



MEDIA RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
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HOME REPAIR FUNDS AVAILABLE THROUGH USDA

USDA Rural Development has loan funds available for home repairs for very low-income rural homeowners. Grants are available for senior citizens age 62 or older who do not show repayment ability for a loan.

Funds may be used for home repairs in rural areas for eligible homeowners with incomes under 50 percent of the median family income for that county. Eligible rural areas are defined as having a population under 10,000 or up to 20,000 population in non-metropolitan areas. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents legally admitted to the U.S. The funds may only be used for owner-occupied housing that is modest in value.

The maximum home repair loan amount is \$20,000 with an interest rate of one percent, with up to 20 years to repay. Section 504 grants up to \$7,500 are available to remove health or safety hazards for senior citizen homeowners, 62 years or older, who are unable to finance their repairs. Income limits are as follows:

<u>INCOME LIMITS:</u>	<u>FAMILY SIZE</u>	<u>--1--</u>	<u>--2--</u>	<u>--3--</u>	<u>--4--</u>
ADAMS COUNTY		17,050	19,500	21,900	24,350
ASOTIN COUNTY		17,050	19,500	21,900	24,350
BENTON COUNTY		20,600	23,500	26,450	29,400
COLUMBIA COUNTY		17,250	19,700	22,200	24,650
FRANKLIN COUNTY		20,600	23,500	26,450	29,400
GARFIELD COUNTY		17,500	20,000	22,500	25,000
KITTITAS COUNTY		18,250	20,900	23,500	26,100
KLICKITAT COUNTY		17,050	19,500	21,900	24,350
SKAMANIA COUNTY		17,850	20,400	22,950	25,500
WALLA WALLA COUNTY		17,650	20,150	22,700	25,200
WHITMAN COUNTY		18,400	21,050	23,650	26,300
YAKIMA COUNTY		17,050	19,500	21,900	24,350

The 504 Housing Repair Program impacts those of greatest need. In Granger, an elderly woman is delighted to have a new roof and no longer has to deal with a leaky roof. In Grandview, an elderly woman is grateful to have received a grant to convert her garage to a handicap bathroom and replace her failing roof. And in Sunnyside, a young woman was able to replace her well and fix the kitchen floor with funds from the program. None of the recipients had adequate resources to pay for these much needed repairs.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on USDA Rural Development's 504 Housing Repair Program can be obtained by contacting the USDA Service Center in Yakima at 509/ 454-5740, Ext. 4, or by visiting the Washington State Rural Development web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa>. ###