

Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) Program



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Fact Sheet

Purpose

- To promote sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs through provision of training and technical assistance for business development, entrepreneurs, and economic development officials and to assist with economic development planning.

Applicant Eligibility

- Rural public bodies, rural nonprofit corporations, rural Indian tribes, and cooperatives with primarily rural members that conduct activities for the mutual benefit of the membership are eligible provided they have sufficient financial strength and expertise to carry out the activity to be funded.

Use of Grant Funds

- Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG) may be used to pay costs of providing economic planning for rural communities, technical assistance for rural businesses, or training for rural entrepreneurs or economic development officials. Applicants must be able to show that the funding will result in economic development of a rural area. Project scope must include a basis for determining the success or failure of the project and assessing its impact.

Maximum Grant Amounts

- The maximum grant for a project serving a single state is \$50,000.
- The maximum grant for a project serving two or more states is \$150,000.

Application Process

- Application may be submitted to the USDA Rural Development State Office—see address below.
- Applications are selected on a nationwide competitive basis.

Selection Factors

- USDA Rural Development uses a priority scoring system that considers the sustainability and quality of the economic activity expected to result from the project; the extent to which the project is critical to a larger overall project; economic conditions in the service area, (such as recent loss of a major employer, long-term job deterioration, poverty, or population decline), and the project's usefulness as a new "best practice".

For More Information

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