

Federal Funding Sources for Rural Communities

Source of Funds	Grant or Program Name	Description	For more information
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)	CSREES provides federal funding and national program leadership to the Cooperative Extension System (CES), a three-way partnership of federal, state, and county governments and resources. CES promotes information and resource sharing for youth programs in rural areas. 4-H programs and clubs are organized through CES offices that are affiliated with land-grant universities.	http://www.csrees.usda.gov/
	Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) & National School Lunch Program	CACFP and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) funds are available to reimburse schools and nonprofit organizations for nutritious snacks and meals served to children and youth in out-of-school time programs. The two programs differ slightly in age requirements and types of food offered.	http://www.frac.org/afterschool/index.html
	Rural Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Communities Program (EZ/EC)	EZ/EC offers targeted grants, loans, and tax incentives to a preselected group of rural and tribal communities. Designations occur every 10 years and do not require reapplication by the selected EZ/EC.	http://www.ezec.gov/
	Rural Business-Cooperative Service	Brings together private-sector and community-based organizations to provide financial and technical assistance to collaboratives in rural areas. Also houses the National Rural Development Partnership, which brings together partners at the national, state and local levels.	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nrdp
	Rural Housing Service	Like the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service provides grants and loans to rural communities for facilities and facility improvements, including nonprofit or family child care centers.	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/
U.S. Department of Education	21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (21 CCLC)	The only federal funding source dedicated to out-of-school time programs. Provides opportunities for academic enrichment, particularly for youth who attend low-performing schools. Competitive grants awarded by state education agencies.	http://www.ed.gov/programs/21stcclc/index.html
	Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs)	The largest federally funded K-12 education program. Funds go to LEAs to improve the academic performance of students who are failing or most at risk of failing. Receiving formula funds from states, LEAs allocate the funds to qualifying schools with the highest percentages of low-income children.	http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html
	Title I Supplemental Education Services (SES)	Provides funding for academic supports for eligible children in failing schools. Grants given on a per-child basis; services must be provided outside of school hours.	http://www.ed.gov/admins/comm/suppsvcs/edpic_ks.jhtml?src=az
	Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program	Supports initiatives that prevent violence in and around schools; prevent young people's illegal use of drugs, tobacco and alcohol, and foster a safe learning environment.	http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/programs.html
	Rural Education Achievement Program	Addresses barriers rural communities face when competing for federal grants. Example: the Small, Rural School Grant program - supplemental funds for Title I and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities program. Formula grant funds flow through SEAs to school districts.	http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/reap.html
	Indian Education Grants	Provides supplemental funding by formula to school districts to reform school programs serving Native American students. Funds flow directly to eligible LEAs. Uses of funds: start/maintain cultural activities programs and academic support services.	http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oes/e/oie/programs.html
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)	Formula block grant to states. Largest direct federal subsidy program for child care. Primarily used to offer child care assistance for low-income families through vouchers or certificates. States set the rates at which providers are reimbursed for subsidies.	http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/
	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Provides income subsidies and supportive services to eligible low-income families with children. States can use TANF dollars to support child care and afterschool programs.	http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/

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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	CDBG provides funds to states to support economic and community development efforts at the local level, particularly rural areas. Funds typically used to improve physical infrastructure, facilities, or broader community improvement efforts.	http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/
U.S. Department of Interior; Bureau of Indian Affairs	Indian Child Welfare Act Title II Grants	Designed to protect Native American children. Provides support to tribal governments for operating child and family service programs, who can use these dollars for out-of-school time activities.	http://www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html
U.S. Department of Justice	Tribal Youth Program	Discretionary grant program supporting youth development activities through grants to tribes or tribal coalitions. Focus is on reducing crime, preventing alcohol and drug abuse, and providing mental health services to tribal youth in the juvenile justice system.	http://ojdp.ncjrs.gov/typ/
U.S. Department of Labor	Native American Employment and Training Program	Discretionary funds that can be applied to support various employment and training programs and services in tribal areas. SOT programs can use the funds to promote academic, occupational and literacy skills among tribal youth.	http://www.doleta.gov/dinap/
Corporation for National and Community Service	AmeriCorps	Most AmeriCorps grants are allocated to state commissions, which then distribute funds to eligible local nonprofit organizations. Funds support volunteers to help youth-serving programs by offering tutoring, mentoring, teaching and other activities.	http://www.nationalservice.org/about/programs/ameri-corps.asp
	Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)	Members of VISTA are part of the AmeriCorps program and commit one year of full-time volunteer service to a specific organization. VISTA members focus primarily on improving organizational infrastructure, promoting sustainability and alleviating poverty in the areas they serve.	http://www.nationalservice.org/about/programs/ameri-corps_vista.asp
	Learn and Serve America: School and Community-Based Programs	Helps students get involved in community service activities while building their academic and civic skills. Grants go to school-community partnerships and training and technical assistance resources to parents, schools, and community groups.	http://www.nationalservice.org/about/programs/learnandserve.asp