

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (SERCAP)



An Introduction to SERCAP

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What is SERCAP?

SERCAP is...

A 501(C)3 nonprofit organization that provides Training, Technical, and Financial Assistance to low-income individuals and small rural communities in the areas of ***WATER, WASTEWATER, HOUSING, and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.***

Water Storage Tanks



SERCAP's Mission is...

To improve the quality of life for low-income individuals by promoting affordable water and wastewater facilities, community development, environmental health, & economic self-sufficiency.

SERCAP's Services

Water & Wastewater

- Training
 - CEU Workshops for Water/Wastewater Operators
 - Water/Wastewater Operator Training Program for TANF Participants (VA Only)
- Technical Assistance
 - Rate Studies
 - Vulnerability Assessments
- Financial Assistance
 - Facilities Development Grants (VA Only)
 - Community Development Loans

Facilities Development Grant Uses

- Planning, feasibility studies
- Preliminary engineering reports
- Developing plans for specifications and permitting
- Water and sewer system mapping
- Leak detection, inflow and infiltration mitigation, water audits
- System upgrades, expansions and new construction
- System compliance
- Emergency system repairs
- Subsidizing tap and lateral fees for low-income rural residents

Grants will not be made for compliance-related fines

Facilities Development Grant Details

Eligibility Requirements

- Only units of local government, sub-units of local government, or regional consortia of local governments (e.g. water district authorities, public service authorities, planning district commissions, etc.) and private not-for-profit community systems are eligible to apply
- Water/wastewater projects must in part serve low-to moderate-income individuals and families living in rural areas of Virginia
- Unfunded projects must re-apply each program year
- Only one project per jurisdiction may be funded each program year (exceptions apply)

Facilities Development Grant Details

- This is a reimbursement grant; requests for drawdown of funds must be accompanied by proof of payment of project-related expenses; however –
- When cash flow is an issue for the grantee, invoices for completed work can be forwarded to SERCAP and payment will be made directly to contractor/vendor
- 24-month allocation period. Funds not spent by the end of the allocation period will be deobligated (extension requests have been granted on a case-by-case basis)

Facilities Development Grant Program Funding Levels

- SERCAP receives an annual appropriation from the General Assembly, funneled through the Virginia DHCD
- Annual appropriation amounts available for Facility Development grants awards is approximately \$500,000
- Average awards are \$10K - \$ 15K
- Larger grants are awarded at SERCAP's discretion and based on severity of need and the availability of funds
- Current waiting list for funds slightly over \$650,000

Facilities Development Grant Funding Priorities

Based on past funding trends and anticipated limited funding, requests will be prioritized as follows:

1. Subsidizing tap and lateral fees for low-income rural residents
2. Other related relief for low-income rural residents and vulnerable populations
3. Emergency repairs
4. Health related system compliance
5. PER's, planning and feasibility studies
6. Operation and maintenance
7. System upgrades, expansion and new construction

Facilities Development Grant Application Process

Submission on letterhead of a one to four page project proposal narrative explaining the project and grant request. The grant request application letter must be signed by the county, city or town chief executive, governing body board chair or in the case of non-profits, both the chief executive and board chair. Project narrative must include information on:

1. Brief description of the project's scope, proposed timeline and nature of any special circumstances (imminent failure, etc)
2. Population to be served, with estimates on the number of low income persons to be served, and related demographics

Project Narrative - continued

3. Geographical location of project and brief description of political subdivision
4. Project planning history, including information from resolutions, engineering reports or studies
5. Estimated project cost, other funding sources pending or secured, and amount of SERCAP grant requested
6. Describe compliance related issues such as consent orders related to the project if any
7. Identify any professional engineering firms or other consultants secured or assisting, whether or not the work is pro-bono, via contract or retainer
8. Describe any collaboration between localities, state agencies, community groups, higher education, non-profits or jurisdictions of neighboring states

SERCAP Self-Help Project – Laying Waterlines



Community Development Water/Wastewater Loans

Common Uses:

- Interim Financing
- Matching funds
- Gap Funding
- Primary funds for small projects
- Funding partner on large projects

Community Development Water/Wastewater Loans

Program Details

- Application process typically less cumbersome than other programs
- Competitive interest rates (currently 3% - 5%, depending on credit worthiness)
- If the applicant is efficient and organized (provides all necessary information), loans can be approved in less than 2 months (3-6 months average)
- Loan amounts typically \$250K or less, however have occasionally closed loans of \$500K

Loan Application Process

Eleven-page (including application check-list) application must be completed and submitted to SERCAP's Loan Department. Some of the required information includes:

- Project area demographics; census data (when available) usually suffices
- Current and proposed operating budgets
- Rate and fee schedules and description of process for determining same
- Additional financial information; assets and liabilities (debt, etc.)
- Estimated project costs and other sources of funding

Other Programs of Interest

- Miscellaneous Grants
 - Provides assistance to qualifying property owners for a variety of issues, including:
- \$600 toward water/wastewater repair projects
- \$1,000 toward installation of a well
- \$1,000 toward a tap fee for water/wastewater
- \$1,500 toward a septic system
- \$2,000 toward an alternative septic system
- \$3,500 maximum toward laterals for water/wastewater

Other Programs of Interest

- Individual Household Well and Septic Loans
 - Loans of up to \$11,000 for the installation of new wells or septic systems
 - Low-interest
 - Flexible repayment options



THANK YOU!

For More Information Contact SERCAP at:

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540-345-1184

www.sercap.org