

Resources for Rural Communities and Community Water Systems



Updated April 2026

Statewide Planning

Community Development Block Grants



Arizona
Department
of Housing



ADOH Community Development Block Grants

ADOH receives funding annually from US Dept. Housing and Urban Development to fund programs and projects in the 13 rural counties

These funds may be used to address a variety of community needs, including the renovation or construction of water and wastewater facilities and flood control projects

These funds are available via three different accounts: **Regional Account**, **State Special Projects Account (SSPA)**, and **Colonia Set Aside Account**

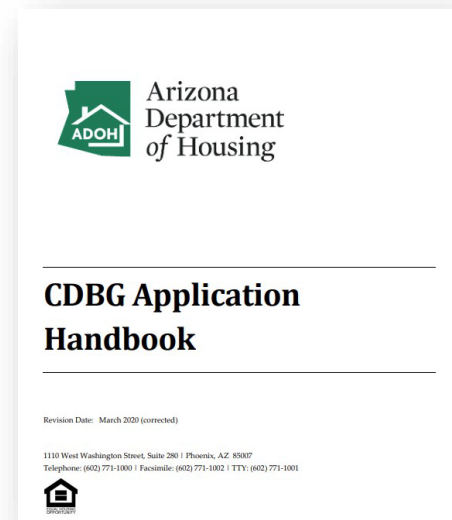


ADOH Community Development Block Grants

Details regarding funding and application processes can be found on the [ADOH website](#)

The [CDBG Application Handbook](#) provides details regarding:

- Eligible applicants and projects
- Application process and review
- Disbursement of funds
- Additional requirements



U.S. HUD Community Development Block Grants

HUD awards grants to carry out community development activities. These grants can be used for a variety of projects including the construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities

Eligible communities include principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs); metropolitan cities with populations of at least 50,000; or qualified urban counties with populations of at least 200,000

For more information, please visit [HUD Exchange](#)



Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)



RCAC
www.rcac.org



Environmental Infrastructure Loan Program

The Environmental Infrastructure Loan Program helps create, improve, or expand the supply of safe drinking water, waste disposal systems, or other facilities

Funding can be used for feasibility studies, pre-development, or construction

Nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and tribal governments are eligible to apply for either a short-term, intermediate term, or long-term loan depending on the needs of community and the project



Environmental Infrastructure Loan Program

Contacts:

Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Tel: (916) 447-2854

Fax: (916) 447-2878

For additional information, please visit the [RCAC website](#)



Individual Drinking Water Well Assessment

RCAC offers **free** assessments of individual wells within a 100-mile radius of both Phoenix and Tucson

Inspections cover potential contamination sites, well construction issues, water quality screening, and provide a report of recommendations

[You can register online at the RCAC website or by completing a form.](#)

Contact RCAC's main office at (916) 447-2854



Image from: RCAC



Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA)



**WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE**
FINANCE AUTHORITY
OF ARIZONA



State Revolving Fund (SRF)

WIFA offers three different SRF programs to support Arizona community water infrastructure projects:

- [Clean Water SRF](#)
- [Drinking Water SRF](#)
- [Water Development SRF](#)

Assistance is available through either financial assistance (loans) or technical assistance

For details on eligibility, loan terms, and projects, visit the [WIFA website](#) or call their main line at (602) 364-1310



U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Development (USDA – RD)



Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

This program helps eligible communities prepare, or recover, from an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Events that qualify include drought or flood, chemical spill or leakage, disease outbreak, and more.

Eligible applicants include state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and federally-recognized Tribes within areas rural areas with less than 10,000 people, Colonia, or rural Tribal lands. Area must also have a median income less than the state's median income.

Funds: up to \$150,000 to construct waterline extensions, repair break, and address maintenance; up to \$1,000,000 to construct or develop a new water source or treatment facility.



Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

[For more information, please visit the USDA Rural Development website, or contact:](#)

Lori Urban

State Director

(602) 280-8701

SM.RD.AZ.CFP@usda.gov



Individual Water/Wastewater Grants

This program provides funds to households in a Colonia to connect service lines to a residence, pay utility hook-up fees, install plumbing and related fixtures

Maximum grant to any individual for WATER service lines, connections, and/or construction of a bathroom is \$3,500.

Maximum grant to any individual for SEWER service lines, connections, and/or construction of a bathroom is \$4,000.

Lifetime assistance to any individual for initial or subsequent grants may not exceed a cumulative total of \$5,000.



Individual Water/Wastewater Grants

For Questions:

Arizona State Office – Single Family Housing Section

(602) 280-8765

az-rd-sfh-stateoffice@usda.gov

More information can be found on the [USDA website](#)



Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities & Households

This program helps small, financially distressed communities with predevelopment feasibility studies, design and technical assistance on proposed water and waste disposal projects. State and local governmental entities, nonprofits, and federally recognized tribes may apply.

Eligible areas include rural areas with populations of 2,500 or less, areas with median household income below the poverty line or less than 80 percent of the statewide non-metropolitan median household income based on latest Census data



Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities & Households

Applications are accepted year-round through RD office:
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/az>

Contact:

Lori Urban

State Director

(602) 280-8701

Lori.Urban@usda.gov



Water & Waste Disposal Direct Loan & Grant Programs

This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. State and local governments, private nonprofits, and federally-recognized tribes.

Eligible areas include rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less, tribal lands in rural areas, or Colonias

Funding is available as long-term, low-interest loans or a grant may be combined with a loan if necessary to keep user costs reasonable



Water & Waste Disposal Direct Loan & Grant Programs

Contact:

Michael Dean, Community Programs
Director Arizona State Office | Rural
Development Phone: (602) 280-8745
Email: sm.rd.az.cfp@usda.gov

For more information, visit the [USDA website](#)



Bureau of Reclamation



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION



Water Conservation Field Services Program

The Water Conservation Field Services Program was established to encourage water conservation in the operations of recipients of water from Federal water projects and to assist agricultural and urban water districts in preparing and implementing water conservation plans

Funding can be used to develop conservation plans, identify water management improvements through System Optimization Reviews, design water management improvements, and to improve application of water conservation technologies through demonstration activities.

For more information, please contact:

Joy Orsini,

jorsini@usbr.gov

(928) 509-1460



Rural Water Infrastructure Committee



RWIC Overview

RWIC is a partnership of various federal and state agencies who provide loans, grants, and technical assistance to Arizona's rural communities

RWIC's Mission:

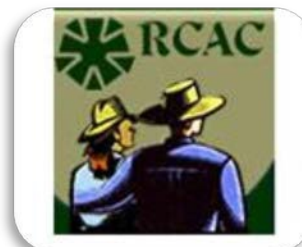
1. To serve as a “one-stop shop” for rural communities with a population of less than 10,000
2. To meet the needs of small drinking water and wastewater systems throughout Arizona

RWIC also provides a [comprehensive resource matrix online](#)

To contact RWIC, fill out a [Project Form](#) or [visit their website](#)



RWIC Partners



AZ Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (AZ WARN)



Arizona's Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network



AzWARN

The mission of AzWARN to support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual aid assistance for water and wastewater utilities during natural and human caused emergencies.”

AzWarn is available to any public water and wastewater utility in Arizona. For instructions on how to join, [visit the AzWarn website](#). A complete list of member utilities can also be [viewed online](#)

For more information, contact:

Steve Shepard, AzWARN Chair
6265 N. La Cañada Drive
Tucson, Arizona 85704
Phone: (520) 209-2838





Questions?

Statewide Planning

Community Water
Systems Coordinator

ecws@azwater.gov

(602) – 771 – 8610