



From Assessment to Funding

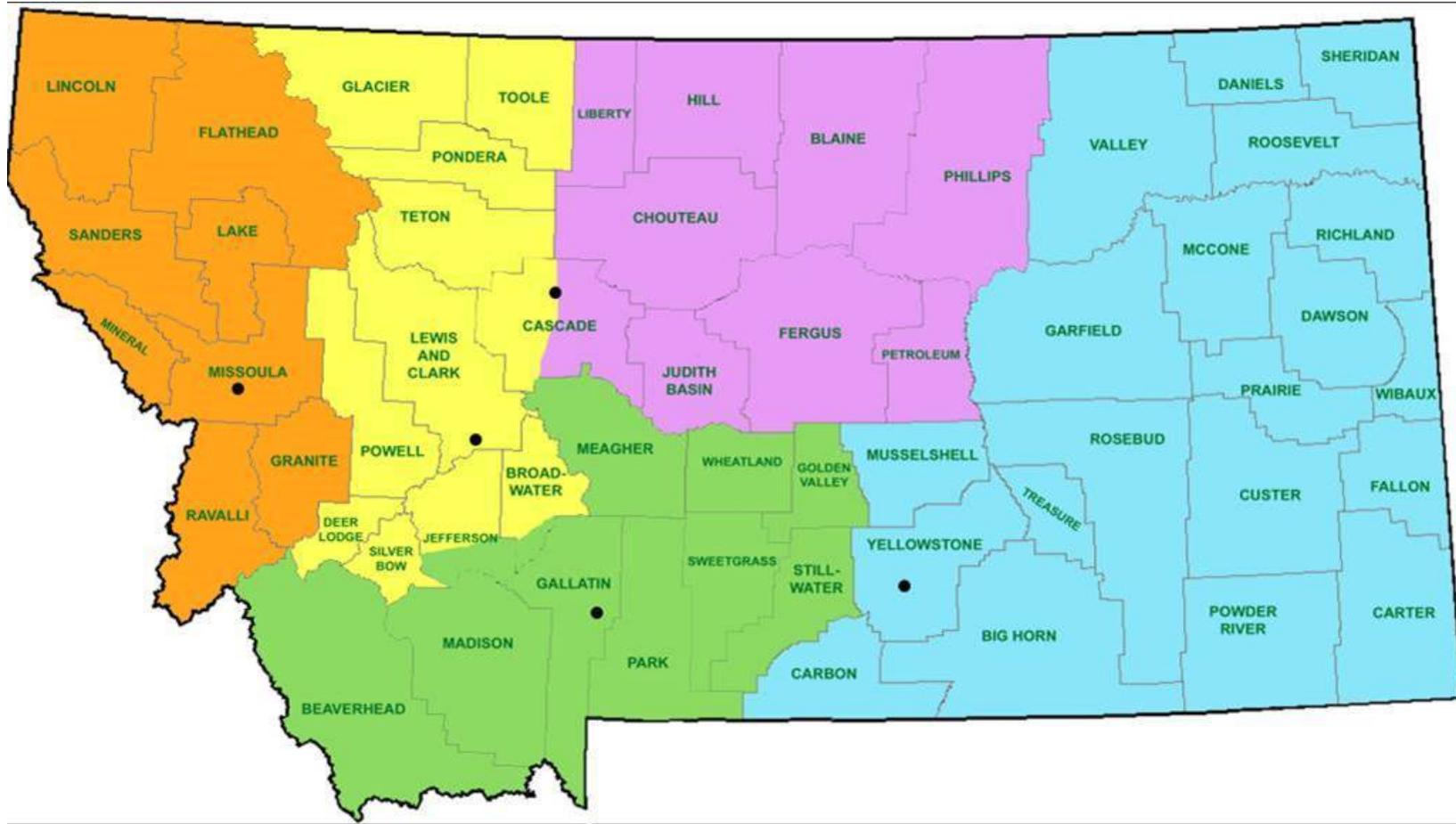
USDA Rural Development

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USDA State-Level Contacts



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From Assessment to Funding

- Identify top areas for improvement
- Evaluate most critical area, especially one that needs financial assistance
- Assess if top project is “loan worthy”
- Evaluate eligibility (with dedicated Technical Assistance)
- Complete application

USDA Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program

Provides funding for:

- Clean and reliable drinking water systems
- Sanitary sewage disposal
- Sanitary solid waste disposal
- Storm water drainage



Who May Apply?

- State and local government entities
- Not for profit organizations (private or public)
- Federally recognized tribes



What is an eligible area?

- Incorporated communities with populations of LESS THAN 10,000
- Unincorporated areas – not just rural (no population threshold)
- Tribal lands in rural areas
- Colonies
- TARGETING population of 2,500 AND SMALLER



What kinds of funding are available?

- Long-term, low-interest loans
- Grants may be combined with loans (if funding is available) to help keep water/sewer rates at a reasonable level
- **Current Interest Rates through 6/30/20**
 - Poverty: 1.125%**
 - Intermediate: 1.500%**
 - Market: 1.875%**



How may the funds be used?

- Drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage, and distribution
- Sewer collection, conveyance, treatment, and disposal
- Priority is given to projects that address public health and compliance issues



How may the funds be used?

- Legal and engineering fees
- Land acquisition, water rights, permits, and equipment
- Start-up operations and maintenance
- Interest during construction
- Purchase of facilities to improve service or prevent loss of service
- Other costs to complete the project



Additional Information and Requirements

- Loan term and rate: Up to 40-year payback period OR useful life of the facilities financed with a fixed interest rate.
- Interest rate based on median household income for projected service area.
- Borrowers must both own and have legal authority to construct, operate, and maintain proposed services or facilities.
- All facilities must be used for a public purpose.
- Partnerships are encouraged.
- Projects must be financially sustainable.



Demonstration of Successful Application

Four Corners Water and Wastewater District

Applicant	\$ 81,000
SRF Loan	\$ 9,300,000
Coal Tax Fund Loan	\$ 3,060,000
RD Loan	\$ 3,940,000
RD Loan	<u>\$ 6,700,000</u>
TOTAL	\$23,081,000

RD funded awarded project in 28 calendar days because of the coordination and open communication from SRF.

Obligated 9/25/2015 closed on 12/23/2015.

Demonstration of Successful Application

City of Choteau WWTP

Applicant	\$ 148,000
Treasure State Endowment Program	\$ 750,000
Renewable Resource Grant	\$ 100,000
SRF Loan	\$ 2,974,000
SRF Loan Forgiveness	\$ 646,000
RD Loan	\$ 3,860,000
RD Grant	<u>\$ 1,625,000</u>
TOTAL	\$10,057,000

Demonstration of Successful Application

City of Cut Bank

Applicant	\$ 925,000
Tsep	\$ 625,000
RRGL	\$ 125,000
SRF	\$ 3,000,000
SRF Loan Forgiveness	\$ 400,000
RD Loan (CO_BANK Interim LOAN)	\$ 9,998,000
RD Grant	<u>\$ 1,472,000</u>
TOTAL	\$16,545,000

Exercise – Practice Loan Applications

- **WASACT Uniform Application**

- <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/wasact>

- <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/docs/resource-development/w2asact-docs/2017uniform.applicationFORM.pdf>

First: Get Registered on eAuth

- USDA eAuthentication system enables customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet.
- USDA will only accept eAuthentication Accounts from individuals.
- Currently USDA eAuthentication does not have the mechanism to issue accounts to businesses, corporations or other entities.
- To apply for a USDA eAuthentication Account, please visit the Create an Account Page and contact your local USDA Rural Development office.

<https://www.eauth.usda.gov/mainPages/index.aspx>



Then: Apply with RD Apply

- RD Apply <https://rdapply.usda.gov>
- Convenience – RD Apply is available 24/7 through any internet-ready device.
- Control – Organizations control who can view and modify applications.
- Security – All information is safe and secure.
- Faster processing – The system reduces questions, ensures a complete application and better positions your organization for funding.



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