

**Guidance for FY27 is currently not available, but you can find the guidance from FY26 below. Please note that this is subject to change.**

The Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration accepted FY26 CDS requests for the following accounts. Please be sure to read all the program requirements and guidance below very carefully before selecting an account.

**Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities**

- Requests for ARS B&F may only include funding for existing facilities or facilities where funding has been provided in the past.

**APHIS Salaries and Expenses**

- Must meet environmental review requirements (i.e. NEPA and ESA).
- While the entire S&E account is open for CDS requests, below are the line items within the account that are most compatible with CDS:
  - Field Crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests
  - Pest Detection
  - Plant Protection Methods Development
  - Specialty Crop Pests
  - Tree & Wood Pests
  - Wildlife Damage Management
  - Wildlife Services Methods Development
  - Veterinary Diagnostics
  - Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health
- A few APHIS programs have matching requirements:
  - Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket (Field Crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests)
  - Brucellosis (Cattle Health) – this program has a 40 percent match by the States.
  - Wildlife Services – reimbursable service agreements are generally 50/50 cost-share and the States would reimburse for their portion.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service, Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO)**

- 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.

- Any individual project may not exceed a watershed or sub-watershed size of 250,000 acres. At least 20 percent of the project's benefits must be directly related to agriculture.
- Projects are required to complete a four-step process including:
  - Preliminary feasibility study (PIFR)
  - Watershed Plan development
  - Implementation of Watershed Plan
  - Commencement of construction for authorized watershed conservation
- If a project is a "new start," it is eligible only for PEFR funding at a level of \$55,000.

### **Rural Development, Community Facilities Grants**

- Towns with populations greater than 20,000 are not eligible for this program.
- The Community Facilities (CF) Grant program has a match requirement on a sliding scale based on community population size. CF Grants can cover **up to** 75 percent of the total project costs.
- Rural Development (RD) will verify an applicant's population size from the 2020 census. In order to determine whether a project is eligible, you can reach out to the NJ State RD office: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices>
- This program will fund up to 75 percent of total project costs, with match requirements based on population as follows:
  - Maximum of 75 percent when the proposed project is located in a rural community with a population of 5,000 or fewer
  - Maximum of 55 percent when the proposed project is located in a rural community with a population of 12,000 or fewer
  - Maximum of 35 percent when the proposed project is located
- In general, CF matching funds must come from a non-Federal source. However, there are two exceptions: (1) sometimes a Federal source will state that it can be used as a match for Federal grants and (2) when a Federal source loses its Federal identity --- such as CDBG funds that are distributed through a Governor's office (not the CDBG entitlement funding) --- a CF project having these funds as part of the capital stack can be a part of the applicant required match.
- Funds may not 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 final bill.
  - To pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring costs, including purchases or rentals that are generally considered to be operating and maintenance expenses (unless a CF loan is part of the funding package).
  - To fund facilities to be used primarily for recreation purposes.
  - To fund facilities to be used primarily for business entrepreneur purposes.
- This program is subject to the Build America Buy America Act requirements which will apply to the total project cost, not just the federal cost-share portion.

- Applicants must meet environmental review requirements (i.e., NEPA).
- The average CF CDS project size funded in FY23 was \$1,000,000.

### **Rural Development, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants**

- There is a flat 15 percent match (matching funds cannot come from another Federal source).
- Full list of eligible entities, uses, and limitations can be found here: 7 CFR Part 1734 Subpart A and B: [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-XVII/part-1734#\\_top](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-XVII/part-1734#_top)
- Broadband deployment is **not** an eligible use of funds for DLT.
- The maximum grant size is \$1,000,000.