



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM

MORGANTOWN, WV – January 7, 2009—USDA Rural Development State Director Rick Rice announces the invitation to submit loan and grant applications under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program for Fiscal Year 2009 subject to the availability of funding. Funding to support \$35.8 Million in loans and \$10 Million in grants is currently available.

The primary objective of this program is to promote rural economic development and job creation projects. Loans and grants may be made to any entity that is identified by USDA Rural Development as an eligible borrower under the Rural Electrification Act. In accordance with 7 CFR 4280.13, applicants that are not delinquent on any Federal debt or otherwise disqualified from participation in these programs are eligible to apply.

Entities wishing to apply should contact John Comerci, Business and Cooperative Program Specialist, 481 Ragland Road, Beckley, WV 25801, telephone 304.253.9597 (extension 146), fax 304.929.2025, or TTY/TDD 304.284.4836. Completed applications should be mailed to the West Virginia Rural Development State Office, 75 High Street, Suite 320, Morgantown, WV 26505-7500. Completed applications must be received as follows: for first quarter – September 30, 2008; second quarter – December 31, 2008; third quarter – March 31, 2009; and fourth quarter – June 30, 2009.

Further information can be found in *The Federal Register* at:
<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-30731.htm>.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities. Rural Development serves as the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers program assistance through its housing, business & cooperative, infrastructure and community 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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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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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).