**Thriving Communities Grants Program FAQ’S**

* **When is the application due?**
The application period opened May 1st with applications due Friday, June 16th by 5pm.
* **If our application was emailed to you before May 15th, do we still create an Ecivis account?**
Yes. In order for RurAL CAP to track your grant payments and reporting, an Ecivis account will be required once it is available. RurAL CAP will reach out to those applicants with instructions on how to complete this task.
* **Who can apply for a grant?**
You must be a Federally Recognized Tribe, a nonprofit with a current 501(c)3 status, or a school. Proof of status is required.
* **To receive funds, does an organization need to have a registered UEI number?**
Organizations are required to have an EIN number or a Federally Recognized Tribe. All documentation showing tax-exempt and/or charity status will be required with the application.
* **How much money can I ask for?**
Awards can range from $5,000 up to $250,000.
* **Can these grant funds be used as matching funds?**
These grants may NOT be used as matching funds for other federal grants. However, they may be used as matching funds for non-federal grants.
* **Can funds be given upfront, or only reimbursed?**
Awards can be made in a lump sum or based on reimbursement. This will be at the request of the awarded organization and the discretion of the selection committee.
* **Can I ask for money for myself?**
We cannot provide grants to an individual.
* **Can I purchase land or renovate a building?**
No. Land or other real estate, including buildings, are not an allowable expense. Renovation or construction of a new building, homes or office space, is not an allowable expense.
* **What is not allowable regarding construction and renovation?**
Construction includes elements like paving a parking lot, constructing anything using building materials such as a greenhouse, and any demolition. Construction (homes, program or organization buildings), minor or major renovations are not allowable costs under this grant.
* **We can’t buy land but Is land surveying an allowable expense?**
Yes.
* **Are personnel costs allowed?**
Yes! This grant allows you to include personnel and indirect costs. Please include your most current federally approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. If your organization does not have an agreement, you can use the deminimus indirect rate of 10%.
* **Can the grant be used to pay people for doing work?**
Contract costs are an allowable cost. Personnel and payroll costs are also allowable.
* **Can food be purchased for events?**
The funds cannot be used to purchase food.
* **Can funds be used to pay for shipping for food purchased with other funds?**
Yes.
* **Can funds be used to reimburse expenses incurred before the grant is awarded?**

Reimbursement may be approved for expenses beginning in May 2023.

* **Can the grant be applied to support multiple projects? Are multiple projects/proposals from the same non-profit acceptable?**
Yes! One organization may apply for multiple projects that are in alignment with the purpose of this grant. Please note that some projects may not be fully funded.
* **Who will be selecting the organizations for funding?**
RurAL CAP will be inviting other funders, nonprofit leaders and stakeholders across the State to join a geographically diverse selection committee. Applications will be reviewed prior to a hybrid meeting to make final recommendations for funding.
* **What is the total amount of funding available through this grant?** Individual grants will range from $5,000 - $250,000. The total amount of funding to be sub-awarded is about 5 million dollars.
* **Does RurAL CAP have a target number of awards the organization would like to make?** No, we do not.
* **How many proposals can one organization submit?** There is no limit.
* **What is the desired length of the project narrative?** Please keep the project narrative to 500 words/1 page or less.
* **Are vehicles an allowable expense?** Yes. However, road-worthy vehicles will have to go through an additional approval process involving the State. (Note: road-worth vehicles do not include snow machines, 4x4s, etc.)
* **Can letters of support be uploaded to the Ecivis portal?** Yes.
* **Is there a match required?** No.
* **Are there any limits on the purchase of equipment? What about the purchase of new appliances such as commercial freezers without being a kitchen renovation project?** There are no limits on equipment purchases. However, purchase of road-worthy vehicles will be subject to additional review.
* **Can the fund be used for planning vs. implementation of a social service project?** Funding can be used for both planning and/or implementation.
* **I am a grant writer and I have a few clients who are interested in this grant. Do I need to start a new application in Ecivis for each client?** Yes, each applicant needs to have a separate account. Ecivis will be used to manage grants, so each applicant must have access to this portal.
* **Can someone email a PDF application instead of applying through the Ecivis portal?** Every applicant must have an Ecivis account. If you are unable to apply through the Ecivis portal, please contact our team at grants@ruralcap.org so we can help resolve the issue.
* **Can the grant category have multiple boxes selected?** Yes, you may select multiple grant categories.