



Committed to the future of rural communities.

RURAL HOUSING PROGRAMS

HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT (HPG) PROGRAM

Grant funds are available annually on a competitive basis to nonprofit groups assisting very low and low income homeowners or renters, who live in rural areas, with essential repairs. Rural areas include open country and places with a population of 20,000 or less including the communities of Columbus, Norfolk and the Scottsbluff, Gering, Terrytown area.

Eligible Grantee

May be a public or private nonprofit organization, public agency or body of any State government or commonwealth or federally recognized American Indian tribe. Also included are faith-based and community-based organizations. The grantee must have the necessary background and experience on the part of its staff with proven ability to perform the responsibility in the field of low-income rural housing development, repair and rehabilitation. Grantees are required to make quarterly progress reports and a final audit on their accomplishments.

Use of Funds

Grant funds are used by the organization to assist very low and low income homeowners with grants or low interest loans which will be used to repair or rehabilitate homes that do not meet decent, safe, sanitary and handicapped accessibility standards. Funds may be used for labor and materials for the needed repairs; and up to 20 percent of the funds may be used for administrative expenses. Leveraged funds from other sources are encouraged to be used with the Housing Preservation Grant funds.

Eligible Homeowners

The individual homeowners assisted must have incomes that meet the very low or low-income definitions, be the owner of an individual dwelling at least one year prior to the time of assistance, and be the intended occupant of the dwelling after the repairs are completed. Dwelling must be located in a rural area or community and be in need of housing preservation assistance. Each homeowner is required to submit evidence of income and ownership for the grantee's files.

What Repairs are Authorized?

Including but not limited to:

- Installation or repair of sanitary water and waste disposal systems.
- Insulation, combination screen-storms windows and doors.
- Repair or replacement of heating systems.
- Electrical wiring.
- Foundation repair.
- Roof repair and replacement.
- Handicap accessibility features.
- Additions to dwellings to alleviate overcrowding.
- Other necessary repairs.

Where Can Applications Be Made?

This is a competitive grant program. Applications will be accepted when announced through a NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) published in the Federal Register by the USDA Rural Development National Office. The application period generally runs for 90 days, usually starting around January 1st. Application packets may be obtained from the USDA Rural Development State Office in Lincoln. The individual homeowners make applications to an approved grantee.

Are Other Funds Available?

Housing preservation grants can also be made to nonprofit organizations to assist rental property owners with necessary repairs to their apartment units. An applicant can make application for either homeowners or renters, but cannot make a combined application.

For More Information

For more information contact your local USDA Rural Development Office or the USDA Rural Development State Office at:

USDA Rural Development
Attn: Rural Housing Division
Federal Building, Room 152
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508-3888
Phone: (402) 437-5557

National Office Web site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs>
Rural Development Toll Free: (800) 670-6553
Nebraska Rural Development Web site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne>
Nebraska State Office Telephone Number: (402) 437-5551
Nebraska State Office Facsimile Number: (402) 437-5408
Nebraska State Office TDD Number: (402) 437-5093

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