

Oklahoma Economic Development Authority Community Development

Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) Grant Program

Guidelines for the Planning Process

Section 1.

OEDA is an association of local governments voluntarily joining together to work on common interests for the greater economy of each entity and the benefit of all. The membership is made up of a minority member, the counties of Beaver, Cimarron, Dewey, Ellis, Harper, Texas, Woods and Woodward and all cities and towns and conservation districts having some jurisdiction within those counties. The Oklahoma Economic Development Authority (OEDA) region contains over 70,356 residents and covers an area of approximately 11,484 square miles.

Section 2.

The following cities and towns with a population of less than 7,000 lie within the OEDA region:

Beaver County

Beaver	1,151
Forgan	547
Gate	93
Knowles	11

Cimarron County

Boise City	1,266
Keyes	324

Dewey County

Camargo	178
Leedey	485
Oakwood	65
Putnam	42
Seiling	860
Taloga	299
Vici	699

Ellis County

Arnett	524
Fargo	354
Gage	442
Shattuck	1,356

Harper County

Buffalo	1,312
Laverne	1,344
May	39
Rosston	31

Texas County

Goodwell	1,293
Hardesty	212
Hooker	1,978
Optima	356
Texhoma	926
Tyrone	762

Woods County

Alva	4,945
Capron	23
Dacoma	107
Freedom	276
Waynoka	927

Woodward County

Fort Supply	330
Mooreland	1,190
Mutual	61
Sharon	135

Section 3.

Funds from the REAP account will be spent on projects determined by public input to the OEDA Board of Directors and an evaluation of the financial needs considering employment, income indebtedness, utility rates and other indicators as appropriate.

Projects will include the following: a minimum of 80% of REAP funds will be distributed to the entity for items 1 through 6.

1. Rural water quality projects, including acquisition, treatment, distribution, and recovery of water for consumption by humans or animals or both;
2. Rural solid waste disposal, treatment, or similar projects;
3. Rural sanitary sewer construction or improvement projects;
4. Rural road or street construction or improvement projects;
5. Provision for rural fire protection services and public safety services;
6. Expenditures designed to increase the employment level within the jurisdiction of the entity;
7. Provision of health care services, emergency medical care, in rural areas;
8. Construction or improvement of telecommunication facilities or systems;
9. Improvements of municipal energy distribution systems; and
10. Community buildings, courthouses, town halls, senior nutrition centers, meeting rooms or similar public facilities.

Section 4.

All funds expended from the OEDA REAP Fund shall be made in the same manner as provided by law for the expenditure of other public funds and will be accounted for in the same manner as other public funds.

Funds distributed on behalf of unincorporated areas will be accounted for by the OEDA or By the county requesting the funds and accounted for in the same manner as other public funds.

Section 5.

Guidelines will be adopted by the OEDA Board of Directors to be used to help select projects to fund. All projects that meet the guidelines of House Bill 3291 as approved by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor as it enacts changes to the Oklahoma Rural Economic Action Plan will be reviewed and rated.

Section 6.

All projects will meet the approval criteria adopted by the OEDA Board of Directors. In the review and consideration of the applications for financial assistance under the REAP program, the OEDA Board of Directors shall give consideration to the following criteria for application approval:

1. Compliance with law. The application and proposed project must be found to be in compliance with all applicable and relevant federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and the applicant must possess all necessary and incidental legal rights and privileges necessary to project commencement and operation.
2. Eligibility. The applicant must be a qualified entity (or represented by OEDA applying on behalf of a qualified entity) and the proposed project must be for a qualified purpose as defined in the REAP plan.
3. Local need, support and priority. The project must be found to be needed in the area to be served and must be found to be sufficient, as proposed, to serve such needs. OEDA shall additionally consider the project's relevant benefit and priority in relation to the needs of other proposed projects. OEDA shall also consider the extent and degree of local support, interest and commitment in the proposed project.

4. Availability of other assistance. The OEDA Board of Directors shall consider the feasibility and availability of alternative sources of revenue which could be obtained and utilized by the applicant for project financing.
5. Economic feasibility. The OEDA Board of Directors shall consider the overall apparent economic viability and feasibility of the project as a whole.
6. Project feasibility. OEDA shall consider from the engineering data (if required for the project) submitted and other sources available whether the proposed project appears feasible and serves the public interest and welfare.
7. REAP grant amounts and availability of funds. In reviewing a REAP project application the OEDA Board of Directors shall take into consideration the current and anticipated availability of REAP program funds.
8. Criteria applicability. The general criteria set forth in this section are intended to constitute and shall constitute general guidelines and standards for application and review and consideration by the OEDA Board of Directors. This criterion shall not be deemed exclusive and in all instance, each application and project must be reviewed and considered on its own individual merits.

The criteria and standards set forth in this section shall, 1. Be in compliance with the law and 2. accordingly be interpreted and applied so as to allow sufficient flexibility in the ultimate exercise of the OEDA Board of Directors' judgment and discretion.

Section 7.

Decisions of funding projects and amounts are at the sole discretion of the OEDA Board of Directors. The OEDA Board of Directors also reserves the right to modify this plan in whole or any part to comply with federal, state and local laws and regulations. the OEDA Board of Directors also reserve the right to modify this plan to meet current and future needs of OEDA area.