



# Rural Business Development Grants



**Application deadline:** 06/15/2026 for SECD, 06/30/2026 for regular



**Available funding:** \$27.2M

# RBDG Program seeks to promote economic development and job creation projects through the awarding of grant funds



## Goals and merit criteria:

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Rural Business Cooperative Service Key Priorities: The Agency encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance the following RBCS Priorities:

1. Domestic Manufacturing and industrial capacity
2. Domestic Energy Production and energy security
3. New and expanded markets for American Farmers and rural producers
4. Program integrity, including the prevention and reduction of fraud, waste, and abuse

# RBDG details

Match funding requirement: No<sup>1</sup>

Direct Pay applicability: No

## Eligible grant uses

### Business Opportunity projects

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.

Projects must have a reasonable prospect that they will result in the Economic Development of a Rural Area.

### Business Enterprise projects

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.

Projects must have a reasonable prospect that they will result in the development or financing of Small and Emerging Businesses.

## Award figures

*Award limits*

No minimum or maximum award amount

*Period of performance*

The grantee must initiate and complete the project between June 1, 2026 through September 30, 2028. The project must reasonably be expected to be completed within one full year after it has begun

1. Additional priority points may be awarded for leveraging matching funds, per 7 CFR 4280.435(a)

# High-level requirements to apply for a RBDG grant

NON-EXHAUSTIVE



## Eligible Entities

Eligible applications include:

- Rural cooperatives
- State government agencies
- Towns and communities
- Nonprofit corporations and institutions of higher learning
- Federally recognized Tribes

Individuals and for-profit businesses or organizations are NOT eligible to apply



## Key Grant Application Components

- SF 424, Application For Federal Assistance (For Non-construction)
- Organizational documents showing the applicant's legal existence and authority to perform the activities under the grant
- Proposed scope of work, including a description of the proposed Project
- Narrative
- Latest three years of financial information to show the applicant's financial capacity to carry out the proposed work
- Budget which includes salaries, fringe benefits, consultant costs, indirect costs, and other appropriate direct costs for the Project