FY 2026 Programmatic and Language Appropriations Request
Department of Agriculture
Rural Housing Service
Agriculture Appropriations
Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI)

Program: RCDI capacity-building grants
Request: $5 million

1. **Bill Language Request**: For the cost of rural community facilities grants as authorized by section 381 E and described under section 381(E) (d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act *Provided That* $5,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for a Rural Community Development Initiative; *Provided further*, That such funds shall be used solely to develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes to undertake projects to improve housing, community facilities, community and economic development projects in rural areas: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be made available to qualified private, nonprofit and public intermediary organizations proposing to carry out a program of financial and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That such intermediary organizations shall provide matching funds from other sources, including Federal funds for related activities, in an amount not less than funds provided.
2. **Justification for Request**: RCDI is the only federal program designed to help rural communities build their capacity to improve housing, community facilities, and economic development. For example, in Lewistown, Montana (population 5,918), RCDI technical assistance has gone to a small and emerging CDFI; helped four new businesses and expanded one business and one nonprofit; created 49 new jobs; and secured some $3.6 million in new federal, state, foundation and in-kind funding. Rural LISC usually selects a limited number of CDCs that serve the poorest communities with the lowest population in our service area and training that addresses key components necessary for improved housing, community, and economic development, designed to bring critical capital and technical resources to these underserved areas.

3. **Appropriations Status**
   FY 24 Final: $ 5 million