



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Financing Opportunities that Support Local and Regional Agriculture

USDA Rural Development's Community and Business Programs (C&BP) have ample funding available for low cost loans and some grant funding to assist communities and rural business ventures that support local and regional food system projects.

Community Projects

Eligible applicants: public bodies and not-for-profit organizations

Eligible communities: rural areas and communities with up to 20,000 residents

Type of project	Examples of how financing can be used
Food banks	Building purchase, renovations, new construction, equipment, vehicles for food delivery
School cafeterias	Equipment, renovations, central processing or distribution centers
Farmers' markets	New construction, building purchase, renovations (NOTE: Eligible markets must primarily sell agricultural products.)
Community gardens	Real estate purchase, infrastructure to connect to water and provide irrigation
Community kitchens	Renovations to owned facility, equipment used primarily for the community kitchen, new construction (NOTE: Community kitchens include those that provide classes on the preparation of healthy meals or prepare meals for community programs.)

Business Projects

Eligible locations: most areas and communities with up to 50,000 residents

Program	Applicant	Uses
Value Added Producer Grant	Producers, ag cooperatives, producer groups	Planning activities (e.g., feasibility and business plans); working capital
Small, Socially Disadvantaged Producer Grant	Cooperatives, associations of cooperatives	Technical assistance
Rural Cooperative Development Grant	Non-profits, higher education	Establishment and operation of centers to assist individuals or entities in the startup, expansion or improvement of rural businesses, especially cooperatives
Intermediary Relending Program	Public bodies, non-profits, cooperatives	Revolving loan funds for community development projects and the establishment or expansion of businesses (NOTE: Ultimate borrowers must be located in communities of fewer than 25,000 people.
Business & Industry Guaranteed Loans	Lenders	Most legal business purposes, including acquisition, start-up, and expansion. Agriculture production is ineligible.
Rural Energy for America Program	Farmers, rural small businesses	Purchase and installation of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements
Rural Business Opportunity Grant	Public bodies, non-profits	Training and technical assistance for business development, including support for processing, marketing and distribution
Rural Business Enterprise Grant	Public bodies, non-profits	Development of infrastructure and facilities; revolving loan funds

Contact Rural Development for program specifics. See the reverse side for contact information.

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