

SAVEYOUR *.town*

No single database cleanly lists every grant for all rural communities, but there are several “hub” databases and catalogs that get you close when used together.

Big, general grant databases

These are cross-sector and not rural-only, but you can filter for rural, geography, and project type.

- [Grants.gov](#) / [Simpler.Grants.gov](#) – Official U.S. federal funding search, includes most federal programs that can benefit rural communities; you can filter by agency (USDA, HRSA, etc.), eligibility, and keywords like “rural” or “small town.”
- [GrantWatch](#) – Paid “advanced grant search engine” with filters for recipient, location, category, and keyword; widely used by nonprofits and municipalities.
- [Instrumentl](#) and similar platforms – Comprehensive paid databases (Instrumentl, [OpenGrants](#), etc.) that aggregate foundations, federal, and some corporate grants; you can set profiles for rural community development.

Example use

You might run a saved search in [Grants.gov](#) for “rural” plus your state, then maintain a separate saved search in GrantWatch for “rural community development” with your state as the geography.

Rural-focused federal hubs

These don't cover all sectors (e.g., arts, local foundations), but they are core for rural work.

- [USDA Rural Development](#) – Program directory and “Federal Funding Opportunities” page listing loans and grants for water, broadband, community facilities, business, and more in rural areas.
- [HRSA Federal Office of Rural Health Policy](#) – Lists community-based rural health grant programs and explains how they are organized and administered.
- [HRSA Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer](#) – Tool to check if a location qualifies as rural for certain HRSA grants, which helps you target the right programs.

The best “catalog” for rural: RHIhub

- [Rural Health Information Hub \(RHIhub\)](#) – Has a very well-maintained “Rural Funding & Opportunities” catalog with federal, state, and foundation opportunities; you can filter by type of funding, topic (health, workforce, etc.), sponsor, and state.
- State-specific pages (e.g., Louisiana Funding & Opportunities) show deadlines and sponsors for things like community vitality, workforce, and health projects that often apply directly to rural towns.

If your rural work touches health, workforce, or social determinants, RHIhub is probably the closest thing to a practical rural grants database.

Specialized rural grant catalogs

These aren't "all grants," but they curate rural-relevant opportunities in specific niches.

- [American Hospital Association Rural Grants](#) page – Curated tools and grants relevant to rural healthcare providers.
- [Foundation for Rural Service Community Grant Program](#) – Provides support for local efforts to improve quality of life in rural America.
- Regional/state programs – For example, [Arkansas's Rural Community Grant Program](#) supports towns under 3,000 with matching funds, and [AgWest Farm Credit's Rural Community Grants](#) support projects in several western states.

Subscription vs. free and how to work around the gaps

- Free federal tools ([Grants.gov](#), USDA RD, HRSA, RHIhub) will cover a big chunk of government and some national programs if you set up alerts and filters.
- Paid databases (GrantWatch, Instrumentl, etc.) help you surface private foundations and corporate programs that are not obvious from federal sites, and you can often trial them around big strategy pushes.
- You will still need a simple tracking system (sheet or CRM) because no database will continuously track your community's eligibility, match requirements, and strategic fit.

State Grant Portals

Most states run their own grant portals plus agency-specific pages; below are examples you can model off, then I'll give you a simple way to find the equivalents in any state.

Examples of state grant portals

- Michigan – [MI Funding Hub](#): central portal for state grants and funding opportunities, with tools and technical assistance for communities.

- Michigan – [MDARD Grants & Funding](#): agriculture and rural development grants (Rural Development Fund Grants, specialty crop, etc.).
- Michigan – [Rural Readiness Grant Program](#) (Office of Rural Prosperity): state program providing up to 50,000 dollars for rural planning and capacity building.
- Arkansas – [Department of Rural Services](#) (example from earlier): hosts a Rural Community Grant Program for towns under a population cap, plus other rural-aimed state funds.
- Louisiana – State-focused pages on GrantWatch and The Grant Portal list state and quasi-state programs for rural and community development.

How to find your state’s grant sites quickly

For most states, you will see one or more of these patterns:

- “[State name] grants portal” or “[State name] funding hub” – similar to Michigan’s “MI Funding Hub.” [mifundinghub](#)
- “[State name] Department of Commerce / Economic Development / Community Affairs grants” – often where downtown and rural development funding lives.
- “[State name] Department of Agriculture grants” – frequently host Rural Development, value-add ag, and preservation grants, like Michigan’s MDARD example. [michigan](#)
- “Office of Rural Development / Rural Prosperity / Rural Affairs [state]” – where rural-specific planning and implementation grants are listed, similar to Michigan’s Office of Rural Prosperity page.

Using RHIhub for state-by-state lists

- The [Rural Health Information Hub’s “Funding by State”](#) tool lets you pick a state and see current funding opportunities that include both state and non-state programs relevant to rural communities.
- This is not limited to health; it also surfaces related [community, workforce, and service grants](#) that are useful for rural development.