

# **GRANT AND LOAN OPPORTUNITIES SUMMARIES**



## **CENTRAL ALABAMA REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

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This document provides a summary of community and economic development grant and loan opportunities often used by local governments within the Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (CARPDC). The information listed herein is not all inclusive. Funding opportunities are subject to change due to available funds, priorities, and emergencies.

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## Grant and Loan Opportunities Summaries

### Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)

#### CDBG Program

##### **Competitive Grant Fund**

These funds are awarded on a competitive basis with the aim to compare all applications in the same funding category to each other and within the framework of established criteria. City and County applicants for Competitive Funds (Large City, County, and Small City) and the Community Enhancement Fund are limited to one application from either of these funds. The application may address one or more activities that are designed to address a single need or multiple needs in a defined area. The project may have a comprehensive scope designed to revitalize an identified project area, may be a stand-alone activity to address a specific need, or may undertake two or more activities in a general project area that together enhance the overall scope of the project.

**Grant Ceiling:** Large City Fund \$500,000

County Fund \$500,000

Small City Fund \$400,000

##### **Eligible Activities:**

- Water and sewer extensions and rehabilitation
- Housing rehabilitation
- Neighborhood & downtown revitalization
- Street & drainage improvements

**Match:** 10% (No match for small communities with a population of 1,000 or less)

**Application Period:** Spring

**Website:** <https://adeca.alabama.gov/CDBG>

##### **Community Enhancement Fund**

This fund, although still competitive in nature, is available to all eligible communities to use for projects that address quality of life issues. Note: City and County applicants for Competitive Funds (Large City, County, and Small City) and the Community Enhancement Fund are limited to one application from either of these funds.

**Grant Ceiling:** \$400,000

##### **Eligible Activities:**

- Fire protection
- Senior citizens centers
- Community centers
- Boys & girls clubs
- Recreational facilities, etc.

**Match:** 10% (No match for small communities with a population of 1,000 or less)

**Application Period:** Spring

**Website:** <https://adeca.alabama.gov/CDBG>

### **Planning Fund**

This fund is available for all eligible communities to conduct planning activities to promote orderly growth, regional development and revitalization efforts.

**Grant Ceiling:** \$40,000 (wavier provision)

**Eligible Activities:**

- Comprehensive plans
- Elements of comprehensive plans
- Downtown revitalization plans
- Regional strategies and plans, etc.

**Match:** 20% (No match for small communities with a population of 1,000 or less)

**Application Period:** Spring

**Website:** <https://adeca.alabama.gov/CDBG>

### **Economic Development Fund**

Eligible applicants may apply for economic development grants to provide land, facilities, and infrastructure such as water lines, sewer lines, rail spurs, docks, cranes, and access roads to facilitate creation and/or retention of jobs by a new or existing business. In addition, eligible applicants may also apply for grants to assist a public, private, nonprofit, or other entity including a business in support of an economic development project that will result in the creation of jobs, including jobs for unemployed, under-employed, and recipients of welfare assistance. The assistance to public, private, or any such entity may be in the form of a grant, a loan, or a deferred payment loan and may pay for activities eligible under the CDBG Program including day care and related facilities, transportation, and operations.

**Grant Ceiling:** \$400,000 (wavier provision)

**Eligible Activities:**

- Provide land
- Facilities
- Infrastructure such as water lines, sewer lines, rail spurs, cranes, access roads, etc.
- Assistance to public, private, nonprofit or other business

**Match:** 20%

**Application Period:** Year Round

**Website:** <https://adeca.alabama.gov/CDBG>

### **Economic Development Incubator Project**

Incubator is a building and program operated either by a private entity, a nonprofit organization, or a unit of local government for the primary purpose of aiding fledgling businesses in their efforts to survive and grow during the first 3 to 5 years of existence. Funds will support incubator projects that commit to create new jobs. The State will maintain the right to deny funding of any ED Incubator Project, depending on the quality and/or certainty of the proposal.

**Grant Ceiling:** \$400,000

**Eligible Activities**

- May come in the form of subsidized floor space, equipment, professional services, or other assistance viewed as appropriate by the State.

**Match:** NA

**Application Period:** Year Round

### **Economic Development Float Loan**

ED Float Loans are short-term loans for specific program activities that will principally benefit low-income and moderate-income persons. The loan term is one year and can be extended for one additional year. The ED Float Loan program is funded by unexpended appropriated CDBG program funds. Due to the unique nature of the program, the State intends to fund a limited number of ED Float Loan projects.

**Grant Ceiling:** Minimum \$1,000,000/Maximum \$10,000,000

#### **Eligible Activities:**

- Acquisition
- Site preparation
- New construction
- Renovation
- Purchase of machinery and equipment
- Working capital
- Refinancing
- Other CDBG-eligible activities approved by the state

**Match:** NA

**Application Period:** Year Round

**Website:** <https://adeca.alabama.gov/CDBG>

### **Section 108 Loan Guarantee**

The purpose of the Section 108 Loan Guarantee is for grantees to seek loan guarantees to finance economic development activities as permitted in Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. The funds are intended to fill a gap in the financing for larger development projects and provide the security necessary to catalyze investment from private lenders.

**Grant Ceiling:** \$10,000,000 (wavier provision)

**Match:** NA

**Application Period:** Year Round

**Website:** <https://adeca.alabama.gov/CDBG>

## **Recreation Grants**

### **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**

Funds from this program originate from the Federal Highway Administration to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA). The RTP provides grant assistance for the acquisition and/or development/improvement of recreational trails and trail-related resources. Only one application may be submitted by an applicant. Jurisdictions with an open RTP grant or LWCF grant cannot apply unless the project will be closed by the established application deadline.

**Grant Ceiling:** \$200,000 for non-motorized, single-use trail activities  
\$400,000 for non-motorized, diverse-use trail activities

\$524,937 for motorized, diverse-use trail activities

\$87,489 for education projects

**Eligible Activities:**

- Urban trail linkages
- Construction of new trails
- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails
- Development of trailhead facilities,
- Provision of features which facilitate access and easement
- Operation of educational program

**Match:** 20%

**Application Period:** Fall

**Website:** <https://adeca.alabama.gov/trails>

**Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

Federal funds for this program originate from the National Parks Service to ADECA. The project sponsor must either own or have a perpetual interest in land that is developed with LWCF assistance. Jurisdictions with an open RTP grant or LWCF grant cannot apply unless the project will be closed by the established application deadline.

**Grant Ceiling:** \$500,000

**Eligible Activities:**

- Acquire land and water interests for park purposes, develop new outdoor recreation facilities, and in certain instances, renovate existing recreation facilities.
- Virtually all public outdoor recreation activities are eligible for assistance including playgrounds, ball fields, (including lights-concrete or metal poles only), court sports, picnic areas, camping areas, trails, splash pads, etc.
- Support facilities such as concession stands, restrooms, park access roads, parking areas, utilities, and site preparation necessary to make a recreation activity area usable may qualify for assistance.

**Match:** 50%

**Application Period:** Fall

**Website:** <https://adeca.alabama.gov/lwcf>

**Appalachian Regional Commission**

**Appalachian Regional Commission Grant (ARC)**

ARC funds are only available to counties in Alabama's Appalachian Region. The goal of the ARC program is to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life.

**Grant Ceiling:** \$350,000

**Eligible Activities:**

- Invest in entrepreneurial and business development strategies that strengthen Appalachia's economy.
- Improve the education, knowledge, skills and health of residents.
- Invest in critical infrastructure.



- Build the capacity and skills of current and next generation leaders and organizations.

**Match:** Varies from 20% to 50%

**Application Period:** Fall

**Website:** <https://adeca.alabama.gov/arc>

## Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM)

### Redevelopment Programs

Brownfields are sites where previous activity has contaminated or potentially contaminated the property, making redevelopment activities more challenging. The Brownfields Redevelopment Program helps municipalities, communities and developers reclaim and redevelop environmentally contaminated real estate. Website: <https://adem.alabama.gov/programs/land/default.cnt>

**Brownfields Redevelopment and Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP)** provides oversight for voluntary assessment and cleanup of contaminated brownfields sites. A fee-driven program, its greatest benefits are the significant liability protections afforded during and after assessment and cleanup activities.

**The Alabama Land Recycling Revolving Fund Program** offers low-interest loans to governmental entities on a competitive basis for the remediation of contaminated sites. To be eligible, the applicants must own the properties. The negotiated loans generally have a 10-year payback period.

**The Drycleaner Environmental Response Trust Fund Program** is a voluntary program that allows eligible parties to be reimbursed for assessment and cleanup costs at current and former dry cleaner sites, making redevelopment easier and less costly. ADEM provides oversight of initial investigations, assessment and cleanup of these sites.

**ADEM's Federal Brownfields Program** provides technical assistance, information, and training about the Brownfields program and conducts a limited number of Brownfields site assessments for local governments or nonprofit organizations at no costs.

### Recycling

#### Alabama Recycling Fund

The Alabama Recycling Fund promotes local recycling efforts by providing reimbursement grants to local government and local governmental nonprofit organizations and authorities to develop, implement, and enhance recycling programs. NOTE: Proposed recycling projects must be consistent with the approved local Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP).

**Grant Ceiling:** Up to project cost

#### Eligible Activities:

- Recycling bins/containers
- Recycling storage/bunkers

- Recycling infrastructure/equipment
- Education & outreach materials
- Needed revisions of the existing SWMP

**Match:** NA

**Application Period:** Spring

**Website:** <https://adem.alabama.gov/programs/land/recycling.cnt>

### **Scrap Tire Marketing Program**

Alternatives to scrap tire disposal exist in the beneficial use of scrap tire material in a wide range of applications. For example, artificial turf, civil engineering projects, playground surfacing, rubber mulch, and more. The goal of the Scrap Tire Marketing Program is to promote the growth of scrap tire markets and beneficial end-use. Eligibility for funding is limited to local governments and local governmental non-profits. Multiple projects cannot be combined into one application. Each project (e.g., park, playground) should have a separate application. A completed application and a quote from three different companies for the project cost must be submitted together to be considered for funding. Scrap tire material used in civil engineering applications is considered an engineered use. Engineered uses must generally comply with the latest edition of “ASTM Standard Practice for Use of Scrap Tires in Civil Engineering Applications” (D 6270-98). Engineered uses must have written approval by the Department before proceeding. Stipulations: Tire material cannot be placed in or released into waters of the state; use must not be detrimental to human health, public safety, or the environment; use must not constitute disposal and must conform to all other ADEM regulations; tire material must not be used in a layer thicker than nine feet; all other permits and approvals must be obtained before submission to ADEM. Approval by ADEM does not infer approval by other agencies.

**Grant Ceiling:** Up to project cost

#### **Eligible Activities:**

- SWDF
  - Leachate collection systems
  - Gas collection systems
  - Drainage layer in final cover for closure
- Public Works
  - Embankments and retaining walls
  - Subgrade beneath pavement
  - Rubber-modified asphalt
- Other
  - Aggregate in septic drain fields
  - Groundwater/surface water diversion systems
  - Rubber mulch in landscaping
  - Playground cover
  - Any other uses approved by ADEM

**Match:** NA

**Application Period:** Year Round

**Website:** <https://adem.alabama.gov/programs/land/scrapTire.cnt>

## Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT)

### Improving Highway and Transportation Facilities

#### **Alabama Transportation Infrastructure Bank (ATIB)**

ATIB will assist in financing major qualified projects by providing loans to government units for constructing and improving highway and transportation facilities necessary for public purposes.

**Loan Ceiling:** NA (minimum \$5,000,000)

#### **Eligible Activities:**

- All project related costs
- Match component in conjunction with other Federal/State funded programs

**Application Period:** Year Round

**Website:** <https://www.dot.state.al.us/programs/ATIB.html>

#### **Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation & Improvement Program II (ATRIP-II)**

Applications may be submitted for transportation projects of local interest on the state-maintained highway system, which may also include work on local roads essential to proper functioning of the project on the state road. Projects of local interest on the state-maintained highway system shall include improvements benefitting the state highway system with an emphasis on the economic growth, public safety, and stability of this state. Inclusion of local roads and bridges in a project application should be limited to those portions and specific structures that are essential to accomplish improvements benefitting the state highway system. Should a local road or bridge be included in the application, the project sponsor shall be responsible for sufficiently detailing how the improvements to the local infrastructure are essential to providing a benefit to the state highway system. Applications including local infrastructure that do not provide this type of analysis will not be considered for funding.

Any municipal or county government of the State of Alabama is eligible to apply for funding under ATRIP-II through an application process. Applications may be submitted jointly for projects of interest to more than one local government. Funds are available to selected projects for a period of two years. Funds will be awarded through a competitive project selection process. Application evaluation will include, but may not be limited to, how the proposed project emphasizes economic growth, public safety, and stability of the State.

**Grant Ceiling:** \$2,000,000

**Match:** NA

**Application Period:** Fall

**Website:** <https://www.dot.state.al.us/programs/ATRIPII.html>

#### **Industrial Access Program**

Industrial access funds are intended to provide adequate public access for eligible industry projects as defined in Section 23-6-1(5) of the Code of Alabama. These funds are not intended for use in providing access to retail operations. The industry must be committed to

new investment and the creation of new jobs. The new access must be on a public right-of-way, must allow normal public use and must comply with standards for design and construction accompanying the use of state funds. The project sponsor (city or county) will assume maintenance responsibilities for the completed facility consistent with the use of state funds, unless the improvements occur on facilities currently maintained by the state.

**Grant Ceiling:** Not to exceed engineer's estimate.

**Eligible Activities:** Construction and/or improvements to industrial access roads or bridges.

**Match:** Applicant is responsible for all ineligible costs, including engineering design and administration.

**Application Period:** Quarterly

**Website:** <https://www.dot.state.al.us/programs/IndustrialAccessProgram.html>

### **Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)**

Applications for HSIP funding may be submitted for projects which meet the following criteria: Projects consistent with the most current version of the Alabama Strategic Highway Safety Plan and projects to improve a roadway safety concern as identified by one of the following methods: Analysis of historical crash data; Identification of systemic risk factors and counter measures as accepted by TSOS; Application of systematic or programmatic countermeasures as previously approved by TSOC.

**Grant Ceiling:** Dependent on project

**Eligible Activities:**

- Highway maintenance activities (e.g., resurfacing, guardrail/end anchor replacement, roadway striping)
- Grade separation projects
- Major horizontal or vertical realignments
- Major drainage improvements (e.g., culvert and bridge culvert extensions)
- Major utility relocations (as a percentage of project costs)
- Projects requiring extensive right-of-way acquisitions
- Work zone activities necessary for the management of a construction site
- Non-infrastructure activities

**Match:** Varies

**Application Period:** Year Round

**Website:** <https://www.dot.state.al.us/programs/HSIP.html>

### **Local Roads Safety Initiative (LRSI)**

This initiative is available to cities and counties for both rural and urban non-State maintained roadways with significant safety risks. Project applications will be accepted for projects designed to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury lane departure and run-off-road crashes and prioritized in descending order: Projects designed to reduce the potential of drivers leaving their lane, Projects designed to reduce the potential of a crash in the event a driver does leave their lane, Projects designed to minimize the severity of a crash in the event that a crash does occur. Applications submitted through this initiative must be in accordance with the most recent Alabama Strategic Highway Safety Plan and applicable Local Road Safety Plans if one has been developed by the county that the

location falls within. LRSI projects will be evaluated and selected by the LRSI Selection Committee by a competitive selection process.

**Grant Ceiling:** Up to 90% of eligible project cost

**Eligible Activities:**

- Broad range of safety improvements including, but not limited to, the following:
  - Install Sloped Pavement Edge (must be done in conjunction with resurfacing)
  - Install Centerline/Edge-line/Shoulder Rumble Strips
  - Install Enhanced Curve Signing
  - Install Enhanced Delineation (e.g., RPMs CL or EL, Delineator posts, etc.)
  - Shoulder Widening
  - Installation of Roadside Barriers
  - Clear Zone Improvements
  - Flattening of Front Slopes
  - Installation of High Friction Surface Treatment
  - Cross Slope/ Superelevation Correction
- Roadway/Lane Departure Safety Projects:
  - Safety benefit of the specific improvement applied
  - Applicability of the safety improvement applied with respect to identified need
  - Cost effectiveness of the safety improvement applied with respect to identified need
  - Local sponsor project justification
  - Roadway classification
  - Traffic count
  - Project cost
  - Total crashes
  - Crash Rates involving fatalities and/or injuries
  - Crash Modification Factor (CMF)
  - Benefit-Cost Ratio
  - Crash Reduction Factor

**Match:** 10%

**Application Period:** Summer

**Website:** <https://www.dot.state.al.us/programs/HSIP.html>

**Rebuild Alabama Act Annual Grant (RAA)**

Any municipal or county government of the State of Alabama is eligible to apply for funding under the RAA Annual Grant Program. Project applications may be submitted for improvements to any classified public road or bridge owned and maintained by the applicant that is open to public traffic. Funding is only available for eligible construction activities. No Preliminary Engineering, Right-of-Way, Utility Relocation, Construction Engineering & Inspection or Materials Testing costs will be eligible. Funds are awarded through a competitive project selection process.

**Grant Ceiling:** \$250,000

**Eligible Activities:**

- Improvements to any public road or bridge owned and maintained by the applicant that is open to public traffic.

**Match:** NA**Application Period:** Winter**Website:** <https://www.dot.state.al.us/programs/RAAGrantProgram.html>**Public Transportation****Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities**

The Federal Transit Administration provides the 5310 program funds administered by ALDOT. The program purpose is to assist private or designated public nonprofit agencies in meeting the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities. Eligible applicants are private nonprofit agencies for the specific purposes of providing transportation services that meet the special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities, local governmental agencies approved by ALDOT to coordinate service for seniors and individuals with disabilities, and governmental authorities certifying to ALDOT that no nonprofit organizations are readily available in the area to provide the service. Funds are only extended to agencies providing transit services in the small urban and rural areas of the state with projects derived from a locally developed, coordinated transit-human services transportation plan (coordinated plan). Completed applications must be submitted to and endorsed by CARPDC to ensure compliance with federal coordination requirements. Applications will be awarded through a competitive selection process by ALDOT.

**Grant Ceiling:** Capital projects 80% of eligible project cost

Bicycle projects 90% of eligible project cost

**Eligible Activities:**

- Traditional
  - Acquisition of vehicles (buses, vans)
  - Radios and communication equipment
  - Vehicle wheelchair lifts, ramps, and securement devices
- Non-Traditional
  - Accessibility improvements,
  - Public transportation alternatives that assist seniors and individuals with disabilities

**Match:** 10% - 20%**Application Period:** Summer**Website:** <https://www.dot.state.al.us/programs/EnhancedMobility.html>**Section 5311 Rural Transit**

ALDOT administers Alabama's Rural Transit Program (Section 5311 Rural Transit) for the Federal Transit Administration. The purpose of the program is to enhance the overall mobility of people living in any area outside of an urbanized area (UZA) as designated by the Bureau of the Census. Public transportation is surface "transportation by a conveyance that provides on a regular and continuing general or special basis transportation to the public,

but does not include school bus, charter, or intercity bus or rail transportation” (49 U.S.C. 5302(a)(10)). A UZA consists of a core area and the surrounding densely populated area with a total population of 50,000 or more, with boundaries fixed by the Bureau of the Census. Areas not within a UZA as of 2010 Census are eligible for Section 5311 funding even if they are included within the metropolitan area planning boundary (which includes the surrounding area expected to be urbanized with 20 years and/or the air quality nonattainment boundary). A rural area is defined as “an area encompassing a population of less than 50,000 that has not been designated in the most recent decennial census as an urbanized area by the secretary of Commerce”. Projects may include transportation to and from urbanized area.

**Grant Ceiling:** Operating Expenses 50% of eligible project cost

Administration Expenses 80% of eligible project cost

Capital Equipment Expenses 80% of eligible project cost

**Eligible Activities:**

Capital equipment may include, but is not limited to:

- Vehicle purchases
- Passenger amenities (bus stop shelters, benches, etc.)
- Fencing for security of vehicles and facility
- Security systems
- Vehicle enhancements
- AV training equipment and materials
- Office equipment (printers, computers, copier, etc.)
- ITS technologies (software updates, scheduling software, etc.)
- Two-way mobile communications
- Shop and related maintenance equipment
- Preventative maintenance (Includes all maintenance both preventative and responsive.)
- Mobility Manager (Only for agencies which coordinate services between multiple programs.)
- Facility leases
- Transit facilities (renovations of existing transit facilities, purchase of new facility)
- Bicycle racks and access

Capital transit facilities projects to address facility needs include, but are not limited to:

- Renovations of existing transit facilities
- Purchase of new facility

**Match:** Operating 50%

Administration 20%

Capital equipment 20%

**Application Period:** Summer

**Website:** <https://ecm.eng.auburn.edu/wp/rtap>

## Transportation Alternatives Program

### Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

TAP's intent is to provide new "Transportation Alternatives" to communities, as well as enhance non-motorized transportation infrastructure. Cities, towns, county commissions and metropolitan planning organizations are among the eligible applicants. Funds are allocated into two categories: areas with population over 200,000 and areas with populations of 5,001 to 200,000. This is a cost reimbursement program awarded through a competitive application process.

**Grant Ceiling:** \$1,000,000

#### Eligible Activities:

- Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related project and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, senior adults and individuals with disabilities.
- Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation.
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas.
- Community improvement activities, such as:
  - The inventory/control/removal of outdoor advertising.
  - Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities.
  - Vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control.
- Environmental mitigation activities, such as:
  - Storm water management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff.
  - Reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.

**Match:** 20%

**Application Period:** Summer

**Website:** <https://www.dot.state.al.us/programs/TAP.html>

## Resource Conservation and Development Council

### Mid-South Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council

Mid-South RC&D provides grants to Autauga, Bullock, Butler, Elmore, Lee, Lowndes, Macon & Montgomery counties for natural resource enhancements to improve the quality of life for Alabama citizens. Applicants must be a 501c3 non-profit organization or unit or sub-unit of government. The program operates on a reimbursement basis.

**Grant Ceiling:** \$25,000 (\$5,000 minimum)

**Eligible Activities:** Dependent on community needs

**Match:** NA

**Application Period:** Spring

**Website:** <https://midsouthrcd.org/>



## T-Mobile

### Hometown Grant Program

In partnership with Main Street America and Smart Growth America, T-Mobile is committing \$25 million toward small town grants over the next five years through its Hometown Grants program. The program will award up to 100 towns per year with project funding grants of up to \$50,000 each. The program will focus on revitalizing community spaces in towns with 50,000 people or less. Small towns with populations less than 50,000 are eligible to apply. For more information and to apply go to [www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants](http://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants).

**Grant Ceiling:** \$50,000

**Eligible Activities:** Build, rebuild or refresh community spaces that help foster local connections. For example:

- Town square pavilion
- Outdoor park
- Ball field
- Library

**Match:** NA

**Application Period:** Quarterly (January - March, April - June, July - September, October – December). The application portal will close on the last day of each quarter and reopen for the new quarter on the first of the month.

**Website:** <https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants>

## United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

### Business Program

#### Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG)

The RBDG program is designed to provide technical assistance and training for small rural businesses. Small means that the business has fewer than 50 new workers and less than \$1 million in gross revenue.

**Grant Ceiling:** No maximum grant amount; however, smaller requests are given higher priority.

**Eligible Activities:**

- Technical assistance
- Training
- Other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses.

**Match:** Varies

**Application Period:** Winter

**Website:** <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services>

## Community Facilities

### Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program

This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings. Funding is available in the form of low interest direct loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations.

**Grant Ceiling:** Graduated scale (75%, 55%, 35%, 15% of eligible project cost) based on population and median household income.

**Eligible Activities:**

- Purchase, construct, and improve essential community facilities
- Purchase equipment
- Pay related project expenses

**Match:** Varies

**Application Period:** Year Round

**Website:** <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services>

### Economic Impact Initiative Grant

The Economic Impact Initiative provides funding to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression.

**Grant Ceiling:** Graduated scale determined by population, median household income, total project costs and financial need.

**Eligible Activities:** Construct, enlarge or improve community facilities.

**Match:** 25%

**Application Period:** Year Round

**Website:** <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services>

### Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) Grant

RCDI grants are awarded to help non-profit housing and community development organizations support housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

**Grant Ceiling:** \$250,000 (\$50,000 minimum)

**Eligible Activities:**

- Training sub-grantees
- Providing technical assistance to sub-grantees

**Match:** 50/50 (in-kind is not allowed)

**Application Period:** Spring

**Website:** <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services>

For other program opportunities visit [www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services](http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services).