



Rural Business-Cooperative Programs

Rural Cooperative Development Grant

PURPOSE

The Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) program helps facilitate the creation or retention of jobs in rural areas through the development of new rural cooperatives, value-added processing and rural businesses.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Grants may be made to nonprofit corporations and institutions of higher education.

ELIGIBLE GRANT USES

Grant funds may be used to pay up to 75% (95% where the grantee is a 1994 Institution) of the cost of establishing and operating centers for rural cooperative development, such as:

- Applied research, feasibility, environmental and other studies that may be useful for the purpose of cooperative development
- Collection, interpretation and dissemination of principles, facts, technical knowledge, or other information for the purpose of cooperative development
- Providing loans and grants for the purpose of cooperative development
- Providing technical assistance, research services and advisory services for the purpose of cooperative development

GRANT LIMITATIONS

Public bodies are not eligible applicants
Cities and states are not eligible applicants
Grant funds cannot be used for basic or academic research or for research and development
Other Federal grants cannot be used at matching funds

APPLICATION INFORMATION

To develop an application, obtain a copy of the complete program regulation and refer to the application section. Briefly, an application must include a Form SF424.1, Application for Federal Assistance (for non-construction), a copy of your organizational documents, verification of matching funds, a written narrative, and a financial statement. Request for applications are announced on an annual basis in the Federal Register.

APPLICATION SELECTION

Consideration will be given to applications based on a priority score. Points will be allowed only for factors indicated by well documented, reasonable projects that, in the opinion of RBS, provide assurance that the items have a high probability of being accomplished.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

You may file applications with the USDA Rural Development State Office:

Rural Development
Attn: Business & Community Programs
4949 Kirschling Court
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715) 345-7610 phone
(715) 345-7616 fax

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You can obtain additional information, copies of the regulation, and forms by contacting the USDA Rural Development State Office by calling 715-345-7610 or e-mailing RD.BCP.SO@wi.usda.gov. Visit us on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/rcdg/rcdg.htm>.