

PHOTO COURTESY: VISIT IDAHO



Community Development Grants

OVERVIEW

Idaho's cities and towns are vibrant largely because of the efforts of the people who live, work and play in them. Citizens often lead the charge in making their communities more prosperous. If you're passionate about enhancing your hometown, chances are you'll find help at Idaho Commerce. We offer community block grants, training and technical assistance, Main Street applications and other resources to help your community thrive.

If you work for a city or county, and your community needs public infrastructure improvements, you can apply for one of the grant programs administered by Idaho Commerce. These grants can help fund a range of projects, from sewer lines to senior and community centers, with the goal of making communities more inviting to future growth.

These grants include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Rural Community Investment Fund (RCIF) and the Idaho Gem Grant.



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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

The Idaho Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) assists Idaho cities and counties with the development of needed public infrastructure. The program is administered by Idaho Commerce with funds received annually from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Idaho CDBG funds are used to construct projects benefiting low-and moderate-income persons, help prevent or eliminate slum and blight conditions, or mitigate health and safety threats in local areas.

Eligible applicants include incorporated cities and counties with a population under 50,000 are eligible to apply for Idaho CDBG funds. Eligible activities include senior and community centers, public facilities & infrastructure, public parks, and downtown revitalization.

Public facilities and downtown revitalization grant applications are due the Friday before Thanksgiving. Senior & community center grant applications are due the first Friday of March. Job creation grant applications are due the third Monday of March, June, September and December.

RURAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND (RCIF)

The Rural Community Investment Fund (RCIF) program provides funds to rural areas in support of economic expansion and job creation. Created by the Idaho State Legislature in 2001, this state-funded grant program is a component of the Rural Initiative.

Eligible applicants include cities with a population of less than 25,000 or for projects that have a measurable rural benefit. Eligible activities include extension of streets, water and sewer lines, and/or utilities to a site for a new business or industrial park, acquisition or construction of buildings for lease or purchase by a company, provision of broadband, power, gas and rail upgrades necessary for business expansions. Grant limits are \$50,000 to \$500,000.

Applications will be evaluated on the impact to distressed areas. Other evaluation factors include the number and quality of jobs created by the project, long-term economic impact, community support, and project financing and readiness.

IDAHO GEM GRANT

The Idaho Gem Grant Program (IGG) provides assistance to rural communities for the planning and implementation of economic development projects.

Eligible applicants include any rural community with a population of 10,000 persons or less. Applications must be submitted by a city, county or tribal government. Idaho Gem Grants are focused on job creation and retention. Awards are limited to the hard implementation costs of economic development projects. Examples of eligible projects include water and sewer infrastructure for new a business, remediation of slum and blight conditions blocking business development, and matching funds for the creation of assets with a high certainty of aiding future economic development efforts.

Idaho Gem Grant applications will be accepted online and are reviewed on a quarterly basis, or at any time that the director of Idaho Commerce determines it necessary to take advantage of special opportunities that further the primary objectives of the IGG program. Current deadlines are the third Monday in March, June, September and December.



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