

**USDA Tribal Listening Session:
Emergency Rural Development Grants for Rural Health Care
Under the Community Facilities Program**

3:00 PM ET – May 4, 2021

Emergency Rural Development Grants for Rural Health Care

In Section 1002 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Congress appropriated \$500 million to help rural health care facilities, tribes, and rural communities broaden access to COVID-19 vaccines, health care services, and nutrition assistance. These funds will be administered by USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities Programs and tribes will be eligible to apply for the funding, along with other eligible applicants. Facilities financed must be located in, and primarily serve, eligible rural areas. USDA is consulting with tribes to inform implementation of this program, to identify past challenges and to learn about potential opportunities, unique to tribes, regarding the delivery of these funds.

Tribes are encouraged to discuss any aspect of the Emergency Rural Development Grants for Rural Health Care, authorized under Section 1002 of the American Recovery Plan Act of 2021. The American Recovery Plan Act of 2021 can be viewed here:

- [Text - H.R.1319 - 117th Congress \(2021-2022\): American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

To assist in framing the discussion, below are sample discussion questions for your consideration.

1. What are ways that this funding can be utilized to improve health outcomes and improve access to quality health care for tribal members?
2. What are the greatest financial or operational needs tribal health care providers have in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic?
3. What do you see as the greatest barriers to accessing these funds to meet the rural development and health care needs of your tribe?
4. What are the most pressing high need health care issues that need addressed to support the long-term sustainability of providing health care on tribal lands? As an example, Rural Development has heard from stakeholders for the need for: blending behavioral health services with general and/or specialty medical services, increasing usage of rural health care facilities rather than urban counterparts, workforce development, transportation, paramedicine, obstetrics, and supporting health care as an anchor institution in small communities.

We welcome your input on these questions as well as any additional topics, challenges, and opportunities that you are willing to share.