



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development
San Juan, PR

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS TO REPAIR RURAL HOUSING

Washington, May 21, 2009 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that USDA is accepting applications for grants to help low and very-low-income rural residents repair their homes.

“Housing is a cornerstone of any thriving, stable community,” Vilsack said. “As the Obama administration works to ensure that people remain in their homes, it is more important than ever to make certain their home are safe, energy efficient, livable dwellings.”

Housing Preservation Grants are provided to intermediaries such as town or county governments, public agencies, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and nonprofit and faith-based organizations. The grants are distributed to homeowners or owners of multi-family rental properties or cooperative dwellings who rents to low and very-low income people.

Grants can be used to weatherize and repair existing structures, install or improve plumbing or provide access to people with disabilities. USDA may award up to \$10 million in competitive grants through this notice. The grants to be awarded are part of USDA Rural Development’s annual budget and are not funded through the ARRA Act of 2009.

Pedro Gómez, Puerto Rico Acting State Director indicates that applications are due by the close of business July 10, 2009. Application may be accessed electronically at <http://www.grants.gov>. Also see May 11, 2009, Federal Register, page, 21775.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
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homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by contacting Arlene Zambrana at (787) 766-5095 ext. 236 or Miguel Ramírez at (787) 766-5095 ext. 232.

USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.