



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development  
San Juan, PR

## NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Miguel A. Ramírez  
Phone: (787) 766-5095 x232  
E-mail: [miguel.ramirez@pr.usda.gov](mailto:miguel.ramirez@pr.usda.gov)

# USDA SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR HOUSEHOLD WATER WELL GRANTS

WASHINGTON, May 6, 2009 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the availability of funding for applications from non-profit organizations for funds to help rural homeowners construct or upgrade household water well systems.

The funding is provided through USDA Rural Development's Household Water Well System grant program. USDA plans to award up to four grants to non-profit groups that will use the funds to establish loan program for homeowners. Loans may not exceed \$11,000.00 and will carry a term up to 20 years at 1% annual interest rate.

“Because many rural residents do not live in areas where a centralized water system is feasible, it is essential that their wells are safe and working properly,” said Vilsack. The Household Water Well Grant program complements President Obama's environmental initiatives and provides support for rural residents.

Pedro Gómez, Acting State Director of USDA Rural Development indicated that the Agency plans to award up to \$993,000 in grants. Non-profit groups must contribute at least 10% of the grant request. Individuals are not eligible for grants but may be eligible for loans if their annual household income does not exceed 100% of their state or territory's median non-metropolitan income. Loans may not be provided for home sewer or septic system projects.

Applications are due by the close of business May 31, 2009. The application guide for this grant program can be found at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/HWWSP.htm>. Also see the April 29, 2009, Federal Register, page 19503.

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

654 Plaza, Muñoz Rivera Ave., Hato Rey PR 00918  
PO Box 366106 - San Juan, PR 00936-6106  
Phone: (787)766-5095 • Fax: (787) 766-5844 • TDD: (787) 766-5332

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”  
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure.

Additional information on USDA Rural Development Water Programs can be obtained by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> or by calling María de los A de Jesús at (787) 766-5095 x 251 or Miguel A. Ramírez at (787) 766-5095 x 232. USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.