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Intermediate Rate - Available to applicants whose MHI is not more than the non-metropolitan MHI * (\$28,470) of Florida and who otherwise do not qualify for the poverty rate.

Poverty Rate - Available to applicants whose MHI is below the latest established nationwide poverty level (MHI*) of Florida (80% of \$28,470 = \$22,776) and there are existing health/sanitation conditions that would be alleviated with the proposed project so as to comply with regulatory agencies' established standards.

Guaranteed Loans - As negotiated by private lender and applicant and determined by RUS to be reasonable. May be fixed or variable rate.

Rates - are subject to change quarterly. The intermediate rate is set halfway between the poverty and market rates. Rates are fixed and the maximum rate is established at the time the loan is approved. If rates drop by the time the loan is closed, the applicant is afforded the opportunity to receive the lower rate.

Repayment Terms - Up to 40 years for both direct and guaranteed loans based on the applicant's authority and the useful life expectancy of the system.

Public Bodies - Revenue Bonds, General Obligation Bonds, Special MHI is below the Assessment Bonds, Non-Profit Corporations - Promissory Notes, Real Estate Mortgages, Financing Statements, and Security Agreements. Obligations that secure a guaranteed loan must be taxable.

Maximum Amounts - Direct loans may be obtained for 100 percent of eligible project costs subject to adequate security, ability to repay, applicant's authority to borrow and availability of funds.

Guaranteed Loans - Same as for direct loans as determined by the private lender and approved by RUS. However, the Rural Development guarantee cannot exceed 90% of the loan, with the norm being 80%.

Grants - Grants are used to supplement direct loans for the purpose of reducing user charge for the facility to a reasonable level when compared to comparable systems and similar size communities with similar economic and income conditions.

Maximum Grants - Up to 75% of eligible project costs for applicants whose MHI* is below the latest established nationwide poverty level (\$16,050) or below 80% of the non-metropolitan MHI* of Florida (80% of \$28,470 = \$22,776) and the project is needed to correct health and sanitation problems.

Eligibility of an applicant can be determined by filing an application package with the appropriate USDA, Rural Development Area Office.

Applications should be made at the Rural Development Area Office. The Area Office staff will be glad to discuss services available from the RUS and explain how to prepare a written application. Florida has Area Offices in:

Crestview	850-682-2416
Gainesville (State Office)	352-338-3400
Marianna	850-526-2610
Ocala	352-732-7534
Tavares	352-742-7005
West Palm Beach	561-683-2285
http://www.usda.gov	

*The MHI numbers are subject to change with new Census

State Level Quick Contacts...

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD)

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DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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DEPT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Millie Schroeder

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US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Willie Taylor

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**WATER
and
WASTEWATER**

Infrastructure Money for Projects in Florida



FLORIDA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

2970 Wellington Circle W Suite 101
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Florida Financing Programs

available for Water and Wastewater Projects

Department of Community Affairs

Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program About \$11 million is available annually for water & sewer projects which primarily benefit low and moderate income persons. Projects which will provide new water or sewer service receive more goal points than other types of projects, such as replacement of lines. However, there are other scoring considerations, such as whether non-CDBG funds will be used in the project.

About \$9 million in additional funds are also available annually for Economic Development water and wastewater projects required to serve a specific job-creating entity. At least 51% of the jobs created must be for low and moderate income persons and be the types of jobs such persons will qualify for.

Maximum grant is \$600,000 - \$750,000 depending on local government's low and moderate income population. For Economic Development projects, cost per job cannot exceed \$35,000.

For more information, please contact:

Millie Schroeder
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<http://www.dca.state.fl.us>

Department of Environmental Protection

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) provides low interest loans to eligible applicants for planning, designing, and constructing water pollution control activities and facilities. Eligible projects include wastewater management facilities, reclaimed wastewater reuse facilities, stormwater management facilities, widely accepted pollution control practices (sometimes called "best management practices") associated with agricultural stormwater runoff pollution control activities, brownfields associated with contamination of ground or surface waters and estuary protection activities and facilities. Local governments such as municipalities, counties, authorities, special districts, and agencies thereof, are eligible for loans to control wastewater and stormwater pollution. Non governmental parties (basically any entity that can repay a loan) are eligible for loans to control stormwater pollution related to agricultural operations.

Interest rates vary from 20% of the market rate for a financially disadvantaged community to 80% of the market rate for a more affluent community. Most communities qualify for rates below 60% of the market rate. Loans are repaid over twenty years or the useful life of the project whichever is less. The loan repayment period can be extended to a maximum of thirty years or useful life of the project for projects to benefit a small community with a financial hardship. Pre-construction loans and loans for the costs associated with pollution control associated with agricultural runoff have shorter loan repayment periods (generally ten years).

The process can be initiated upon request of a project sponsor at any time. However, the availability of funds is the greatest at the beginning of the State fiscal year. A hearing is held quarterly to allocate funds. Potential SRF program participants are encouraged to contact the Bureau of Water Facilities Funding for further information. For more information, please contact:

Bob Holmden
850-245-8358
Bob.Holmden@dep.state.fl.us
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wfff/cwsrf>

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program provides low-interest loans to Eligible Entities for planning, designing, and constructing public water facilities. Federal and State appropriations have funded the SRF. It is a "revolving" fund because loan repayments are used to make additional loans. By federal law, the SRF is to be operated in perpetuity. The Department solicits project information each year from January 1 to February 15. The information is used to establish the project priority list for the following annual cycle. Funds are made available for Construction Loans to rate-based public water systems of \$75,000 or more. Construction Grants are available to financially disadvantaged communities with public health risk projects. Pre-Construction Loans and Grants are available to small community water systems with public health risk problems. The Loan Terms include a 20-year (30-year for financially disadvantaged communities) amortization and low-interest rates. Small community assistance is available for communities having populations less than 10,000. Each year 15% of the funds are reserved exclusively for their use. In addition, small communities may qualify for loans from the unreserved 85% of the funds.

For more information, please contact:

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850-245-8358
Craig.Diltz@dep.state.fl.us
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wfff/dwsrf>

US Department of Commerce

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works and Development Facilities Program The Public Works Program empowers distressed communities in economic decline to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment.

In many cases, public works projects are used to upgrade or expand an area's economic infrastructure to support the next generation of industry or commerce. Whenever possible, this program seeks to redevelop existing facilities and industrial/commercial locations. EDA encourages such redevelopment projects because they promote sustainable economic development by taking advantage of readily available infrastructure and markets.

The Public Works and Economic Development Program supports locally-developed projects that long-term economic self-sufficiency and global competitiveness. Examples of past infrastructure investments include water and sewer facilities, industrial access roads, rail spurs, port improvements, skill-training facilities, technology-related infrastructure, as well as the demolition, renovation, and construction of publicly-owned facilities.

For more information, please contact:

Willie Taylor
404-730-3032
WTaylor5@eda.doc.gov
<http://www.doc.gov/eda>

Enterprise Florida Rural Infrastructure Fund

The Rural Infrastructure Fund is a resource available to rural communities in Florida to facilitate the creation, capital investment, and the strengthening and diversification of rural economies by promoting tourism, trade and economic development.

This program is intended to provide additional financial assistance that will enable rural communities to better access other infrastructure funding programs, including those offered by the US Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD) and the US Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration (EDA). Successful applicants will be those who achieve the maximum level of funds by ensuring that all possible sources of local, federal and other funding have been utilized and by ensuring that every possible effort has been made to minimize administrative expenses, including those relating to the use of consultants.

Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Program The Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Program provides financial assistance to local governments in the form of either a loan or loan guaranty. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance for a specific project that will lead to the creation of new jobs and increase the economic vitality and diversification of Florida's rural counties.

The maximum amount of financial assistance available for the program is \$560,000. There is no minimum amount. The program is not designed to be the sole source of financing for any project. Successful program applicants will be those which achieve the maximum level of leverage of these funds by ensuring that every effort is made to utilize local, federal and other state funding resources in addition to this program. No application or administrative fees will be charged for the use of this program.

For more information, please contact:

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Florida Rural Water Association

Florida Rural Water Association Loan Program The Florida Rural Water Association Loan Program was created to assist communities in obtaining competitive interim financing for construction projects.

In an effort to assist borrowers across the State with the overwhelming burden of financing capital construction projects. The Florida Rural Water Association in conjunction with Kirkpatrick Pettis has created an interim construction loan program to provide construction funding for communities which have received a permanent loan commitment from the United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD) or permanent loan commitment from DEP SRF and needs construction funding.

The program structure enables communities access to competitive fixed rate loan funds at a very low cost of borrowing. Loan proceeds are utilized for the construction period only and are paid off with USDA-RD/DEP-SRF funds when the project is complete or funded.

For more information, please contact:

Gary Williams
850-668-2746
Gary.Williams@frwa.net
<http://www.frwa.net>

USDA Rural Development (RD)

Rural Development is a mission area of the United States Department of Agriculture that provides Guaranteed and Direct Loans and Grants through the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) program for water, wastewater, and solid waste projects.

Rural communities and small incorporated towns/cities with populations of 10,000 or less based on the latest decennial Census of the United States are eligible to apply.

To qualify applicants must be unable to obtain the financing from other sources and/or their own resources at reasonable rates and terms.

Public bodies and nonprofit corporations can be eligible applicants.

Funds can be used for construction, land acquisition, legal fees, engineering fees, capitalized interest, equipment, initial operation and maintenance costs, project contingencies, and other cost that is determined by Rural Development to be necessary for the completion of the project. Projects must be primarily for the benefit of rural users.

Direct Loans -

Market Rate - Available to applicants whose Median Household Income (MHI*) for their service area is greater than the non-metropolitan MHI of Florida (\$28,470).

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