

USDA Rural Development will begin accepting applications Oct. 1 for funds available to help private non-profit organizations and public bodies, including local governmental-based jurisdictional organizations, assist rural Nebraska in areas of water, wastewater, and solid waste.

The application deadline is Dec. 31. Two types of funding available are technical assistance and training grants and solid waste management grants.

Technical assistance and training grants are available to private non-profit organizations that have the proven ability, background, experience, legal authority, and actual capacity to provide technical assistance and/or training on a regional basis to entities.

Technical assistance and training grants are used to:

- Identify and evaluate solutions to water problems of entities in rural areas relating to source, storage, treatment and distribution;
- Identify and evaluate solutions to waste problems of entities in rural areas relating to collection, treatment and disposal;
- Assist entities with Rural Development water and/or wastewater loan and/or grant applications;
- Provide training to entity personnel that will improve the management, operation and maintenance of water and waste disposal facilities; and
- Pay expenses associated with providing technical assistance and/or training.

Solid waste management grants are available to private non-profit organizations and public bodies, including local governmental-based jurisdictional organizations.

Applicants must have the proven ability, background, experience, legal authority, and actual capacity to provide technical assistance and/or training on a regional basis to associations.

The objectives of solid waste management grants are to reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources and to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites in rural areas.

Solid waste management grants are used to:

- Evaluate current landfill conditions to reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources in rural areas.

- Provide technical assistance and/or training to:
 1. Enhance operator skills in the operation and maintenance of active landfills;

 2. Help communities reduce the solid waste stream;

 3. Assist operators of landfills which are closed or will be closed in the near future with the development and implementation of closure plans, future land use plans, safety and maintenance planning, and closure scheduling within permit requirements.

Visit: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/SWVG.htm> for Solid Waste Management Grants and <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/tatg.htm> for Technical Assistance and Training Grants.

Contact Troy Gagner at USDA Rural Development, (402) 437-5556 for obtaining an application and for program information.