

**Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Subcommittee:**  
**Agricultural Research Service -- Buildings and Facilities**

**Program Description**

The mission of the Agricultural Research Service is to conduct research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and to provide information access and dissemination to: ensure high-quality, safe food, and other agricultural products; assess the nutritional needs of Americans; sustain a competitive agricultural economy; enhance the natural resource base and the environment; and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

Much of the work is conducted in direct cooperation with State Agricultural Experiment Stations, other State and Federal agencies, and private organizations.

**General Guidance for CPF Requests for ARS Buildings and Facilities Funds**

Requests in this account must be for ARS-owned facilities, or facilities that will enhance ongoing ARS work. Requests can assist in the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the USDA.

Requests are strongly encouraged to provide details on the research to be conducted, why the research is a high priority, as well as details on the modernization and why it is critical in carrying out the research. Requests must also share the estimated start date of the project and how soon the feasibility/engineering design phase could commence, if the project has distinct and separable phases, and what is the estimated completion date of the project as well as when does completion of construction occur.

**Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Subcommittee:**  
**Rural Development -- Rural Community Facility Grants**

**Program Description**

Rural Community Facility Grants provide 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 the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings. Public bodies, community-based non-profits, and Federally-recognized Tribes may apply for grants in eligible rural areas, which include cities, villages, townships, and towns including Federally-recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest U.S. Census Data.

**General Guidance for CPF Requests for Rural Development, Rural Community Facility Grants**

Grants can be used to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Essential community facilities include, but are not limited to, healthcare facilities, public facilities, public safety measures, educational services, or other community support services.

Examples of eligible projects include: medical or dental clinics, towns halls, courthouses, childcare centers, police or fire departments, public works vehicles, or distance learning equipment. Any project must serve a rural area as specified in 7 CFR 3570.53, be for an eligible purpose and meet all eligibility requirements under current law, and must demonstrate community support.

These requests are also subject to the maximum grant assistance limitations specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b). Community Facilities grants generally cannot be used to pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring expenses, refinance existing debt, pay interest, build or repair facilities in non-rural areas, or pay for construction costs of facilities that will be used for commercial rental space. Please visit the [USDA webpage](#) on Community Facility Grants for more general information and eligibility.

**Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Subcommittee:**  
**Rural Utilities Service --**  
**ReConnect Grants**

**Program Description**

The ReConnect Program was established in 2018 to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas of America without sufficient broadband access. This program generates private sector investment to deploy broadband infrastructure to provide high-speed internet e-Connectivity to as many rural premises as possible, including homes, community facilities for healthcare and public safety, schools, libraries, farms, ranches, factories, and other production sites.

**General Guidance for CPF Requests for Rural Utilities Service, ReConnect Grants**

ReConnect broadband pilot grants facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas without sufficient broadband access. Grants can be used for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service.

To be eligible, the area must be rural, and lack sufficient access to broadband service. A rural area is any area which is not located within: (1) A city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants; or (2) an urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants. Sufficient access to broadband is defined as greater than 90% of any rural area in which households have fixed, terrestrial broadband service delivering at least 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream. Mobile and satellite services will not be considered in making the determination of sufficient access to broadband.

Stand-alone middle-mile projects are not eligible under the ReConnect Program. However, middle-mile facilities are eligible if they are needed to bring sufficient broadband service to all premises in the area.

Requesters are strongly encouraged to include information on their projects such as the number of households, businesses, or farms will be served in the area, what the performance of the service to be offered will be, and whether healthcare or educational facilities will be served. Please visit the [USDA webpage](#) on the ReConnect Program for more general information and eligibility.