methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Bernadette Thomas, Information Technology Specialist, Plant Variety Protection Office, Room 401, NAL Building, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.


James E. Link, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Inviting Applications for the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2009

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice is to invite applications for loans and grants under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program pursuant to 7 CFR part 4280, subpart A for fiscal year (FY) 2009 subject to the availability of funding. Funding to support $35.8 million in loans and $10 million in grants is currently available. The commitment of program dollars will be made to applicants of selected responses that have fulfilled the necessary requirements for obligation. Expenses incurred in developing applications will be at the applicant’s risk.

ADDRESSES: For further information, entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact a Rural Development State Office to receive further information and copies of the application package. Submit applications to the USDA Rural Development State Office in the state where your project is located. A list of the USDA Rural Development State Offices addresses and telephone numbers are as follows:

**District of Columbia**

**Alabama**
USDA Rural Development State Office, Sterling Centre, Suite 601, 4121 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL 36106–3683, (334) 279–5400/TDD (334) 279–3495.

**Arizona**

**Arkansas**

**California**
USDA Rural Development State Office, 430 G Street, # 4169, Davis, CA 95616–4169, (530) 792–5800/TDD (530) 792–5848.

**Colorado**
USDA Rural Development State Office, 655 Parfet Street, Room E100, Lakewood, CO 80215, (720) 544–2903/TDD (720) 544–2976.

**Delaware/Maryland**

**Florida/Virgin Islands**
USDA Rural Development State Office, 4440 NW 25th Place, P.O. Box 147010, Gainesville, FL 32614–7010, (352) 338–3400/TDD (352) 338–3499.

**Georgia**

**Hawaii**
USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 311, 154 Waiau Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720, (808) 933–8380/TDD (808) 933–8321.

**Idaho**

**Illinois**
USDA Rural Development State Office, 2118 W. Park Court, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821, (217) 403–6200/TDD (217) 403–6240.

**Indiana**

**Iowa**

**Kansas**

**Kentucky**

**Louisiana**

**Maine**
USDA Rural Development State Office, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, P.O. Box 405, Bangor, ME 04402–0405, (207) 906–3160/TDD (207) 942–7331.

**Massachusetts/Rhode Island/Connecticut**
USDA Rural Development State Office, 451 West Street, Suite 2, Amherst, MA 01002–2905, (413) 253–4300/TDD (413) 253–4590.

**Michigan**
USDA Rural Development State Office, 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 324–5190/TDD (517) 324–5169.

**Minnesota**

**Mississippi**

**Missouri**

**Montana**

**Nebraska**

**Nevada**
USDA Rural Development State Office, 1390 South Curry Street, Carson City, NV 89701, (775) 687–5300/TDD (775) 687–5976.
I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Eligible Applicants

Loans and grants may be made to any entity that is identified by USDA Rural Development as an eligible borrower under the Rural Electrification Act. In accordance with 7 CFR 4280.13, applicants that are not delinquent on any Federal debt or otherwise disqualified from participation in these programs are eligible to apply. An applicant must be eligible under 7 U.S.C. 940c.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing or matching is required for all projects. The regulations for these programs include an SF-424, “Application for Federal Assistance;” a Resolution of the Board of Directors; AD-1047, “Debarment/Suspension Certification;” Assurance statement for the Uniform Act: Restrictions on Lobbying, AD 1049; “Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements;” Seismic certification (if construction); Form RD 1940–20, “Request for Environmental Information;” RUS Form 7; “Financial and Statistical Report;” and RUS Form 7a, “Investments, Loan Guarantees, and Loans,” or similar information; and written narrative of project description. Applications will be tentatively scored by the State Offices and submitted to the National Office for review.

Supplementary Information:

The definitions are published at 7 CFR 4280.3.

II. Award Information

A. Type of Awards: Loans and Grants.

B. Fiscal Year Funds: FY 2009.

C. Maximum Anticipated Award: Loans—$740,000; Grant—$300,000.


III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Loans and grants may be made to any entity that is identified by USDA Rural Development as an eligible borrower under the Rural Electrification Act. In accordance with 7 CFR 4280.13, applicants that are not delinquent on any Federal debt or otherwise disqualified from participation in these programs are eligible to apply. An applicant must be eligible under 7 U.S.C. 940c.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

For loans, either the Ultimate Recipient or the Intermediary must provide supplemental funds for the project equal to at least 20 percent of the loan to the Intermediary. For grants, the Intermediary must provide supplemental funds for the project equal to at least 20 percent of the grant.
to at least 20 percent of the grant to the Intermediary.

C. Other Eligibility Requirements

Applications will only be accepted for projects that promote rural economic development and job creation.

D. Completeness Eligibility

Applications will not be considered for funding if they do not provide sufficient information to determine eligibility or are missing required elements.

IV. Fiscal Year 2009 Application and Submission Information

A. Address To Request Application Package

For further information, entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact the Rural Development State Office identified in this NOFA to obtain copies of the application package. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications through the Grants.gov Web site at: http://www.grants.gov. Applications may be submitted in either electronic or paper format. Users of Grants.gov will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it off line, and then upload and submit the application via the Grants.gov Web site. Applications may not be submitted by electronic mail.

- When you enter the Grants.gov Web site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site as well as the hours of operation. USDA Rural Development strongly recommends that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process through Grants.gov. To use Grants.gov, applicants must have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number which can be obtained at no cost via a toll-free request line at 1–866–705–5711.

- You may submit all documents electronically through the Web site, including all information typically included on the application for REDLGs and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- After electronically submitting an application through the Web site, the applicant will receive an automatic acknowledgement from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number.

- USDA Rural Development may request that the applicant provide original signatures on forms at a later date.

- If applicants experience technical difficulties on the closing date and are unable to meet the deadline, you may submit a paper copy of your application to your respective Rural Development State Office. Paper applications submitted to a Rural Development State Office must meet the closing date and local time deadline.

Please note that applicants must locate the downloadable application package for this program by the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number or FedGrants Funding Opportunity Number, which can be found at http://www.grants.gov. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the information collection requirement contained in this Notice is approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0570–0024.

B. Content and Form of Submission

An application must contain all of the required elements. Each selection priority criterion outlined in 7 CFR 4280.42(b), must be addressed in the application. Failure to address any of the criteria will result in a zero-point score for that criterion and will impact the overall evaluation of the application. Copies of 7 CFR part 4280, subpart A, will be provided to any interested applicant making a request to a Rural Development State Office listed in this notice.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Applicants must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations before the loan/grant application requirements have not changed, an application not selected and lender.

V. Application Review Information

The National Office will score applications based on the grant selection criteria and weights contained in 7 CFR part 4280, subpart A and will select an Intermediary subject to the Intermediary’s satisfactory submission of the additional items required by 7 CFR part 4280, subpart A and the USDA Rural Development Letter of Conditions.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive notification for funding from the Rural Development State Office. Applicants must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations before the loan/grant award will be approved. Provided the application requirements have not changed, an application not selected will be reconsidered in three subsequent funding competitions for a total of four competitions. If an application is withdrawn, it can be resubmitted and will be evaluated as a new application.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Additional requirements that apply to Intermediary’s selected for this program can be found in the 7 CFR part 4280, subpart A.

VII. Agency Contacts

For general questions about this announcement, please contact your Rural Development State Office identified in this NOFA.

Nondiscrimination Statement

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20250–9410, or call (800) 795–3272 (voice), or (202) 720–6382 (TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.”


Ben Anderson,
Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service
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BILLING CODE 3410–XY–P

ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

Meetings

AGENCY: Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) plans to hold its regular committee and Board meetings in Washington, D.C. Monday through Wednesday, January 12–14, 2009, at the times and location noted below.