

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEBRASKA

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PREAPPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR RURAL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE GRANT PROGRAM

Lincoln, Neb., October 16--USDA Rural Development is accepting preapplications for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) Program until November 30, 2001. Preapplications are to be filed with the USDA Rural Development State Office in Lincoln.

The RBEG Program supports the development of small and emerging businesses in communities of less than 50,000 population, with priority going to communities under 25,000 population. **Eligible applicants include public bodies, non-profit organizations, and federally recognized Indian tribal groups.**

Funds may be used to establish a revolving loan fund, for direct construction, planning or technical assistance by the grantee. Examples include: a) acquisition and development of land, easements, and right-of-ways; b) construction, conversion, enlargement, repairs or modernization of buildings, plants, machinery, equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas, or utilities; c) startup operating cost and working capital; d) reasonable fees and charges for professional services necessary for the planning and development of an eligible project.

Funds may **not** be used for agricultural production, to finance comprehensive areawide-type planning, or to fund a part of a project which is dependent on other funding unless there is a firm commitment of other funding to ensure completion of the project.

Visit website <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbeg.htm> for eligibility requirements, funds uses and limitations, and other related program information.

For more information or a preapplication packet, you may contact USDA Rural Development, Room 152 Federal Building, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508-3888 or phone 402-437-5558.

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