DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Funding Availability for the Rural Energy for America Program

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

SUMMARY: This NOFA announces the acceptance of applications under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) for Fiscal Year 2012 for financial assistance as follows: grants, guaranteed loans, and combined grants and guaranteed loans for the development and construction of renewable energy systems and for energy efficiency improvement projects; grants for conducting energy audits; and grants for conducting renewable energy development assistance; and grants for conducting renewable energy system feasibility studies. The Notice also announces the availability of $25.4 million of Fiscal Year 2012 budget authority to fund these REAP activities, which will support at least $12.5 million in grant program level and up to approximately $48.5 million in guaranteed loan program level.

DATES: In order to be considered for Fiscal Year 2012 funds, complete applications under this Notice must be received by the appropriate USDA Rural Development State Office no later than 4:30 p.m. local time of the dates as follows:

- For renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grant applications and combination grant and guaranteed loan applications: March 30, 2012.
- For renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement guaranteed loan only applications: On a continuous basis up to June 29, 2012.
- For renewable energy system feasibility study applications: March 30, 2012.
- For energy audits and renewable energy development assistance applications: February 21, 2012.

ADDRESSES: See the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for addresses concerning applications for the Rural Energy for America Program for Fiscal Year 2012 funds.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about this Notice, please contact Mr. Kelley Oehler, Branch Chief, USDA Rural Development, Energy Division, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 720–6819. Email: kelley.oehler@wdc.usda.gov.

For further information on this program, please contact the applicable USDA Rural Development Energy Coordinator for your respective State, as provided in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this Notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Fiscal Year 2012 Applications for the Rural Energy for America Program

Applications. Application materials may be obtained by contacting one of Rural Development’s Energy Coordinators. In addition, for grant applications, applicants may access the electronic grant application for the Rural Energy for America Program at http://www.Grants.gov. To locate the downloadable application package for this program, the applicant must use the program’s Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number 10.868 or FedGrants Funding Opportunity Number, which can be found at http://www.Grants.gov.

Application submittal. For renewable energy system, energy efficiency improvement, and feasibility study applications, submit complete paper applications to the Rural Development State Office in the State in which the applicant’s proposed project is located. For energy audit and renewable energy development assistance applications, submit complete paper applications to the Rural Development State Office in the State in which the applicant is headquartered.

Submit electronic grant only applications at http://www.grants.gov, following the instructions found on this Web site.

Rural Development Energy Coordinators

Note: Telephone numbers listed are not toll-free.

Alabama

Marcia Johnson, USDA Rural Development, Sterling Centre, Suite 601, 4121 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL 36106–3683, (334) 279–3453, marcia.johnson@al.usda.gov.

Alaska

Chad Stovall, USDA Rural Development, 800 West Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer, AK 99645–6539, (907) 761–7718, chad.stovall@ak.usda.gov.

American Samoa (See Hawaii)

Arizona

Gary Mack, USDA Rural Development, 230 North First Avenue, Suite 206,