

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Extends to May 19 the Application Deadline for Grants to Advance Equity and Expand Regional Economies in Distressed Rural Communities

WASHINGTON, April 15, 2022 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Under Secretary Xochitl Torres Small today announced the Department is extending to May 19 the application deadline for grants to advance equity in rural communities, which will create new opportunities in distressed communities.

The Department is extending the deadline for the [Rural Innovation Stronger Economy \(RISE\)](#) grant program due to a technical issue with the Agency's method for receiving concept proposals. USDA requests that applicants who submitted a concept proposal by Feb. 18, 2022 but did not receive communication from Rural Development must contact the Agency by April 26, 2022.

USDA has \$2 million available for the RISE program for Fiscal Year 2022. Eligible applicants are consortiums of local governments, investors, industry, institutions of higher education, and other public and private entities in rural areas. The funding may be used to support innovation centers and job accelerator programs that improve the ability of distressed rural communities to create high-wage jobs, form new businesses, and identify and maximize local assets.

USDA is offering [priority points](#) to projects that advance key priorities under the Biden-Harris Administration to help communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, advance equity and combat climate change. These extra points will increase the likelihood of funding for projects seeking to address these critical challenges in rural America.

The RISE program encourages a regional, innovation-driven approach to economic development by funding job accelerator partnerships in low-income rural communities. This includes communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.

USDA encourages applications that serve the smallest communities with the lowest incomes.

The deadline to submit applications is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, May 19, 2022. Applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](#).

For additional information, see page 22499 of the April 15, 2022, [Federal Register](#).

Applicants are encouraged to contact their nearest USDA [Rural Development State Office](#) ahead of the application deadline for more information about the program or the application process.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

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