



RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RMAP)

Purpose: To provide direct loans, technical assistance grants, and technical assistance-only grants to Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs) to support the development and ongoing success of rural microentrepreneurs and microenterprises in rural areas.

Loans: Microlender providing fixed interest rate microloans to rural microentrepreneurs for startup and growing microenterprises.

- Loan size to a microlender up to \$500,000.

Eligible Microloan Purposes

Agency loan funds may be used to make microloans for any legal business purpose not identified as an ineligible purpose. Microlenders may make microloans for qualified business activities and expenses including, but not limited to:

1. Working capital
2. The purchase of furniture, fixtures, supplies, inventory or equipment;
3. Debt refinancing;
4. Business acquisitions; and
5. The purchase or lease of real estate that is already improved and will be used for the location of the subject business only, provided no demolition or construction will be accomplished with the program funding. Neither interior decorating, nor the affixing of chattel to walls, floors, or ceilings are considered to be demolition or construction.

Grants: Microlender technical assistance grants to Microlenders participating in RMAP with an active rural microloan revolving fund or applying to participate under RMAP. Once an MDO receives an RMAP loan and grant, grant funding will continue annually based on availability of funds.

- Technical assistance grants to a microlender will be made based on a percentage of the outstanding microloans owed to the microlender under this program.

Eligible Grant Purposes:

- **TA Grant** – provide technical assistance and training to eligible microentrepreneurs and microenterprises.
- **TA-Only Grant** – provided to eligible MDOs that seek to provide business-based technical assistance and training to eligible microentrepreneurs and microenterprises. (*Entities receiving microlending TA Grants will not be eligible to apply for TA-Only grants.*)

MDO Eligibility:

- Must meet definition of an MDO
 - Non-Profit entity; or
 - Federally recognized Indian tribe; or
 - A public institution of higher education
- Citizens of the United States and its territories
- Legal authority and responsibility
- For potential microlenders: the applicant must also provide evidence that it:
 - has demonstrated experience in management of a revolving loan fund; or
 - Certifies that it, or its employees, have received education and training from a qualified microenterprise development training entity so that the applicant has the capacity to manage such a revolving loan fund; or
 - Is actively and successfully participating as an intermediary lender in good standing under the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Microloan Program or other similar loan programs as determined by the Administrator.

Microenterprise/ Microentrepreneur Eligibility:

- Business located in a rural area that employs not more than 10 FTEs and is seeking a loan(s) of not more than \$50,000 or no more than 75% of the eligible project cost (whichever is less).
- A sole proprietorship/business entity located in a rural area
- Inadequate credit elsewhere

Timeframe: Applications must be in the State Office by the last business day of each calendar quarter in order to be considered for funding in the next funding cycle.

Applications: Applicants must submit an original complete application to the USDA Rural Development State Office in the state where the applicant's project is located.

Maine State Office:

**USDA, Rural Development
Business Programs Division
967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4
Bangor, ME 04401**

207 990-9168

Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

December 2011

Contact Person: Mr. Greg Whitney
Organization: **Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments**
Address: 125 Manley Rd., Auburn, ME 04210
Phone: 207 783-9186
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Service Area: Androscoggin, Franklin & Oxford Counties
Email: gwhitney@avcog.org

Contact Person: Ms. Jennifer L. Sporzynski
Organization: **Coastal Enterprises, Inc.**
Address: 2 Portland Fish Pier, Suite 206, Portland, ME 04101
Phone: 207 772-5356, ext 105
Fax: 207 772-5503
Service Area: State of Maine
Email: jl@ceimaine.org

Contact Person: Ms. Jayne Giles
Organization: **MaineStream Finance**
Address: 262 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401
Phone: 207 973-3558
Fax: 207 973-3699
Service Area: Penobscot, Piscataquis, Knox & Waldo Counties
Email: Jgiles@penquis.org

Contact Person: Mr. Duane Walton
Organization: **Northern Maine Development Commission, Inc.**
Address: PO Box 779, Caribou, ME 04736
Phone: 207 498-8736, 1-800-427-8736
Fax: 207 493-3108
Service Area: Aroostook & Washington Counties
Email: dwalton@nmdc.org

Contact Person: Ms. Sarah Nugent
Organization: **Washington Hancock Community Agency**
Address: PO Box 299, 248 Bucksport Road, Ellsworth, ME 04605
Phone: 207 664-2424, ext. 4405
Fax: 207 664-2430
Service Area: Hancock & Washington Counties
Email: snugent@whcacap.org

Contact Person: Ms. Rhonda Amsden
Organization: **Eastern Maine Development Corporation**
Address: 40 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04402-2579
Phone: 207 942-6389
Fax: 207 942-3548
Service Area:
Email: ramsden@emdc.org

Contact Person: Mr. Joe Balchunas,
Organization: **Community Concepts Finance Corporation**
Address: 240 Bates Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240
Phone: 207 333-6410
Fax: 207 795-4069
Service Area:
Email: www.mainebusinesslending.org

Contact Person: Mr. Paul Lacombe
Organization: **Lewiston-Auburn Economic Growth Council**
Address: 415 Lisbon Street, Suite 400, Lewiston, ME 04240
Phone: 207 784-0161
Fax: 207 786-4412
Service Area: Auburn, ME
Email: placombe@economicgrowth.org