Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge (RPIC)

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

July 15, 2022

Agency: US Department of Agriculture	**Bureau:** Rural Utilities Service
Application Deadline: August 15, 2022	**Max Award:** $250,000

Description

The Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge (RPIC) provides planning support, technical assistance, and training to communities to foster placemaking activities in rural communities. Placemaking is a collaborative engagement process that helps leaders from rural communities create quality places where people will want to live, work, play and learn. Funds can help enhance capacity for broadband access, preserve cultural and historic structures, and support the development of transportation, housing, and recreational spaces.

Eligible Recipients

1. Federally recognized Tribes and Tribal Entities
2. Institutions of higher education
3. Nonprofit organizations
4. Public bodies (including local, county, and state governments)
5. Small private entities that meet the size standards established by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

Applicants must demonstrate their organization's capacity to deliver and support rural placemaking planning activities within at least one of four regions (Northeast, South, Midwest, or West), and show that they have previous experience with federal or state grant administration.

Matching Grant Requirements

15% matching grant required

Eligible Projects

Grant recipients can use funds to provide technical assistance and training to help rural communities identify and gather partners, establish community needs, and develop placemaking plans. USDA particularly encourages applications that support planning projects to improve capacity for broadband infrastructure, deployment and access.

Recipients must develop a placemaking plan that includes implementation stages. The plan can focus on the technical assistance the organization intends to provide, or applicants can instead strengthen an already-existing placemaking plan.

The proposal must identify in detail the region or regions the applicant intends to serve (Northeast, South, Midwest, or West), and it must also describe any multisectorial or multijurisdictional plan elements.

Planning must directly benefit cities or towns with populations of 50,000 or fewer.

New or Existing Program	Existing program

Tips for Being Competitive	USDA encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities: • Assisting rural communities recover economically from the impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic, particularly disadvantaged communities • Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to Rural Development (RD) programs and benefits from RD funded projects • Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.

Labor Requirements	Not stated

Examples of Prior Award Recipients	In 2020, McClure Engineering Company was awarded a $215,000 grant to develop a plan to support housing, workforce and broadband development in the city of Sheffield, Iowa, and the cities of Atchison and Iola in Kansas. McClure is providing support through partnerships with the capacity-building organizations Sheffield Betterment Foundation and Thrive Allen County.

Agency Contact	Gregory Dale (202) 568–9558 or Sherri McCarter (615) 982–2078 Email: RD.RPIC@usda.gov

Upcoming Webinars and Information Sessions	USDA hosted an "Applicant Information Session" on July 13, 2022. A recording and copy of the presentation slides will be available at the [USDA Program Page](#). Additionally, the USDA will be hosting office hours on July 20, July 21, and August 3. Registration links can be found at the [USDA Program Page](#).

Types of Partners Required	Applicants must demonstrate existing and proposed partnerships with public, private, philanthropic, Tribal and community partners to provide assistance in implementing the placemaking plan

Total Allocation	$4 million

Anticipated Award Date   Not stated

Links to Grant Opportunity

- [Grant Opportunity on Grants.gov](#)
- [USDA RPIC Program Page](#)