Guarantee Program: https://go.usa.gov/xzpNg

Electric Programs Contacts:
General Field Representative (GFR)
https://go.usa.gov/xzpNZ, or email
ElectricProgramCustomerService@rd.usda.gov

Electric Programs homepage:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpNg

Federally-recognized Tribes:
https://www.bia.gov/bia/ois/tgs

Housing Preservation Grants:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRq

Intermediary Relending Program:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRc

Multifamily Housing Loan Guarantees:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRa

Multifamily Housing Program contacts:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRr

Rural Business and Cooperative Services homepage: https://go.usa.gov/xzpRY

Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG):
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRb

Rural Cooperative Development Grants (RCDG):
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRb

Alphabetical links to USDA RD Programs and Resources (continued):

Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG):
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRj

Rural Energy for America Guaranteed Loan and Grant Program:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRW

Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grants:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpR5

Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP):
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRn

Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge (RPIC):
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRP

Rural Utilities Service homepage:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRm

Solid Waste Management Grants:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRV

Telecommunications Programs:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRw

Telecommunications contacts General Field Representatives (GFRs):
https://go.usa.gov/xzpR7

Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpR6

USDA RD Innovation Center homepage:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRt

USDA RD list of programs:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRz

USDA RD state office contacts:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpRJ

USDA RD Summary of Major Programs
https://go.usa.gov/xzpnq (PDF)

USDA RD website landing page:
https://www.rd.usda.gov/

Value-Added Producer Grants:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpnc

Water and Environmental Programs:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpnY

Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program:
https://go.usa.gov/xzpn4