



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA ANNOUNCES \$6 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR RURAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Lincoln, Neb., February 12, 2008 – USDA Rural Development announces the availability of \$6.2 million in rural community development initiative (RCDI) grants designed to support rural economic and community development efforts.

“The RCDI program is broad based and assistance can be provided to rural Nebraska in many different aspects,” stated Denise Brosius-Meeks, community programs director, USDA Rural Development. “If you have an idea or plan for technical assistance, please discuss it with us and we will determine how it may fit within our program guidelines.”

RCDI grants are provided to qualified intermediary organizations (private nonprofits, low-income communities, and federally recognized tribes). These intermediaries assist nonprofits, community-based housing and development organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes and low-income communities located in rural areas (population 50,000 or less), via financial and technical assistance, in developing their capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development.

Intermediaries are required to provide matching funds at least equal to the value of the USDA grants. Minimum grant is \$50,000, maximum \$300,000. Funding of selected applicants will be contingent upon meeting conditions of the grant agreement.

Grants may be used for staffing to provide technical assistance, developing the capacity of recipients in conducting community development programs, i.e. homeownership education or business entrepreneur training; carrying out development initiatives, i.e. micro enterprise, cooperative and sustainable development; increasing leveraging ability and access to alternative funding sources through training and staffing; and providing financial and technical assistance for community facilities. Grants may also assist in completing predevelopment requirements by providing resources for professional services, i.e. architectural, engineering or legal fees; in building on organizational capacity via training and resource materials for developing strategic plans, board operation, management, financial systems, and information technology.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410,
or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

The February 4, 2008, Federal Register Volume 73, Number 231, pages 6457-6466 accessible at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> contains program requirements and application information. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/index.htm> for application requirements and an application package. Completed applications should be mailed to USDA Rural Development, Attn. Community Programs, Rm. 152 Federal Bldg, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508. Application deadline is 4 p.m. local time, May 5, 2008. Applications will **not** be accepted via fax or e-mail.

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