

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies - CA 52 Community Project Requests FY24

Although programmatic and language requests may be made for any account, only six accounts in the Agriculture appropriations bill will include CPFs. Keep in mind project funding will depend on available resources, and larger requests may have to be reduced.

All CPF requests must meet applicable eligibility requirements for the program in which the request is made, including applicable underlying statutory and regulatory requirements (e.g., cost share). Any CPFs that are funded in an appropriations bill will need to apply to USDA to receive the award. The application will be reviewed for compliance prior to official award. To ensure your projects meet eligibility requirements for the Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Service accounts, you must consult with your respective State Rural Development or State Conservation office which can be found here:

Rural Development: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices>

Natural Resources Conservation Services:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservationbasics/conservation-by-state/state-offices> .

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANTS

Grants to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to: medical or dental clinics, healthcare facilities, police or fire departments, and public works vehicles.

Priority will be given to essential projects, such as those focused on public health and safety. Any project must serve a rural area as specified in 7 CFR 3570.53 (rural areas including cities, villages, townships and Federally Recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents).

Requests must demonstrate community support. Applicants should ensure that their request provides the most complete description of the project as possible. Submissions should include details on all proposed use of funds, activities that will occur, timeline, and detailed information on the complete service territory.

Such requests are also subject to cost share requirements specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b). Please review program regulations carefully.

Community Facilities grants 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.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility and non-federal cost share requirements. For fiscal year 2023, the average Community Facilities CPF award was about \$1.3 million.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RECONNECT PROGRAM

ReConnect broadband pilot grants facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. Grant funds can be used for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access, defined as 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream.

The area must be rural and lack sufficient access to broadband service. A rural area is any area which is not located within a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 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 25 Mbps downstream and 3 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.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to include information in their requests, 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.

Additionally, when submitting a request, applicants are reminded that all policies and procedures apply, including environmental and related reviews and the non-federal cost share requirement of 25% of the overall project cost. Policies and procedures can be found at <https://go.usa.gov/xexPT>.

USDA's Rural Development office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. For fiscal year 2023, the average ReConnect CPF award was nearly \$1.2 million.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) owns and operates laboratories and facilities across the United States. Many of these laboratories/facilities are decades old, have outlived their functional lifespan, and are badly in need of major repairs, renovation, or replacement. 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 Department of Agriculture. Requests must be for ARS-owned or operated facilities.

Applicants 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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE GRANTS

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program (DLT) helps rural residents better utilize the enormous

potential of modern telecommunications and the internet for education and healthcare, two critical components of economic and community development. The DLT program helps rural communities acquire the technology and training necessary to connect educational and medical professionals with students, teachers, and patients in rural areas.

Grants may be used for audio and video equipment, broadband facilities that support distance learning or telemedicine (not actual broadband), computer hardware or network components/software, and acquisition of instructional programming.

Any requests are subject to all regulations governing the program which can be found at 7 CFR Part 1734.

The program requires a 15% match that cannot come from another Federal source. Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide as much detail as possible on how the award will be utilized, what equipment of service will be acquired and any information on population(s) served. The program is intended to serve rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) supports private landowners, conservation districts, and other organizations to conserve, maintain, and improve the Nation's natural resources. Examples of specific objectives include reducing soil erosion, improving soil health, enhancing water supplies, improving water quality, increasing wildlife habitat, and reducing damage caused by floods and other natural disasters.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide details on the work to be done, including if the project will conduct surveys, investigations, or research, and if there is a plan to publish the results of any such work.

Applicants should also describe any preventive measures to be taken, such as engineering operations, methods of cultivation, or changes in use of land.

For FY24, the Subcommittee will only consider projects for funding recipients that are State, local, and Tribal organizations, or public conservation districts. Non-profit recipients **will not** be considered.

The State Conservationist is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility.
House
CPFs in the account averaged about \$1.3 million in FY23.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL GRANTS

The Water and Waste Disposal Grant Program may be used to finance the acquisition, construction or improvement of drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and disposal; sewer collection, transmission,

treatment and disposal; solid waste collection, disposal and closure; and storm water collection, transmission, and closure.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide details on the number of households and businesses served and details of the exact work to be completed.

Eligible entities include rural areas and towns with population of 10,000 or less and Tribal lands in rural areas. The account has not been subject to CPFs in the previous years. Potential recipients will be required to provide a 25% non-federal cost share.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. Which account are you requesting funds from for this specific project? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Grants
- ☐ Department of Agriculture Reconnect Program
- ☐ Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities
- ☐ Department of Agriculture Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants
- ☐ Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations
- ☐ Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Waste Disposal Grants

3. Please provide the full dollar amount you are requesting. *

4. What is the title of your project? *

5. Please provide your project description. (No more than 1,000 words, please.) *

Project Details

6. Please confirm you have emailed a detailed budget breakdown, to the relevant staffer. In that breakdown, please be sure to explain how the funds are anticipated to be spent, broken out by discrete activity. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

7. What is the total cost of the project? *

8. If the requested amount does not fully fund the total cost of the project, please describe where the remaining funding will be coming from, to cover the remaining costs. *

9. Is this funding for a new project or ongoing project? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ New

☐ Ongoing

10. If the Appropriations Committee is not able to provide the full amount of funding requested, *
can this project start in a limited capacity?

11. If the Appropriations Committee is not able to provide the full amount of funding requested, *
can this project spend a smaller amount of appropriated funds within 12 months of the
enactment of the Appropriations Act?

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

12. Does your funding request span over one year? (Note: Per committee requirements, we *
cannot accept a request that spans more than one year.)

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

13. Is this project able to obligate all of the requested funds by no later than 12 months after *
the enactment of the FY24 Appropriations Act?

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

14. If you answered "yes" to the prior question, please provide details. *

15. If there are additional costs necessary to complete this project outside of those you are requesting, have those been secured? Please include in your answer the source of additional funding, broken down by activity. *

16. Does your entity plan to make grants to other entities from the funds provided? If so, please list the entities and anticipated amounts? *

Details about Entity Requesting Funds

17. Are you a public, non-profit, or private entity? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Public
- ☐ Non-Profit
- ☐ Private
- ☐ Other: _____

18. Official Name of Organization or Government Entity Requesting Funds *

19. Name of Point of Contact for Office *

20. Website for Entity Requesting Funds *

21. Requesting Entity Staff Contact Email *

22. Requesting Entity Staff Contact Phone *

23. Requesting Entity Full Address *

24. Please provide the address of the project, if applicable. *

25. If you are a nonprofit organization, please confirm that you have sent the relevant staffer evidence that you are a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not representing a non-profit.

26. If you answered "yes" to the previous question, your non-profit rated four stars by Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org)? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

27. If no, please submit the following documentation with your request for community project funding: (1) The last 5 years of tax returns, (2) Salaries of all employees of the non-profit, (3) Complete list of donors for the non-profit (4) What percentage of expenses are (a) program expenses (nonprofit's total expenses spent on program and services it delivers); (b) administrative expenses; and (c) fundraising expenses. Please confirm you have emailed this information to the relevant staffer. *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Community Support

28. Has your project been included in a State-established list or intended use plan? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

29. If you answered "yes" to the above question, please provide a link to that list or intended use plan. *

30. Have you contacted the State Rural Development Office/State Conservation Office to discuss the project and confirm eligibility? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

31. If not thoroughly discussed in the project description, please describe, with as much specificity as possible, the overall goals and objectives of the proposed project. *

32. Why should this project be a priority for the district? What needs will the project meet that are not already being met? *

33. Please confirm whether you have emailed the relevant staffer evidence of community support for this project as a priority for our district. Such evidence of support may include: (1) letters of support from elected community leaders, (2) press articles highlighting the need for the requested community project funding, (3) support from newspaper editorial boards, (4) projects listed in state intended use plans, community development plans, or other publicly available planning documents, (5) resolutions passed by city councils or boards, or other compelling evidence of community support. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

34. Please provide a list of all entities who have expressed support for this project, and whether you have submitted a document to the appropriate staffer as evidence of that support. *

Funding Background

35. Has the project been funded by any entity other than the federal government in the past? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

36. If you answered "yes" to the previous question, how much funding has been provided to date? Please provide a breakdown of the funding by source, and by discrete activity. *

37. Please specify any non-Federal sources of funding that are fully anticipated to be applied toward the project, including dollar amount per activity and timelines for funding. *

38. Is the requested project currently authorized in law? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

39. If you answered "yes" to the previous question, please provide a specific legal citation of such authorization. *

40. Has the project received federal funding before? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

41. If you answered "yes" to the previous question, please describe how much, when, and from which agency or agencies and program(s). *

42. Has any funding for the project been included in any presidential budget, including the presidential budget for FY24? If so, how much, in which fiscal year, and in which agency or agencies and program(s)? *

43. Please list the amount of funding, if any, that was enacted in the fiscal year 2023 Appropriations package and used towards this project. *

44. If the project has been funded in the past, were the funds provided for discrete activities? If so, please list those activities. *

45. Does the federal agency have matching requirements for this project in order to fund the project? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unknown

46. If you answered "yes" to the above question, please describe in detail the plan meet to these matching requirements, including the anticipated sources of matching funds, the likelihood of securing agreement from those sources, and a timeline including the steps you plan to take to secure those sources. *

47. Are the proposed project activities consistent with the Federal agency's activities? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

48. Please provide an explanation of why the request is a good use of taxpayer funds. (This will be posted publicly to the Congressman's website.) *

49. Please provide an explanation of the federal nexus for the project request. (This will be posted publicly to the Congressman's website.) Please reference the appropriate statute below for the project account you are submitting a request under: *

1) Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities • This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in 7 U.S. Code section 2250.

2) Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations • This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized by the Soil Conservation and Allotment Domestic Act of 1935, 16 U.S. Code sections 590a-590d and 590f-g.

3) Rural Development, Rural Housing Service, Community Facility Grants • This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

4) Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, ReConnect Grants • This project has a Federal nexus as it is for the same purposes authorized in the pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141).

5) Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, Water and Waste Grants • This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a)(2).

6) Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants • This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 2331 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, 7 U.S. Code section 950aaa.

50. Are you aware of another Member making a request for this same project? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

51. Have requests for the same project been submitted for any other community project account? If so, please list them, including the agency and subcommittee to which that account is assigned. *

Project Oversight

52. What is the estimated start date of the project? [mm/dd/yy] *

53. What is the estimated completion date of the project? [mm/dd/yy] *

54. What is the current developmental status of this project? *

55. Is the project a capital project or will the funds support operating costs? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Capital Project
- ☐ Operating Costs
- ☐ Planning and Design
- ☐ Other: _____

56. Provide the oversight and management structure, including accountability measures, of the project. Who will oversee and be accountable for the administration/management of the project? *

57. What performance standards will be used to evaluate whether the program or project supported by the funds meets its mission? *

58. Please explicitly state the desired outcome of the project, and how it would benefit the community. *

Community Facilities Grants, Account-Specific Questions

Please thoroughly answer the below questions to ensure consideration of your project.

59. Will these grants be used to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses? Please select the appropriate use. If "other" please explain in detail. *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Purchase essential community facilities
- ☐ Construct essential community facilities
- ☐ Improve essential community facilities
- ☐ Purchase equipment (eg. distance learning equipment)
- ☐ I will not be using this account for the project.
- ☐ Other: _____

60. Does this project serve a rural areas as specified in 7 CFR 3570.53? (For this project to be considered under this account, the area it serves must be rural.) *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown
- ☐ I will not be using this account for the project.

61. Is the amount you have requested equal to or less than the maximum grant assistance limitations specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b)? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown
- ☐ I will not be using this account for the project.

62. Will this funding be used for any of the following purposes for the project? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Initial operating expenses
- ☐ Annual recurring expenses
- ☐ Refinancing existing debt
- ☐ Paying interest on existing debt
- ☐ Building or repairing facilities in non-rural areas
- ☐ Construction costs that will be used for commercial rental space
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ I will not be using this account for the project.

Reconnect Program, Account-Specific Questions

ReConnect broadband pilot grants facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. Please thoroughly answer the below questions to ensure consideration of your project.

63. Will this project use funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access, defined as 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Construction of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access, defined as 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream.
- ☐ Improvement of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access, defined as 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream.
- ☐ Acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access, defined as 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream.
- ☐ I will not be using this account for the project.
- ☐ Other: _____

64. Is this project for a rural area? A rural area is any area which is not located within a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants. *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown
- ☐ I will not be using this account for the project.

65. Does the area that the project covers lack sufficient access to broadband service? *
- (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 25 Mbps downstream and 3 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.)

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown
- ☐ I will not be using this account for the project.

66. Please include information 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. *

Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities, Account-Specific Questions

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) owns and operates laboratories and facilities across the United States. Many of these laboratories/facilities are decades old, have outlived their functional lifespan, and are badly in need of major repairs, renovation, or replacement. Please thoroughly answer the below questions to ensure consideration of your project.

67. Will the funding be used for ARS-owned facilities or operated facilities that will enhance ongoing ARS work? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown
- ☐ I will not be using this account for the project.

68. Does this project 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 Department of Agriculture? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Acquisition of land necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture
- ☐ Construction necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture
- ☐ Extension of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture?
- ☐ Alteration of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture?
- ☐ Purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture?
- ☐ I will not be using this account for the project.
- ☐ Other: _____

69. Please provide details on the research to be conducted using the equipment or facilities. *

70. Please explain why this research is a high priority. *

71. Please provide details on the modernization of equipment or facilities that will take place, and why such modernization is critical to carrying out the research. *

72. What is the estimated start date of the project? [mm/yy] *

73. How soon could the feasibility/engineering design phase commence? [mm/yy] *

74. Does the project have distinct and separable phases? If so, please explain. *

75. What is the estimated completion date of the project? [mm/yy] *

76. When will completion of construction alone occur? [mm/yy] *

Department of Agriculture Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program (DLT) helps rural residents better utilize the enormous potential of modern telecommunications and the internet for education and healthcare, two critical components of economic and community development. The DLT program helps rural communities acquire the technology and training necessary to connect educational and medical professionals with students, teachers, and patients in rural areas.

77. Please select which of the follow eligible grant categories your submissions falls under: *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Audio and video equipment
- ☐ broadband facilities that support distance learning or telemedicine (not actual broadband)
- ☐ computer hardware or network components/software
- ☐ acquisition of instructional programing

78. Please tells us what the performance of the service to be offered will be. (If you are not using this account for your project, please write "not using account" in the space below.) *

79. Will this project serve healthcare or educational facilities? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Healthcare facilities
- ☐ Educational facilities
- ☐ Neither
- ☐ I will not be using this account for the project.

Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) supports private landowners, conservation districts, and other organizations to conserve, maintain, and improve the Nation's natural resources. Conservation

Operations has four major program components: Conservation Technical Assistance, Soil Survey, Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting, and Plant Materials Centers. Examples of specific objectives include reduce soil erosion, improve soil health, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damage caused by floods and other natural disasters.

80. Please provide details on the work to be done, including if the project will conduct surveys, investigations, or research, and if there is a plan to publish the results of any such work *

81. Describe any preventive measures to be taken, such as engineering operations, methods of cultivation, or changes in use of land. *

82. Briefly describe how the project will reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, or other objectives that will help conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources. *

83. If you are not using this account for your project, please write "not using account" in the space below. *

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Waste Disposal Grants

The Water and Waste Disposal Grant Program may be used to finance the acquisition, construction or improvement of drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and disposal; sewer collection, transmission, treatment and disposal; solid waste collection, disposal and closure; and storm water collection, transmission, and closure.

84. Please provide relevant information, such as the number of households, businesses, or farms that would be served. *

85. If you are not using this account for your project, please write "not using account" in the space below. *

Confirmation

86. Is any entity that would be receiving this grant in material non-compliance of a prior grant award made by a government agency? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

87. If you answered "yes" to the above question, please provide details. *

88. Has the organization or any potential sub-grantees been subject to sanction or litigation by State, Local, or Federal governments in the past five years? If so, please provide details *

89. I confirm that I have read all of the listed requirements for this project. I also confirm, under penalty of perjury, that all of the information I have provided is truthful and complete, and that the project complies with the listed requirements. (Please write your full name below.) *

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