



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development
Vermont/New Hampshire

Rural Business Enterprise Grant Applications Requested

Vermont **anticipates** a statewide (excludes REAP Zone Counties of Caledonia, Essex and Orleans) allocation of approximately \$176,000 for Fiscal 2009 and we are now inviting applications to compete for funding. Funded activities must provide technical assistance, loan funds or construct a facility (owned and operated by the applicant) that will benefit a small business or businesses (less than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in gross profit). Please note that revolving loan funds are not a high priority for our program and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Application packages can be found on-line at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/vt/vtnhrbegapplications.htm>

To learn more about the program, please visit the following website: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbeg.htm>

Please call the appropriate office listed below to pre-screen your project. We highly encourage pre-screening prior to application submission. **We encourage you to discuss and submit your proposals early. Please do not wait until the deadline!**

- To compete for the Vermont State Allocation funding (non-REAP), your completed application must be received by close of business **March 2, 2009** by the RD office that services the area of your project: Applications received after this date would compete for nationally competitive funds if they are available on June 30th.

**Windham, Windsor, Bennington &
Rutland Counties:**

Brattleboro, Vermont

Andrea Ansevin-Allen
802-257-7878 x 113
Andrea.ansevinallen@nh.usda.gov

**Grand Isle, Franklin,
Chittenden, Lamoille,
Washington, Orange &
Addison Counties:**

Montpelier, Vermont

Sherry Paige
802-828-6034
Sherry.paige@vt.usda.gov

**Caledonia, Orleans & Essex
Counties (REAP Zone
Projects):**

St. Johnsbury, Vermont

Steven Campbell
802-748-8746 x102
Steven.campbell@vt.usda.gov

- **Northeast Kingdom REAP Zone.** Reserve funding is **anticipated** to be available for applications from (or primarily serving) the Northeast Kingdom Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zone in Fiscal 2009. We **anticipate** the deadline for submitting REAP applications to Washington, DC will be April 15, 2008. Therefore, we are asking that applications to support projects in **Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties** be submitted to our St. Johnsbury, Vermont office by **March 2, 2009**.

A summary of Vermont projects completed and funded during 2008 is attached for your information and reference. Also attached is the program "scoring criteria" to assist you in determining whether your project will score well.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) – FY 2008

Grantee	County	Use Of Funds	\$ Amount
Richford Economic Advancement Corp.	Franklin	Micro-business revolving loan fund.	\$50,000
Northern Forest Canoe Trail	Washington	Enhance business activity along the Northern Forest Canoe Trail via marketing.	\$52,300
Lake Champlain Islands Chamber of Commerce	Grand Isle	Feasibility study to develop design alternatives for pavilion expansion.	\$8,200
VT Sustainable Jobs Fund Inc.	Washington	Develop a Vermont Green-Certified wood marketing cooperative.	\$45,000
VT Community Loan Fund	Washington	Recapitalize small business technical assistance fund.	\$19,500
Nulhegan Gateway Assn.	Caledonia, Orleans & Essex	Tech assistance funds to create a geotourism training program for small business.	\$154,637
Northern Community Investment Corp.	Caledonia, Orleans & Essex	Tech assistance funds to provide energy analysis and planning to small businesses.	\$200,000
Northern Enterprises	Caledonia	Funds will be used to construct a food processing and warehousing facility to support value-added agricultural production.	\$500,000
University of Vermont (Artisan Cheese Institute)	Addison, Windham, Windsor, Orleans & Washington	Technical assistance to 25 small scale Vermont cheese makers to develop individual protocols for Risk Reduction Management.	\$99,000
TOTAL			\$1,128,637

SCORING CRITERIA

Population. Proposed project(s) will primarily be located in a community of (1) between 15,000 and 25,000 population - 5 points, (2) between 5,000 and 15,000 population - 10 points, (3) under 5,000 population - 15 points.

Economic conditions.

(A) Proposed project(s) will primarily be located in areas where the unemployment rate exceeds the State rate by 25 percent or more - 20 points; exceeds the State rate by less than 25 percent - 10 points; is equal to or less than State rate - 0 points.

(B) Proposed project(s) will primarily be located in areas where Median Household Income (MHI) as prescribed by Section 673 (2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C 9902 (2)) for a family of 4 for the State is: less than poverty line - 25 points; more than poverty line but less than 85 percent of State MHI - 15 points; between 85 percent and 100 percent of State MHI - 10 points; equal or greater than State MHI - 0 points.

Experience. Applicant has evidence of at least 5 years of successful experience in the type of activity proposed in the application for funds under this subpart. Evidence of successful experience may be (1) a description of experience supplied and certified by the applicant, or (2) a letter of support from appropriate local elected officials explaining the applicant's experience. Experience - 10 points.

Other.

(A) Applicant has evidence that small business development will occur by startup or expansion as a result of the activities to be carried out under the grant. Written evidence of commitment by small business must be provided to Rural Development - 25 points.

(B) Applicant has evidence of substantial commitment of funds from nonfederal sources for proposed project. An authorized representative of the source organization of the nonfederal funds must provide evidence that the funds are available and will be used for the proposed project. More than 50 percent of the project costs from nonfederal sources - 15 points; more than 25 percent, but less than 50 percent, of project costs from nonfederal sources - 10 points; between 5 percent and 25 percent of project costs from nonfederal sources - 5 points.

(C) For a grant to establish a revolving fund, the applicant provides evidence to the Agency through loan applications or letters from businesses that the loans are needed by small and emerging businesses in the proposed project area - 25 points.

(D) The anticipated development, expansion, or furtherance of business enterprises as a result of the proposed project will create and/or save jobs associated with the affected businesses. The number of jobs must be evidenced by a written commitment from the business to be assisted. One job per each \$10,000 or less in grant funds expended - 10 points. One job per each \$25,000 to \$10,000 in grant funds expended - 5 points.

(E) The proposed grant project is consistent with, and does not duplicate, economic development activities for the project area under an existing community or economic development plan covering the project area. If no local plan is in existence for the project area, an area-wide plan may be used. The plan used must be adopted by the appropriate governmental officials/entities as the area's community or economic development plan. Appropriate plan references and copies of appropriate sections of the plan, as well as evidence of plan adoption by appropriate governmental officials, should be provided to the Agency. Project is reflected in a plan - 5 points.