



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**USDA ANNOUNCES APPLICATION TIMEFRAME
FOR GUARANTEED RURAL RENTAL HOUSING**

Lincoln, Neb., January 15, 2003 – The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Housing Service is currently accepting competitive proposals for the Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Loan program. Eligible applicants are encouraged to submit applications by May 16, 2003. Responses received after May 16, 2003 will be held for review subject to the availability of funds.

Eligible applicants for the Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Loan program include nonprofit corporations, public bodies, and for-profit organizations. Guaranteed loans are applied for by the applicant through an eligible lender and used to develop new or rehabilitate existing apartment housing units. The lender provides the loan, with the USDA Rural Housing Service providing the guarantee for the loan up to 90 percent of the total development cost.

"I urge eligible applicants and lenders to utilize this program. This is one avenue available to meet the need for safe and affordable apartment housing in Nebraska for rural residents and senior citizens whom otherwise could not afford such housing," stated Jim Barr, state director for USDA Rural Development in Nebraska. "In addition, business development in a community often hinges on whether there is adequate housing available, thus this program can aid toward business infrastructure."

A NOTICE was published in the Federal Register on December 27, 2002 announcing the timeframe and guidelines for the program for Fiscal Year 2003. Interested lenders must submit loan applications to: Director-Multi-Family Housing Processing Division, Rural Housing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 1263 (Stop 0781), 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-0781.

For additional information or to request an application package, contact the USDA Rural Development State Office in Lincoln, Neb. at (402) 437-5594 or write USDA Rural Development Attn. Rural Housing Division Room 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508. You may also contact the Rural Development National Office at (202) 401-2307 or check the USDA Rural Development website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> to find more information on the Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing program and other USDA Rural Housing programs.

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USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, OCR, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.