

HANDOUT 1



ARKANSAS

Economic Development Commission

RURAL SERVICES

900 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 400
Little Rock, AR 72201
501.682.6011 | 1.888.RURALAR
Email: RuralServices@ArkansasEDC.com
Website: www.RuralServices.Arkansas.gov

Rural Community Grant Program

Applicants from incorporated towns of less than 3,000 in population and unincorporated rural areas are eligible for up to \$15,000 in matching funds under this program. The match ratio on the program is 50/50. Communities wishing to apply for projects under the program must provide one half of the cost of the project as match. Match may be comprised of in-kind labor, in-kind materials or cash and must be available at the time of application. Applications for this program are accepted August through March of each year. Communities in the past for rural community grant program have received funding for baseball/softball fields, community centers, walking tracks, park and playground equipment, pavilions, picnic tables, storm sirens and library shelving. Communities in the past for rural fire protection grant program have received funding for new fire stations, additional bays for existing stations, turn-out gear, communications equipment, fire trucks, SCBA's, extrication equipment and brush trucks.

Deadlines for FY 2016 is December 4, 2015 and March 11, 2016

Rural Services Block Grant Program

The RSBGP funds new construction or renovation of community centers, fire stations, or multi-purpose buildings, and the purchase of fire trucks (pumper, tanker, brush or certain service trucks). This grant is made possible through a partnership with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Grants Division. Applicants are eligible for up to \$75,000. The match for this grant is 10% and may be comprised of in-kind labor, in-kind materials or cash. Grants are available to incorporated towns and rural communities with a population of less than 3,000. Additionally, the community population must be at least 51% Low to Moderate income.

The deadline for FY 2016 is December 4, 2015

General Improvement Fund Fire Protection: GIF 2

Eligible applicants are from cities and communities of 20,000 or less. County projects do not have a populations limit; however, they must serve a rural area. Applicants are eligible to apply for up to \$50,000. Communities in the past have received funding for new fire stations, additional bays for existing stations, turn-out gear, communications equipment, fire trucks, SCBA's, extrication equipment and brush trucks.

GIF Senate Fire Protection deadline is September 30, 2015

GIF House Fire Protection deadline is December 18, 2015

Limitations

Projects NOT eligible for funding consideration under the **Rural Community Development Grant Program, Rural Fire Protection Grant Program, and Rural Block Grant Program** include, but are not limited to:

- municipal buildings (courthouses, city halls, police stations, sheriffs offices, and city or county jails);
- cemetery and other facility fencing and maintenance;
- chatting and paving of driveways and parking lots;
- fairground and rodeo construction owned by incorporated associations (see DRS County Fair Building Grant Program for fairground projects only)
- costs associated with salaries, other normal day-to-day operations, or maintenance;
- debt financing of any type (new or existing). Debt financing is defined for the purpose of this program as reimbursement of new or existing loans, loan payments, or reimbursement for equipment, facilities, labor, or property **already** purchased or constructed;
- training, travel, or other personnel related expenses;
- contingency fees.
- County health units
- Schools
- Transfer stations
- Water/sewage projects
- Elections, and
- Private, non-profit associations

GIF limitations include but not limited to:

- Elections, water/sewage projects, schools, hospitals, salaries, debt financing, administrative fees, reimbursements, contingency fees

Please contact our office for any questions regarding limitations for all grant programs.

At-A-Glance
Rural Services Grant Programs

Program	Funds Available	How Often	Amount	Match	Deadline(s)
Rural Community Grant Program (RCGP) • <i>Community Development</i> • <i>Fire Protection</i>	\$500,000 yearly	3 Cycles	\$15,000	50/50	August 14, 2015 December 4, 2015 March 11, 2016
Rural Services Block Grant Program (RSBGP)	\$700,000 yearly	1 Cycle	\$75,000	90/10	December 4, 2015
County Fair Building Grant	varies	2 Cycles	\$4,000	50/50	August 14, 2015 March 11, 2016
Fish & Wildlife Grant Program	\$600,000	1 Cycle	Varies	0	November 30, 2015
Arkansas Unpaved Roads Program	\$250,000	1 Cycle	TBD	50/50	TBD
General Improvement Fund-1: Community Enhancement (GIF-1)*	See below*	2 Cycles	\$150,000	0	September 30, 2015
General Improvement Fund-2: Fire Protection (GIF-2)*	See below*	2 Cycles	\$50,000	0	September 30, 2015
General Improvement Fund-3: County Fair (GIF-3)*	See below*	2 Cycles	\$15,000	0	September 30, 2015

*GIF Funding dependent on surplus funds from the legislature.

Upcoming Application Deadlines

September 30, 2015

FY16, Cycle I GIF Deadline
GIF- Community Enhancement
GIF- Fire Protection
GIF- County Fair

December 4, 2015

FY16, Cycle II Deadline
Rural Community/Fire Grant Program
Rural Services Block Grant Program

December 4, 2015

FY16, Cycle I House Fire Protection
GIF- Fire Protection

March 11, 2016

FY16, Cycle III Deadline
Rural Community/Fire Grant Program
County Fair Building Grant Program