



Rural Business and Cooperative Programs

Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) Program

What is the Purpose?

The purpose of the RBOG Program is to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities (less than 50,000 population) with exceptional needs through the provision of training and technical assistance to assist with economic development planning.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Grants may be made to public bodies, non-profit corporations, Indian tribes on Federal or State reservations and other Federally recognized tribal groups, and cooperatives with members that are primarily rural residents and conduct activities for the mutual benefit of the members.

What are the Priority Selection Factors?

The following factors are used to rate eligible applications: Sustainability of economic development; Anticipated improvements in economic activity; Other funding sources; Community economic conditions (recent major natural disaster, recent change in local economy structure; long-term poverty; long-term population decline; long-term job deterioration); and Project's usefulness as a new best practice.

What Types of Projects are Eligible?

Grant funds may be used for, but are not limited to, the following purposes: Identify and analyze business opportunities that will use local materials or resources; Identify, train, and provide technical assistance to existing or prospective entrepreneurs and managers; Establish business support centers and assist in the creation of new rural businesses; Conduct local community or multi-county economic development planning; Establish centers for training, technology, and trade that will provide training to rural businesses in the utilization of interactive communications technologies to develop international trade opportunities and markets; Conduct leadership development training of existing or prospective entrepreneurs and managers; or Pay reasonable fees and charges for professional services necessary to conduct the technical assistance, training, or planning functions.

How Are Applications Made?

Applicants are encouraged to contact the State Office to discuss the project and the application process. Annually, the Agency announces the availability of funds through the publication of a Notice of Funding Availability in the Federal Register. Applications are submitted to the State Office where they are reviewed and partially scored before being forwarded to the National Office for a panel review and funding selections on a nationwide competitive basis.

For Additional Information Contact:

Business and Cooperative Programs

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

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To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

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