



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**\$12 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TO BUILD COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

Lincoln, Neb., April 25-The Rural Housing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture announced the \$12 million Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) referred to as the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI). This initiative will aid in technical assistance for the building of economic development in rural areas.

The RCDI grant is made to an intermediary. The intermediary provides a program of technical assistance to recipients to develop or increase their capacity and ability to undertake projects in the areas of housing, community facilities, and community and economic development in rural areas.

The intermediary can be a private or public organization, including tribal, that has been organized a minimum of three years and has experience working with the recipients eligible for this program.

The recipients can be nonprofit organizations, low-income communities, and Federally recognized tribes, based on the definitions in the NOFA. Recipients must be located in eligible rural areas as defined in the NOFA.

The minimum grant request is \$50,000 with a maximum of \$1 million. The RCDI grant, which has a matching funds requirement, must be in the form of cash or confirmed funding commitments. In-kind contributions cannot be used as matching funds.

The deadline for applications is 4 p.m. EST on July 2, 2002. Entities wishing to apply for assistance may download the application requirements at www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/index.htm. Applicants may also request application packages and obtain further information from Beth Jones, Rural Housing Service, STOP 0787 Room 0183 1400 Independence Ave. SW Washington, DC 20250-0787, telephone (202) 720-1498 or email epjones@rdmail.rural.usda.gov.

The original application package must be submitted by mail to Beth Jones, Rural Housing Service, STOP 0787 Room 0183 1400 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20250-0787 and a copy of the application must be submitted by mail to the Rural Development State Office where the applicant is located. In Nebraska, the State Office's address is USDA Rural Development Business and Community Program Division Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Nebraska 68508. Further information in Nebraska may be found by contacting Denise Brosius-Meeks, Business and Community Program Director for USDA Rural Development at (402) 437-5559. Applications sent electronically or by facsimile will not be accepted.

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USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, OCR, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.