

GRANTS AVAILABLE TO INCREASE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

BISMARCK, Oct. 14, 2010 — USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider urges organizations to apply for available grant funding through the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI).

“This program provides technical assistance and training funds to qualified intermediary organizations,” Schneider said. “USDA is making more than \$6 million available to help increase economic opportunity for rural citizens and communities.”

Under this notice, competitive grant funds will be used to help private, public (including Tribal) organizations; non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, and low-income communities improve rural economic development, housing, and community facilities in rural areas. Grant amounts range between \$50,000 and \$300,000 and require matching funds to be at least equal to the federal grant.

The application deadline is 4 p.m. local time, December 22, 2010.

For more information on this program, please contact the Rural Development State Office at (701) 530-2037 or visit our Web page at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/index.htm>.