

Congressionally Directed Spending

Eligible Accounts and Requirements

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Eligible Accounts

- **Agricultural Research Service, Building and Facilities (ARS B&F)**
 - Requests for ARS B&F may only include funding for repairs and maintenance to existing facilities.
 - Funding for construction of a building will not be considered.
- **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) (S&E)**
 - Must meet environmental review requirements (i.e. NEPA and ESA)
 - While the entire S&E account is open for CDS requests, below are the line items within the account that are most compatible with CDS:
 - Field Crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests
 - Pest Detection
 - Plant Protection Methods Development
 - Specialty Crop Pests
 - Tree & Wood Pests
 - Wildlife Damage Management
 - Wildlife Services Methods Development
 - Veterinary Diagnostics
 - Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health
 - A few APHIS programs have matching requirements:
 - Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket (Field Crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests) – this program conducts surveys, provides technical assistance, and conducts suppression activities. When conducting suppression activities, the Plant Protection Act dictates the federal percentage of control costs and cost sharing for other parties. The federal government pays the total cost of suppression on Federal land (including most tribal trust lands), 50 percent of the cost on state land, and 33 percent of cost on private land.
 - Brucellosis (Cattle Health) – this program has a 40 percent match by the States
 - Wildlife Services – reimbursable service agreements are generally 50/50 cost share and the States would reimburse for their portion.
- **Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO)**
 - Each project must contain benefits directly related to agriculture, including rural communities that account for at least 20 percent of the total benefits of the project.
 - There are several financial and programmatic requirements in WFPO. Request sponsor must contact their NRCS state office and verify the proposal meets all program requirements, including financial requirements.

- **Rural Development, Community Facilities grants**
 - The Community Facilities (CF) Grant program has a match requirement on a sliding scale based on community population size and median income. CF Grants can cover up to 75 percent of the total project costs.
 - Rural Development (RD) verifies an applicant's population size from the most recent census. Unlike population size, which can be determined from public sources, RD contracts with the US Census Bureau to determine a precise median income based on the potential rural Americans that would benefit from a project. In order to determine whether a project is eligible, the applicant is required reach out to the state RD office. Contact information for the state offices can be found at this link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/stateoffices>
 - The match requirements are outlined in the CF regulation: 7 CFR 3570.63(b). Towns with populations over 20,000 are not eligible for this program.
 - The average CF CDS grant size funded in FY22 was \$1,000,000. When considering which CDS requests to submit to the Committee, this is a good baseline to use.
 - Funds may not be used for the following activities:
 - To reimburse funds for projects already constructed/acquired or projects that will be completed by the passage of the bill
 - To pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring costs, including purchases or rentals that are generally considered to be operating and maintenance expenses (unless a CF loan is part of the funding package)
 - To fund facilities to be used primarily for recreation purposes
 - To fund facilities to be used primarily for business entrepreneur purposes
- **Rural Development, Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program (DLT) grants**
 - There is a flat 15 percent match (matching funds cannot come from another Federal source)
 - Full list of eligible entities, uses, and limitations can be found here: [7 CFR Part 1734 Subpart A and B](#)
 - USDA will establish the maximum and minimum amounts of a grant to be made available to an individual recipient for each fiscal year in the RUS DLT Program Application Guide and in the funding opportunity posted on www.Grants.gov on an annual basis. For FY 2023, the grant award floor is \$50,000 and the ceiling is \$1,000,000.
 - Reminder, even though for-profit entities are eligible for this program, they are not eligible for congressionally directed spending requests.
 - Broadband deployment is not an eligible use of funds for DLT
 - Applicants must complete an application if awarded a CDS in the final bill.

***For both CF Grants and DLT Grants, state directors and local specialists are available to answer specific questions regarding eligibility of a proposed project. You can find their contact information at this link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices>.