

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE:

The Subcommittee on Agriculture accepts CDS request for five accounts. Projects within this Subcommittee range from repairs and maintenance to facilities owned by the Agricultural Research Service; to agricultural pests and related diagnostics efforts; to watershed projects; to essential community facilities in rural areas.

Account #1: Agricultural Research Service, Building and Facilities (ARS B&F)

What types of projects are eligible? This account can fund requests for repairs and maintenance to existing facilities owned by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). The ARS owns and operates laboratories and facilities across the United States. Many of these laboratories/facilities are decades old, have outlived their functional life span, and are badly in need of major repairs, renovation, or replacement.

What additional requirements does this account have?

- Requests for ARS B&F may only include funding for repairs and maintenance to existing facilities.
- Funding for construction of a building will not be considered.

What are past examples of projects funded within this account?

- \$1,478,000 for a U.S. Arid Land Agricultural Research Center for deferred maintenance projects to upgrade the facility.
- \$1,000,000 for a U.S. National Poultry Research Center to fund repairs and maintenance.

What is a typical funding amount within this account?

- In FY2023, Congress funded projects under this account ranging from \$117,000 to \$7,115,000. The average award was \$2,465,087.

To submit a CDS request in this account, please click [\[HERE\]](#).

Account #2: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) (S&E)

What types of projects are eligible? While the entire APHIS S&E account is open for CDS requests, the following items within the account are most compatible with CDS requests:

- *Field Crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests*: Projects here generally aim to protect U.S. agricultural crops and rangelands from the establishment or spread of invasive or economically significant pests, facilitate safe international trade and domestic commerce, preserve economic

opportunities for U.S. farmers, and/or foster healthy ecosystems in rangelands and natural lands.

- *Pest Detection*: Projects here generally aim to document the presence or absence of plant pests and diseases of Federal regulatory significance in the United States.
- *Plant Protection Methods Development*: Projects here generally aim to develop scientifically viable and practical tools for exotic plant pest exclusion, detection, and management.
- *Specialty Crop Pests*: Projects here generally aim to protect U.S. fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, horticulture, and nursery crops from adverse impacts associated with invasive pests, such as crop damage or threats to international trade and interstate commerce.
- *Tree & Wood Pests*: Projects here aim to protect forests, private working lands, and natural resources from the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB), emerald ash borer (EAB), gypsy moths, and most recently shot hole borers (SHB).
- *Wildlife Damage Management*: Projects here aim to protect agriculture, human health and safety, property, and natural resources from disease and damage caused by wildlife.
- *Wildlife Services Methods Development*: Projects here aim to research effective and socially responsible methods and information to manage conflicts between people and wildlife to protect agriculture, natural resources, and human health and safety.
- *Veterinary Diagnostics*: Projects here aim to improve the security of the nation's livestock by providing disease diagnostics both daily and at increased levels during outbreaks.
- *Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health*: Projects here aim to protect the health and improve the quality, productivity, and economic viability of the equine, cervid, sheep, and goat industries.

What additional requirements does this account have?

- Projects funded under this account must meet environmental review requirements (i.e., [NEPA](#) and ESA).
- A few programs within the APHIS account have local/state funding matching requirements. These include:
 - *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.
 - *Wildlife Services Methods Development*: Reimbursable service agreements are generally 50/50 cost share and the States would reimburse for their portion.

What are past examples of projects funded within this account?

- \$500,000 for a State Department of Agriculture for wild horse management.
- \$206,000 for a State Agricultural Experiment Station for monitoring ticks and tick-borne pathogens.

What is a typical funding amount within this account?

- In FY2023, Congress funded projects under this account ranging from \$206,000 to \$2,500,000. The average award was \$1,061,333.

To submit a CDS request in this account, please click [\[HERE\]](#).

Account #3: Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO)

What types of projects are eligible? This account can fund requests to provide technical and financial assistance to States, local governments and Tribal organizations to help plan and implement authorized watershed projects for the purpose of:

- Flood Prevention
- Watershed Protection
- Public Recreation
- Public Fish and Wildlife
- Agricultural Water Management
- Municipal and Industrial Water Supply
- Water Quality Management

What additional requirements does this account have?

- CDS recipients for WFPO must have a local sponsor. Eligible local sponsors include any State, political subdivision, soil or water conservation district, flood prevention or control district, or combinations thereof; any irrigation or reservoir company or water users' association; any Indian tribe or tribal organization.
- WFPO projects must contain benefits directly related to agriculture, including rural communities, that account for at least 20 percent of the total benefits of the project.
- Projects are required to complete a four-step process including: (1) preliminary feasibility study (PIFR); (2) watershed plan development; (3) implementation of watershed plan; and (4) commencement of construction for authorized watershed conservation.
- There are additional financial and programmatic requirements within the WFPO account. In order to submit a request, you must have contacted a [Michigan NRCS field office](#) and the office must have confirmed that your

project proposal meets all program requirements, including financial requirements.

What are past examples of projects funded within this account?

- \$55,000 for a County for a County Flood Plain Reconnection and Enhancement Feasibility Project
- \$55,000 for a municipality for a Stormwater Management Feasibility Study.

What is a typical funding amount within this account?

- In FY2023, Congress funded projects under this account ranging from \$55,000 to \$5,000,000. The average award was \$1,083,737.

To submit a CDS request in this account, please click [\[HERE\]](#).

Account #4: Rural Development, Community Facilities Grants

What types of projects are eligible? This account funds projects 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.

Note that funds cannot be used for the following activities:

- To reimburse funds for projects already constructed/acquired or projects that will be completed by the passage of the bill;
- To pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring costs, including purchases or rentals that are generally considered to be operating and maintenance expenses;
- To fund facilities to be used primarily for recreation purposes; or
- To fund facilities to be used primarily for business entrepreneur purposes.

What additional requirements does this account have?

- The Community Facilities (CF) Grant program has a match requirement on a sliding scale based on community population size and median income. CF Grants can cover up to 75 percent of the total project costs. Rural Development (RD) verifies an applicant's population size from the most recent census. Unlike population size, which can be determined from public sources, RD contracts with the US Census Bureau to determine a precise median income based on the potential rural Americans that would benefit from a project.

- Towns with populations over 20,000 are not eligible for this program. Specific match requirements are as follows:
 - 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: CDS request can fund up to 75 percent of the proposed project.
 - 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: CDS request can fund up to 55 percent of the proposed project.
 - 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: CDS request can fund up to 35 percent of the proposed project.
 - 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: CDS request can fund up to 15 percent of the proposed project.
- In general, matching funds must come from a non-Federal source.
- In order to determine whether a project is eligible, you must reach out to the [Michigan Rural Development office](#) prior to completing your application form; the office must confirm project eligibility.
- In order to apply for a project under this account, you must provide (1) the intended use of funds and how the completed construction/acquisition will be used; (2) both the requested CDS dollar amount and the total cost of the project; and (3) a list of the towns, cities, counties, etc. that will benefit from the services provided.
- Applicants within this account must also meet environmental review requirements (i.e., [NEPA](#)).

What are past examples of projects funded within this account?

- \$121,000 for a municipality for the construction of a sand/salt mix storage shed.
- \$3,451,000 for a municipality for Municipal Auditorium Upgrades.

What is a typical funding amount within this account?

- In FY2023, Congress funded projects under this account ranging from \$17,000 to \$9,997,000. The average award was \$1,350,582.

To submit a CDS request in this account, please click [\[HERE\]](#).

Account #5: Rural Development, Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program (DLT) Grants

What types of projects are eligible? This account funds projects to help 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. Broadband deployment is not an eligible use of funds for this account.

What additional requirements does this account have?

- This account includes a 15 percent funding match that cannot come from another federal source.
- In order to apply for a project under this account, you must contact the [Michigan Rural Development State Office](#) to confirm your proposal meets eligibility requirements. A full list of eligible entities, uses, and limitations can be found at [7 CFR Part 1734 Subpart A and B](#).

What are past examples of projects funded within this account?

- \$163,000 for the Carle Eureka Hospital for a rural telemedicine expansion.
- \$400,000 for the Acadiana Planning Commission for expanding telehealth services.

What is a typical funding amount within this account?

- In FY2023, Congress funded projects under this account ranging from \$163,000 to \$1,000,000. The average award was \$623,875.

To submit a CDS request in this account, please click [\[HERE\]](#).