



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
1550 Earl Core Road, Suite 101 • Morgantown, WV 26505

Phone: 304.284.4860 OR 1.800.295.8228 • Fax: 304.284.4893 • TDD: 304.284.4836 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wv>

Gail Bennett, Public Affairs Specialist – (304) 284-4875

Contact: Dane Henshall (202) 260-0996

USDA Rural Development Invites Applications For Rural Economic Development Funding

Investing In Rural America Essential to Job Creation and Business Growth

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15, 2011 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA is accepting applications for loans and grants to create jobs and spur economic development. Funding is provided through the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program.

“In his State of the Union address, President Obama laid out a vision for ‘winning the future,’ with a call to ‘out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world,’” said Vilsack. “These investment opportunities will promote business expansion and entrepreneurship by helping local businesses get access to capital, technical assistance and new markets for their products and services.”

REDLG provides loan and grant funding for rural projects through local utility cooperatives. Under the program, USDA provides zero-interest loans and limited grant support to utilities. The funds are re-loaned to local businesses (ultimate recipients) for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. For more information on this program, visit http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_redlg.html.

Applications must be received by March 31 for 3rd quarter funding and June 30 for 4th quarter funding. For further details about eligibility rules and application procedures, see the February 14, 2011 issue of the [Federal Register](#), page 8334.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages more than 40 housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a national network of state and local offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of nearly \$146 billion in loans and loan guarantees.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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).

Rural Development serves as the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers program assistance through its housing, business, community and infrastructure programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Further information on USDA Rural Development may be obtained by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. In West Virginia, call 1-800-295-8228 to be put in touch with the appropriate personnel serving your county. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202.720.2600 (voice and TDD).

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