

Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) Program



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Fact Sheet

Purpose

- To support the development of small and emerging private business enterprises in rural areas (less than 50,000 population).

Applicant Eligibility

- Public bodies
- Private nonprofit corporations serving rural areas

Use of Grant Funds

- Acquisition and development of land, easements, and rights-of-way.
- Construction, conversion, enlargement, repairs, or modernization of buildings, plants, machinery, equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas, utilities, and pollution control abatement facilities.
- Loans for start up operating cost and working capital.
- Technical assistance for private business enterprises.
- Reasonable fees and charges for professional services necessary for the planning and development of a project.
- Financial assistance to third parties through a loan (revolving loan fund).
- Training, when necessary, in connection with technical assistance.
- Create, expand, and operate rural distance learning networks or rural learning programs that provide educational instruction or job training instruction related to potential employment or job advancement for adult students.

Grants will be made only when there is a reasonable prospect that they will result in development of small and emerging private business enterprises. A small and emerging private business enterprise is defined as follows:

- Private business which will employ 50 or fewer new employees; and
- Has less than \$1 million in projected gross revenues.

Maximum and Minimum Grant Amounts

Maximum and minimum grant amounts are not established.

Application Process

- Application may be submitted to the USDA Rural Development State Office—see address below.
- Applications are selected on a statewide competitive basis. Applications not selected in the statewide competition may compete for funds at the National level.

Selection Factors

- Population
- Economic Conditions – unemployment and median household income
- Applicant experience
- Evidence of small business development
- Commitment of nonfederal funding sources
- Evidence of need for a revolving loan fund
- Evidence of jobs to be created/saved
- Project is part of a community or economic development plan covering the project area
- Grant size
- State Director discretionary points

For More Information

USDA Rural Development State Office
3727 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
Telephone: (318) 473-7960
e-mail: judy.meche@la.usda.gov.