



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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USDA HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT DOLLARS AVAILABLE

Lincoln, Neb., March 4—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Housing Service is accepting pre-applications for the Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program from qualified state and local governments, private nonprofit corporations, Federally recognized Indian Tribes, or a consortium of eligible entities.

Nebraska has not received a specific allocation of funds for the HPG program this fiscal year. Pre-applications will be selected for funding on a competitive basis, subject to the availability of funds on a nationwide basis. Funding requests from applicants are not to exceed \$50,000. Pre-applications will be accepted through May 28, 2002, 5 p.m. CDT.

The HPG program provides funding to selected recipient organizations (grantee) to develop a program that financially assists in the repair and rehabilitation of individual housing, rental properties, or co-ops owned and/or occupied by eligible households. Established income guidelines must be met in order for a household to qualify for the grant funds. The grantee organization administers the funds to provide financial assistance through loans, grants, interest reduction payments, or other comparable financial assistance for necessary repairs and rehabilitation.

Jim Barr, state director for USDA Rural Development in Nebraska stated, "Organizations applying for the program must demonstrate that there is a need for repair and rehabilitation of homes or rental properties in the area to be served. The organization needs to develop an acceptable plan for selecting the individual recipients, assure the quality of work performed, solicit support for the program from the local government(s) in the area to be served, and generate sources of additional funding to supplement the program."

Additional information and a pre-application package can be obtained from the USDA Rural Development State Office at Room 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508-3888, or call (402) 437-5035. The announcement and program guidelines were published in the February 25, 2002 Federal Register. Check the USDA Rural Development website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> for more information on the Housing Preservation Grant program and other USDA Rural Development programs.

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