

Rural Development Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

Objectives of this discussion

- Better understanding of how the USDA works with Faith-Based and Community Organizations.
- Better understanding of USDA Rural Development programs
- How faith and community-based organizations can partner individually and with one another to utilize these programs and meet community needs.



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Rural Development Programs Most Applicable to Faith-Based and Community Organizations

- RD-Rural Business Enterprise Grants
- RD-Community Facilities Loans and Grants
- RD-Rural Community Development Initiative Grants
- RD-Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants (applications/awards reported by National Office; outreach by States)
- RD-Farm Labor Housing Loans and Grants
- RD-Rural Housing Preservation Grants
- RD-Rural Rental Housing Loans
- RD-Rental Assistance Grants
- RD-Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Loans
- RD-Mutual Self-Help Housing Grants
- RD-Technical and Supervisory Assistance Grants



7 CFR Part 16

Purpose

- 7 CFR Part 16
 - Ensuring equal opportunity for all faith-based organizations to participate in USDA programs for which other private organizations are eligible.
- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.



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Rights of Religious Organizations

Religious organization retains independence

- Retain religious art, icons, etc. in space.
- Retain religious terms in name.
- Select board members and govern on religious basis.
- Include religious references in mission, vision, etc.
- In directly funded programs, may offer voluntary religious activities to program beneficiaries in a separate time or location from federally funded service.



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Responsibilities of Participating Organizations

- May not discriminate against USDA program-supported recipients/beneficiaries on the basis of religion or religious belief.
 - Example: Services cannot be restricted to only church or organization members.
- May not use federal funds to support inherently religious activities including prayer, worship, religious instruction, purchase of religious materials, or proselytization.
 - Example: Food bank clients should not be required to pray to receive a box of food.



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Program Outreach

- Religious and faith-based non-profit organizations.
- Neighborhood based and inter-faith organizations.
- Non-profit service organizations—food pantry, youth center, etc.
- General public outreach and provide FBNP discussion!

Success Stories

Ray Community Housing, Inc. and Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, and a local lender partnered up to construct community housing in Ray, North Dakota. With help from Rural Development three ranch style homes have been constructed and will be marketed to families interested in moving to Ray, ND for job opportunities. Making sure people who want to live in the community can find a decent place to live is an essential part of this community's continued success.



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Success Stories

Community Facility Loan Program



Family Health Center of Marshfield Inc. in northern Wisconsin used USDA funds to provide quality oral healthcare by building dental centers in areas with low accessibility and by charging patients on a sliding scale based on their income.

“Not only do the clinics serve the oral healthcare needs of thousands of patients, they also create additional sustainability and facilitate job growth in the communities in which they lie,” said Stan Gruszynski, USDA Rural Development Wisconsin State Director.



Success Stories

Rural Business Enterprise Grants



The Northeast Mississippi Business Incubation System (NEMBIS) in Alcorn County, Mississippi used Tech-Connect funded by RBEG to finance its newest business tenant, Junearick Family Medical and Transportation, who are able to be competitive by using the “cutting edge” facilities provided by Tech-Connect. The center has provided much needed technical skills and jobs to residents in the region.



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Success Stories

Mutual Self-Help Housing Loan Program



Two years ago, David Falcon, Jr. contacted FUTURO Communities, Inc. for information on housing loans for first-time homebuyers. FUTURO is a local non-profit organization that assists limited-income families with credit counseling, first-time homebuyer education classes and self-help housing programs. At that time, Mr. Falcon was unable to qualify for a housing loan and was offered credit and budget counseling. One year later, Mr. Falcon returned with improved credit, applied for the Mutual Self-Help housing program, and was approved for the program.

As part of the Mutual Self-Help housing program, he was required to work on building not only his home, but others in his area. Working on the homes took a lot of sacrifice on his part and finding the time to provide 65 percent of the labor was very tiring and stressful.

David's hard work has paid off, today he and his young son are now the proud owners of a house they helped build together.



Here's How We Can Help

Your local Rural Development office can provide technical assistance workshops which give instructions on the RD application process, as well as more interactive presentations and mentoring relationships to develop partnerships. The following are some examples of this:

- Grants Workshop-Milledgeville, GA-35 attended for NP faith and community based organizations.
- Missouri staff provided a presentation on RD programs at the Transforming Communities Conference Wisconsin. 75 attended.
- Arizona staff met with 15 members of the Amazing Grace Hispanic Church to discuss housing programs and others available to nonprofit organizations.



For More Information

Visit USDA Rural Development FBNP website:

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/FBNP_Home.html



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