

Rural Community Grant Program

Northwest Farm Credit Services is committed to improving the economic and social well-being of rural communities throughout the Northwest.

Purpose

This program provides grants for rural community projects that focus on improving rural communities within the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. Northwest FCS is looking for creative and collaborative approaches to addressing emerging challenges and opportunities in rural communities. This includes efforts such as building or improving facilities; purchasing necessary equipment to facilitate a program; and funding capital improvements which enhance a community's infrastructure, viability and/or prosperity.

Examples of possible community grant projects include:

- New multi-purpose community building
- Farmers' market needing a permanent structure to improve service to community customers
- Improving a community park's facilities
- Computers for a community center's educational classes

Amount available

Awards will range from \$500 up to \$5,000.

Deadlines

Deadline to apply will be March 1, June 1, and Oct. 1 of each year. Applicants will be notified 45 days following the submission deadline.

Review

Grant requests are to be submitted to the Marketing Department. The Northwest FCS Board's Financial Services/Marketing Committee will review requests and determine grant awards.

Grant requirements

- Projects must have involvement from Northwest FCS customers, local advisors and/or employees to be eligible.
- Projects must be located within Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.
- Northwest FCS will not pay for entire projects; grant requests must demonstrate financial collaboration from other sources.
- Grant requests may be partially funded.
- Previous funding does not guarantee continuing support to any organization.
- Some organizations meeting the Northwest FCS Community Grant Program criteria may not receive support in a given year.
- Northwest FCS staff or board members will not provide critiques of proposals submitted.
- If a large percentage of needed funds is coming from other grants, Northwest FCS funds may be held until other funds are secured or contingency plans are communicated.
- A post-grant evaluation will be requested.

Not likely to receive funding:

- Lobbying, political, and religious organizations
- Veteran, fraternal, and labor organizations
- Individuals
- Operating expenses
- Fund-raising events, dinners, or benefits
- Advertising
- Travel expenses for individual/groups
- Sport teams sponsorships
- Deficits already incurred, loans, or debt retirement
- Annual community events

Grant request submission

Grant requests must be submitted with a cover letter from a Northwest FCS employee, local advisor, or customer explaining their personal involvement in, knowledge of the program, and how it will benefit their rural community as well as describing their personal role in the project.

Grant requests must answer the following questions:

Sponsoring Organization

- a. What are the primary goals/objectives of the organization?
- b. How is it legally structured/organized?
- c. Current membership/funding status
- d. Current leadership/key members/supporters
- e. Contact information, including the organization's address and telephone number, and the contact person for this request.

Project Information

- f. Brief summary or objective of proposed project
- g. Why is this program important to your community?
- h. Amount of funding requested
- i. Projected funding needs and sources:
 - i. How much is needed to complete the project?
 - ii. How much is presently committed?
 - iii. Where are funds coming from and who are largest contributors?
- j. State expected results.
- k. Other relevant information to support investigation/analysis of the benefits of project and level of support within the community.

Distribution

Funds for approved requests will be distributed by check to the requesting organization within ten days of approval.

For more information

To learn more about the Community Grant Program please contact KayDee Gilkey at 800-743-2125 ext 5303.