

May 19, 2026

Apply for USDA Rural Business and Community Development Project Grants





The USDA [Rural Business Development Grant Program](#) (RBDG) provides funding for business and community initiatives that promote economic growth and job creation.

Eligible applicants can include rural cooperatives, state government agencies, towns, and communities, nonprofit corporations, and institutions of higher learning, and federally recognized Tribes. Individuals and for-profit businesses or organizations are not eligible to apply.

Applications will compete in two separate categories:

- **Business opportunity grants:** May be used for business support centers, technology-based economic development, leadership and entrepreneur training, feasibility studies, business plans, long-term strategic planning, and other eligible activities.
- **Business enterprise grants:** May be used for training and technical assistance, project planning, business counseling, market research, feasibility studies, and product or service improvements, buying or developing land, easements, or rights of way, including access streets and parking areas, constructing or renovating buildings, and buying machinery and equipment, capitalizing revolving loan funds, and supporting rural business incubators and community



economic development, and other eligible activities.

Applications must provide evidence of job creation at local businesses and be consistent with local economic development priorities.

Electronic applications must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. local time through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) on the due date. The Rural Business Development Grant Program has two different closing dates:

1. **June 15, 2026, only applies to Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) applications.** SECD is USDA set-aside funding that supports projects that promote and implement strategic community investment plans (ex. regional plans, multi-town plans, town/village plans). Example projects might be a water or wastewater project or community center that serves multiple communities.
2. **June 30, 2026, applies to the remainder of the applicants.** For more information on how to apply, please contact Ken Yearman at (802) 828-6083 or BP.VTNH.Inquiry@usda.gov or Kenneth.Yearman@usda.gov.

