



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Rural Development



# USDA Rural Development

**Holly Halligan, Community Programs Specialist  
Tangent Area Office**

Association of Clean Water Agencies

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# USDA Rural Development

- Federal funding agency for Water & Wastewater projects in rural communities.
- Rural is defined as a service area with a population of 10,000 or less.
- Eligible Entities include cities, counties, special districts, tribes, and not for profit water/waste utility companies.



# Water & Environmental Program (WEP)

- Loan & Grant program for the construction, expansion, or repair of water & waste water systems.
- Loan has no minimum or maximum amount.
- Repayment term to 40 years if charter allows.
- Interest rate based on community's MHI, tiered structure—lowest poverty community receives poverty rate, then intermediate, then the higher market rate.
- No pre-payment penalties, no application fees.
- Interim/construction financing is generally required.



# Water and Environmental Program Grant

- Also based on MHI
- Lowest income poverty communities can receive up to 75% of the total project cost in grant funding, up from there.
- Also consider if there is a health & sanitary issue, system EDU costs, scoring of application compared to other applications received.



# Not an eligible rural entity?

- If you have eligible rural customers on your system, RD can fund the portion of your project that services those customers.
  - *Ex) 25% of your system users are rural, RD can fund 25% of your treatment plant upgrade.*
  - *Ex) You're constructing a pipeline to provide service to a rural district, RD can fund 100%.*
- Take advantage of RD's rates, longer term, and potential grant funding.



# Charleston/Coos Bay Example

- Charleston Sanitary District sends their waste to the City of Coos Bay's Treatment Plant
- Coos Bay is upgrading their plant, 30M project
- The District's waste accounts for about 20% of the total effluent processed at CB.
- RD can fund 20%, or about \$6M of the project.



# Emergency Community Assistance Grant Program (ECWAG)

- Assist water systems when quality/quantity of water affected by an unforeseen emergency.
- Up to \$500,000 grant in source repairs.
- Up to \$150,000 grant in distribution repairs.
- No MHI requirements!!! (Just below SNMHI)
- Drought, chemical spills, earthquakes, fire, etc.



# City of Sodaville Example

- Drought conditions lowered the water table.
- City wells producing less in summer months.
- City had to truck water in to maintain service.
- Came to RD, received a \$112,000 ECWAG to improve/deepen well heads.





# Questions?

Holly Halligan, Community Programs Specialist

USDA Rural Development, Oregon

[Holly.halligan@or.usda.gov](mailto:Holly.halligan@or.usda.gov)

(541) 967-5925 ext. 129