

# Rural Community Development Initiative

**Description:** RCDI helps private, not-for-profit community-based organizations and low-income communities improve rural economic development, housing, and community facilities in rural areas.

**Grant Purposes:** The grant funds are made to qualified private, non-profit, or public organizations (known as intermediaries) to provide technical assistance and training to recipient organizations. These intermediaries help recipients develop their capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development.

**Who Can Apply:** private, non-profit, or public organizations

**Grant amount:** Between \$50,000 and \$500,000. In FY 2003, \$6 million was available nationwide. Participating organizations must provide matching funds from other sources equal to the grant amount. Other Federal funds may be used as matching funds. In-Kind contributions cannot be used as matching funds.

**Application Time Frame:** Application time varies and is announced in the Federal Register. In FY 2003, the announcement was made 7/30/03 and the deadline was 10/28/03.

**Where to Apply:** The web site to download application requirements and to obtain more information on the RCDI program is: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/index.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/index.htm). Questions can be referred to William Kenney at (202) 720-1506 or at [william.kenney@usda.gov](mailto:william.kenney@usda.gov). In Georgia, contact Jack Stanek, (706) 546-2171 or at [jack.stanek@ga.usda.gov](mailto:jack.stanek@ga.usda.gov). More information is also available at our State web site located at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ga/](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ga/)

**Examples of Projects Funded:** The program was started in FY 2000 and Georgia received funding for two projects totaling \$331,000. Projects were not selected in FY 2001. In FY 2002, three more projects in Georgia received funding in the amount of \$910,000. Examples of the Georgia projects funded are the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center in Columbus and the Southwest Georgia United Empowerment Zone in Cordele, which are summarized below.

**Southwest Georgia United Empowerment Zone** - A grant of \$256,000 to fund four non-profit agencies so that they can add staff to better offer technical assistance to their customers. Receiving funds were: Dooly County Office of Economic Development, Crisp County Community Council, Gateway Center, and Dooly County Community Enrichment Coalition. These funds benefit communities in Crisp and Dooly counties.

**Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center** - A grant for \$75,000 to provide technical assistance to build the capacity of the Southern Lower Chattahoochee Council of Governments, Inc., to undertake and implement more projects to improve housing, community facilities and economic development in their rural area.

