



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
800 West Evergreen • Suite 201 • Palmer, AK 99645-6539

Phone: (907) 761-7705 • Fax: (907) 761-7783 • TDD: (907) 761-7786 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ak/>

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO RESUME REGULAR SPRING AND SUMMER OFFICE HOURS IN DELTA JUNCTION

Agency Seeks Applications for Energy Funds, Home Loans, Repair Funds, Business and Community Facilities

Contact: Jim Pohlman, (907) 479-6767

Delta Junction, Alaska, March 04, 2009 – USDA Rural Development is resuming regular office hours in Delta Junction through the summer, to assist area residents in applying for home loans, repair loans, community facilities and business funds, including funds to promote renewable energy or energy efficiency projects.

“We were pleased with the public’s response to our decision to establish office hours in Delta on a trial basis last year,” said Acting State Director Merlaine Kruse. “USDA Rural Development has programs that are intended to assist homeowners achieve the dream of homeownership, even in these challenging economic times. We also have a business guarantee program and new Farm Bill programs to assist Alaskans wanting to develop a renewable energy project or promote energy efficiency,” said Kruse. USDA also funds community facilities projects and water and sewer infrastructure.

Fairbanks Rural Development Area Manager Jim Pohlman said that eligible limited-income homeowners needing to make their homes handicap-accessible or make necessary improvements including installing insulation, siding, a new roof, septic system or heating system, can borrow up to \$20,000 at 1 percent interest. A limited amount of home-improvement grant funding is also available for income-eligible senior citizens over age 62. USDA funds can be combined with funding from other sources, including Tribal organizations.

Pohlman said that he and his Fairbanks staff will hold regular office hours in Delta Junction on the second Wednesday of each month from 10 am until 2 pm. Rural Development representatives will be available at the Delta Junction Cooperative Extension office on Wednesday, March 11 and again on April 8th, May 13th and June 10th. “While we encourage anyone who wants to meet with us to come in, we’re asking that, if possible you schedule an appointment,” Pohlman said. To schedule an appointment call 907-479-6767, extension 103. You can also email jane.gibson@ak.usda.gov.

Further information on USDA Rural Development programs is available at any Rural Development office or by visiting our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ak/>

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