



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
Federal Building • 75 High Street • Suite 320 • Morgantown, WV 26505-7500
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

USDA Rural Development Announces Rural Rental Housing Open Forums

Morgantown, WV – January 8, 2009: State Director **Rick E. Rice** announces that there will be a series of teleconference and/or web conference meetings regarding the USDA Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program, which will take place during the months of January, April, July and October in 2009. The general public is welcome to register and join these meetings.

The dates and times for the meetings will be announced via e-mail to parties registered to join the teleconference and/or web conference. Any member of the public wishing to register for the calls and obtain the call-in number, access code, web link and any other information for any of the public teleconferences and/or web conferences may contact James F. Carey, Financial and Loan Analyst, Multi-Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Division, **United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development**, telephone (202) 401-2307, fax (202) 205-5066, or by e-mail at james.carey@wdc.usda.gov.

The objectives of this series of meetings are: (1) to enhance the effectiveness of the Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program; (2) establish a two-way communications form to update industry participants and Rural Housing staff; and (3) enhance Rural Housing Service's awareness of the market and other forces that impact the Section 538 **Multi-Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program**.

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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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