



MEDIA RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
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HOME REPAIR FUNDS AVAILABLE THROUGH USDA

Spokane---USDA Rural Development has loan funds available for home repairs for very low-income rural homeowners. Grants are available for senior citizens age 62 or older who do not show repayment ability for a loan.

Funds may be used for home repairs in rural areas for eligible homeowners with incomes under 50 percent of the median family income for that county. Eligible rural areas are defined as having a population under 10,000 or up to 20,000 population in non-metropolitan areas. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents legally admitted to the U.S. The funds may only be used for owner-occupied housing that is modest in value.

The maximum home repair loan amount is \$20,000 with an interest rate of one percent, with up to 20 years to repay. Section 504 grants up to \$7,500 are available to remove health or safety hazards for senior citizen homeowners, 62 years or older, who are unable to finance their repairs. Income limits are as follows:

FAMILY SIZE	-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-
Stevens & Ferry Counties	17,050	19,500	21,900	24,350
Spokane County	19,100	21,850	24,550	27,300
Pend Oreille & Lincoln Counties	17,050	19,500	21,900	24,350

The USDA Rural Development 504 Housing Repair Program impacts those of greatest need. In Sprague, an 88-year old woman is delighted to have a new roof so it will not leak this winter. In Thornton, a 67-year old woman is happy with her renovated bath with handicap features. In Kettle Falls, a 77-year old woman was grateful for the repairs to remedy a sinking floor. None of these recipients had adequate resources to pay for these much needed repairs.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on USDA Rural Development's 504 Housing Repair Program can be obtained by contacting the USDA Service Center in Spokane at 509-924-7350, Ext. 4 or by visiting the Washington State Rural Development web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa>.
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