

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Guidance on Submitting Requests for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)

The Ag Subcommittee will accept CDS requests for the following accounts:

- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) (S&E)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Conservation Operations
- Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO)
- Rural Development, Community Facilities grants
- Rural Development, Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program (DLT) grants

Members must certify that a recipient of a CDS can meet ALL program requirements including cost share or matching requirements. Below are specific requirements for accounts that will have CDS requests. The subcommittee will not fund CDS items if a recipient CANNOT meet all program requirements.

APHIS Salaries and Expenses:

- 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.

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. A member must certify that a program sponsor has contacted their NRCS state office and the proposal meets all program requirements, including financial requirements.

Community Facilities Grants:

The following project and applicant eligibility criteria must be met **prior to** a congressionally directed

spending request being approved:

- This program will fund **up to 75%** of total project costs, with match requirements based on area median income and population as follows:
 - o Maximum of **75 percent** when the proposed project is located in a rural community having a population of **5,000** or fewer; and the median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or **60 percent** of the State nonmetropolitan median household income.
 - o Maximum of **55 percent** when the proposed project is located in a rural community having a population of **12,000** or fewer; and the median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or **70 percent** of the State nonmetropolitan median household income.
 - o Maximum of **35 percent** when the proposed project is located in a rural community having a population of **20,000** or fewer; and the median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or **80 percent** of the State nonmetropolitan median household income.
 - o Maximum of **15 percent** when the proposed project is located in a rural community having a population of **20,000** or fewer; and the median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or **90 percent** of the State nonmetropolitan median household income.
- Maximum grant assistance cannot exceed the lower of:
 - o Qualifying percentage of eligible project cost determined above
 - o Either 50 percent of the annual State allocation or \$50,000, whichever is greater
- Must meet environmental review requirements (i.e., NEPA)
- Full list of eligible entities, uses, and limitations can be found here: [7 CFR Part 3570](#)
- Note: there are several set-asides within the CF grant program, but congressionally directed spending requests will only be eligible for the general CF Grant program

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants:

The following project and applicant eligibility criteria must be met **prior to** a congressionally directed spending request being approved:

- 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 2021, 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.