

ILLINOIS

2023 SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS (SRS)

SRS PAYMENTS
 FY 2023 RECEIPTS YEAR:

\$411.5 K

ACTUAL 25% PAYMENT
 FY 2024 NUMBERS:

\$252.4 K

ACTUAL 25% PAYMENT
 VS. SRS PAYMENT:

-38.7%

PERCENT OF COUNTIES WITH
 U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAND:

10.8%

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination (SRS) Act was enacted in 2000 to compensate for steep reductions in revenues from timber harvests, which resulted from national policies that substantially diminished revenue-generating activities within federal forests. For FY 2023, the SRS program provided \$281 million for roads and schools and other critical services in over 700 mostly rural counties, parishes and boroughs across the United States.

OUR ASK

In 2025, Congress passed the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025 (P.L. 119-58), restoring critical payments to forest counties. Under current law, authorization for the SRS program expires on September 30, 2026, at the end of fiscal year 2026. Absent further congressional action, the payments released in April 2027 will be the final payments counties receive.

Counties urge Congress to build on this progress by permanently reauthorizing the Secure Rural Schools program to provide long-term certainty for timber-dependent counties and ensure continued delivery of essential local services as they navigate economic transition.

SRS PAYMENTS CRITICAL FOR SERVICES INCLUDING:



**TRANSPORTATION
 INFRASTRUCTURE**



SCHOOLS



**FOREST
 MANAGEMENT**



**ECOSYSTEM
 PROTECTION**



**PROTECTION
 FROM WILDFIRE**



**SEARCH AND
 RESCUE**



**EMERGENCY
 SERVICES**

Notes: The receipts year reflects when U.S. Forest Service (USFS) collects revenues from national forest lands. Without the SRS Act reauthorization, states revert to the Payments to States Act of 1908 as amended, receiving a 25 percent payment from national forest receipts. USFS estimates FY 2024 county 25 percent payments based on county shares of the national forest receipts. These estimates reflect the application of a 6.8 percent sequester to the state payments. Title I, II and III payments are included in the total SRS payment received by the county.

Sources: NACo analysis of data from the U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management.