

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES LOW INTEREST LOANS AND GRANTS FOR HOME REPAIRS

Warwick, RI - David M. Delisle, Rhode Island Area Director of USDA Rural Development, announced today that the agency is providing grants and one percent loans for rural homeowners to make necessary repairs and improvements to their homes.

Loans may be made for up to \$20,000 at an interest rate of one percent. Grants for up to \$7,500 are available to senior citizens who are sixty-two years of age or older and who can not meet the expense of a loan. Loan and grant funds may be used for such purposes as heating, electrical and plumbing repairs, storm windows, insulation, well and septic system repairs, or roof and chimney repairs. Senior homeowners can also use USDA Rural Development financing to install ramps or make other home improvements in order to maintain or improve an applicant's independence.

To qualify, an applicant must be the owner and occupant of a single family home located in an eligible rural area. The maximum household income varies according to family size, and the town in which the property is located. Generally, the annual income for a single member household applicant can not exceed \$23,750; a two member household \$27,150; and a three member household \$30,550. The income limits are slightly higher for the towns of Hopkinton, New Shoreham, and Westerly.

Information regarding eligible communities and applications may be obtained at the USDA Rural Development office located at 60 Quaker Lane, Suite 44, Warwick, RI or by calling 401-826-0842.

The USDA is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

