



CEDA Rural Capacity Program Information and Application

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* Indicates required question

All program services include 150 hours of technical assistance and up to \$15,000.00 in grant funding to implement your project. CEDA will work with selected communities to formulate an individualized plan based on their needs. Communities can apply to receive technical assistance with **one** of the program services listed. Examples of what eligible projects could look like; see fictional samples below:

1. **Revolving Loan Funds:** Business A has been in business for 20 years; they want to add a product to their production line. In order to add this product, the business needs to purchase new equipment, the bank is only willing to give them 80% of the project cost, they have to come up with the remaining 20%. An EDA Revolving Loan Fund could be utilized to cover the gap in available financing.
2. **Commercial Exterior Improvement Grants/Loans:** The City's Main Street businesses are in older buildings that require a significant amount of upkeep which requires a significant amount of money. A Commercial Exterior Improvement Grant/Loan program could be set up to assist business owners with a percentage of cost associated with keeping their buildings structurally sound. This might include replacing windows, tuck pointing, roofing projects, or signage and awning upgrades.
3. **Business Incubation Programs:** XYZ Incubator is a comprehensive business incubation program aimed at fostering the growth of early-stage technology startups. The program provides a dynamic and supportive ecosystem to help entrepreneurs transform innovative ideas into successful and sustainable businesses. This includes providing a co-working space, mentorship, training and workshops, access to funding, networking events, and legal and administrative support.
4. **Childcare Incentive Programs:** Community A would like to attract and retain childcare providers in their community. One aspect of their effort is to offer financial incentives like establishing a
 subsidy or grant program to support new and existing childcare providers. This could include reduced licensing fees, start-up grants, or tax incentives for operating within the community. They are also going to explore partnerships with local businesses to provide discounts or perks for childcare providers, such as reduced rates on goods and services.
5. **Business Retention and Expansion Programs:**

A Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) program for small cities aims to support existing businesses, foster economic growth, and enhance the overall business

environment. One aspect is providing education and support by developing workshops, seminars, and training programs to educate businesses on relevant topics such as technology adoption, market trends, and best practices. Also providing one-on-one counseling and support services to address specific challenges faced by businesses.

Please choose the program that you are applying for. (Please keep in mind that *
you can only apply for one program)

- ☐ Revolving Loan Funds: Low interest, gap financing geared at assisting entrepreneurs with startup or expansions.
- ☐ Commercial Exterior Improvement Grants/Loans: These grants can look at beautification in the community or a specific tract of the community.
- ☐ Business Incubation Programs: These programs can be structured in a variety of ways, but will ultimately seek to help subsidize rental costs for potential or new entrepreneurs. Technical assistance and/or education are sometimes components in these programs.
- ☐ Childcare Incentive Programs: This program may seek to assist existing or new childcare providers with fees associated with licensure and continuing education. The premise of the programs is to increase capacity and quality of care.
- ☒ Business Retention and Expansion Program: This program will allow communities to engage in robust conversations with local businesses to better understand challenges, priorities, and opportunities.

City name *

City of Vergas

City address *

131 Main St PO Box 32 Vergas MN 56587-003;

City website *

www.cityofvergas.com

City contact name *

Julie Lammers

City contact phone number *

218-409-8275

City contact email address *

jammers@cityofvergas.com



City population *

355

Please describe your City Hall and/or EDA staff structure. How many employees?
Full or Part time?

Vergas has 1 Clerk-Treasurer and 1 Receptionist in the City Office. The City Clerk-Treasurer works approximately 10 hours a month on EDA.

Do you have an EDA? (You do not have to have an EDA to apply) *

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please describe, in detail, how and why your city will benefit from the selected programming grant choice. *

It is our mission to retain and promote businesses in our community and to add housing so that we prosper and increase the tax base keeping the city a viable community. Our EDA goal is to identify needs to meet with existing businesses to survey their needs and concerns. The City of Vergas Comprehensive Plan has identified the need to create more opportunities to recruit local businesses, especially where gaps in existing services and to increase awareness of state and regional resources for small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Briefly describe why your city cannot accomplish this project without the financial *
and technical assistance of CEDA?

It is challenging to start and retain businesses in small communities. We do not have staff available to complete tasks or financial resources to hire the manpower to make this happen.

I confirm that my city meets the eligibility requirements, our population is under *
3,000, we are incorporated and our need fits into one of the five program
categories listed above. I understand the following assumptions:

CEDA assumes no responsibility for the funding of programmatic activities. If
the community needs assistance researching potential funds to aid the creation
of a program, CEDA's grant department can assist with research and
development.

Costs of CEDA services only include the completed work included above; they do
not include the cost of dedicated program dollars.

CEDA is not responsible for misuse of funds that are incorrectly allocated
or whose origins are unknown/incorrectly identified.

☒ Yes

☐ No

If selected for the CEDA programming assistance services, I am available to *
attend a kick-off meeting between the city and the CEDA consultant chosen to
perform the work.

☒ Yes

☐ No

I understand that projects will start on a rolling basis beginning Quarter 1 2024. *

☒ Yes

☐ No



If you have a preference regarding a time frame for your city to begin the technical * assistance please indicate below. CEDA will attempt to accommodate this request if at all possible.

- ☐ My city would prefer to begin the technical assistance in the 1st quarter of 2024.
- ☐ My city would prefer to begin the technical assistance in the 3rd or 4th quarter of 2024.
- ☒ My city is open to either option.

All selected CEDA Economic Development Programming Assistance grantees will * be required to complete brief periodic reports on their chosen service's progress and hours of work. This information will be kept confidential; it is only to be used anonymously in aggregate form for grant fund reporting. If selected to be part of this program, do you agree to fulfill this requirement?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other:

Disclaimers:

By submitting this application you agree that CEDA assumes no responsibility for the funding of programmatic activities. If the community needs assistance researching potential funds to aid the creation of a program, CEDA's grant department can assist with research and development. Costs of CEDA services only include the completed work included above; they do not include the cost of dedicated program dollars. CEDA is not responsible for misuse of funds that are incorrectly allocated or whose origins are unknown/incorrectly identified.

This program offers 150 hours of technical assistance and up to \$15,000 in project funding to help your project off the ground.

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