

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Seeks Applications to Strengthen Rural Cooperatives and Improve Economic Conditions in Rural Areas

WASHINGTON, June 11, 2021 – USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Justin Maxson today announced that the department is accepting applications for grants to help start, expand or improve rural cooperatives and other mutually-owned businesses in rural America.

USDA is making \$5.8 million in grants available under the [Rural Cooperative Development Grant \(RCDG\)](#) program to help improve economic conditions in rural areas through cooperative development.

Nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education are eligible to apply for grants to provide technical and cooperative development assistance to individuals and rural businesses.

For Fiscal Year 2021, the maximum award is \$200,000. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis through a national competition.

Electronic applications must be submitted to [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on August 10, 2021.

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact their local USDA Rural Development State Office well in advance of the application deadline to discuss their project and ask any questions about the RCDG program or the application process. Contact information for state offices can be found at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>. Additional information on the required materials and how to apply for the RCDG program are available on page 31266 of the June 11, 2021, [Federal Register](#).

If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our [GovDelivery subscriber page](#).

###

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender