

Strategic Economic and Community Development

Background

Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) funding is authorized through a Farm Bill provision that supports regional economic and community development planning.

Purpose

Projects that promote regional economic development can use the unique strengths of rural communities to advance prosperity. USDA Rural Development helps finance these projects by assisting applicants to overcome multi-jurisdictional challenges and leverage federal, state, local or private funding.

Who may apply for this program?

To be eligible for SECD, a project must:

- Be eligible for the underlying program;
- Be carried out solely in a rural area; and
- Support a multi-jurisdictional strategic economic community development plan.

What is the Application Process?

To apply, applicants must meet underlying program requirements and submit the [Form RD 1980-88](#) to the [nearest USDA office](#). Program funds available under SECD expire on June 30, 2020.

Consideration will be based on:

1. How well the project supports a multi-jurisdictional plan; and
2. How well the plan addresses collaboration, regionalism, and investments from other federal and philanthropic agencies. Interested participants are encouraged to have their plans reviewed by their state's staff early in the process for feedback and possible modification prior to submitting the formal application.

Participating Rural Development Programs

Priority may be given to applications submitted through the following programs:

- [Community Facility Direct Loans, Grants, and Loan Guarantees](#)
- [Water and Waste Disposal Direct Loans, Grants, and Loan Guarantees](#)
- [Business and Industry Loan Guarantees \(B&I\)](#)
- [Rural Business Development Grants \(RBDG\)](#)

For More Information

Please contact your [local RD office](#) or Gregory.Batson@usda.gov.

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled "For More Information" You may also contact your [local office](#) for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.