

were submitted following the peer review.

This document announces that FSIS is making the 2005 updated Harvard Risk Assessment available to the public. The Agency will also hold a public technical meeting to provide information on the 2005 updated Harvard Risk Assessment. At this meeting, the developers of the risk assessment model will explain the modifications that have been made to the model and FSIS will present the results of the various risk mitigation scenarios that were analyzed using the updated model.

#### Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that the public and in particular minorities, women, and persons with disabilities, are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it on-line through the FSIS Web page located at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations\\_and\\_policies/2006\\_Notices\\_Index/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_and_policies/2006_Notices_Index/index.asp).

The Regulations.gov Web site is the central online rulemaking portal of the United States government. It is being offered as a public service to increase participation in the Federal government's regulatory activities. FSIS participates in Regulations.gov and will accept comments on documents published on the site. The site allows visitors to search by keyword or Department or Agency for rulemakings that allow for public comment. Each entry provides a quick link to a comment form so that visitors can type in their comments and submit them to FSIS. The Web site is located at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FSIS also will make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The update is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service consisting of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. The update also is available on the FSIS Web page. Through Listserv and the Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

In addition, FSIS offers an e-mail subscription service which provides

automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news\\_and\\_events/email\\_subscription/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_and_events/email_subscription/). Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the option to password protect their account.

**Barbara J. Masters,**

*Administrator.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

#### Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI)

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of solicitation of applications.

**SUMMARY:** This Notice announces the availability of approximately \$6 million of grant funds for the RCDI program through the Rural Housing Service (RHS), an agency within the USDA Rural Development mission area herein referred to as the Agency. Applicants must provide matching funds in an amount at least equal to the Federal grant. These grants will be made to qualified intermediary organizations that will provide financial and technical assistance to recipients to develop their capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development. This Notice lists the information needed to submit an application for these funds.

**DATES:** The deadline for receipt of an application is 4 p.m. eastern standard time, October 10, 2006. The application date and time are firm. The Agency will not consider any application received after the deadline.

**ADDRESSES:** Entities wishing to apply for assistance may download the application requirements delineated in this Notice from the RCDI Web site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/index.htm>. Applicants may also request application packages from: William Kenney, Rural Housing Service, Room 0183, Stop 0787, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0787, Telephone (202) 720-1506, E-mail: [william.kenney@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:william.kenney@wdc.usda.gov).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William Kenney, Senior Loan Specialist, Community Programs, RHS, USDA, STOP 0787, Rm. 0183, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0787, Telephone (202) 720-1506, Facsimile (202) 690-0471, E-mail: [william.kenney@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:william.kenney@wdc.usda.gov). You may also obtain information from the RCDI Web site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/index.htm>.

#### Programs Affected

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under Number 10.446. This program is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.

#### Paperwork Reduction Act

The paperwork burden has been cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0575-0180.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Overview

*Federal Agency:* Rural Housing Service.

*Funding Opportunity Title:* Rural Community Development Initiative.

*Announcement Type:* Initial Announcement.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:* 10.446.

#### Part I—Funding Opportunity Description

Congress initially created the RCDI in fiscal year (FY) 2000 to develop the capacity and ability of nonprofit organizations, low-income rural communities, or federally recognized tribes to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development in rural areas. Numerous changes have been made each year since.

#### Part II—Award Information

Congress appropriated approximately \$6 million in FY 2006 for the RCDI. Qualified private, nonprofit and public (including tribal) intermediary organizations proposing to carry out financial and technical assistance programs will be eligible to receive the funding. The intermediary will be required to provide matching funds in an amount at least equal to the RCDI grant. The respective minimum and maximum grant amount per intermediary is \$50,000 and \$300,000. The intermediary must provide a program of financial and technical assistance to a private nonprofit, community-based housing and

development organization, a low-income rural community or a federally recognized tribe.

### Part III—Eligibility Information

#### A. Eligible Applicants

**Qualified private, nonprofit and public (including tribal) intermediary organizations.** Definitions that describe eligible organizations and other key terms are listed below:

#### B. Program Definitions

**Agency**—The Rural Housing Service (RHS) or its successor.

**Beneficiary**—Entities or individuals that receive benefits from assistance provided by the recipient.

**Capacity**—The ability of a recipient to finance and implement housing, community facilities, or community and economic development projects.

**Federally recognized tribes**—Tribal entities recognized and eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, based on the Notice in the **Federal Register** published by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on November 25, 2005, (70 FR 71194). Tribally Designated Housing Entities are eligible RCDI recipients.

**Financial assistance**—Funds used by the intermediary to support the recipient's program, including funds that pass through the intermediary to the recipient for eligible RCDI purposes.

**Funds**—The RCDI grant and matching money.

**Intermediary**—A qualified private, nonprofit, or public (including tribal) organization that provides financial and technical assistance to multiple recipients.

**Low-income rural community**—An authority, district, economic development authority, regional council, or unit of government representing an incorporated city, town, village, county, township, parish, or borough.

**Recipient**—The entity that receives the financial and technical assistance from the intermediary. The recipient must be a private nonprofit community-based housing and development organization, a low-income rural community, or a federally recognized tribe.

**Rural and rural area**—Any area other than (i) a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants; and (ii) the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such city or town.

**Technical assistance**—Skilled help in improving the recipient's abilities in the areas of housing, community facilities, or community and economic

development. The Agency will determine whether a specific activity qualifies as technical assistance.

#### C. Cost Sharing or Matching

**Matching funds**—Cash or confirmed funding commitments. Matching funds must be at least equal to the grant amount. These funds can only be used for eligible RCDI activities. In-kind contributions cannot be used as matching funds. Grant funds and matching funds must be used in equal proportions. This does not mean funds have to be used equally by line item. The request for reimbursement and supporting documentation must show that RCDI fund usage does not exceed the cumulative amount of matching funds used. Grant funds will be disbursed pursuant to relevant provisions of 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016, and 3019, as applicable.

Matching funds must be used to support the overall purpose of the RCDI program. RCDI funds will be disbursed on a reimbursable basis only. No advances will be made. Matching funds cannot be expended prior to execution of the RCDI Grant Agreement. No reimbursement will be made for any funds expended prior to execution of the RCDI Grant Agreement unless the grantee has requested and received written Agency approval of the costs prior to the actual expenditure. This exception is applicable for up to 90 days prior to grant closing and only applies to grantees that have received written approval but have not executed the RCDI Grant Agreement. The Agency cannot retroactively approve reimbursement for expenditures prior to execution of the RCDI Grant Agreement.

#### D. Other

##### Program Requirements

1. The recipient and beneficiary, but not the intermediary, must be located in an eligible rural area. The physical location of the recipient's headquarters office that will be receiving the financial and technical assistance must be in a community with a median household income at or below 80 percent of the State or national median household income. The applicable Rural Development State Office can assist in determining the eligibility of an area. A listing of Rural Development State Offices is included in this Notice.

2. The recipients must be private nonprofit community-based housing and development organizations, low-income rural communities, or federally recognized tribes based on the RCDI definitions of these groups.

3. Documentation must be submitted to verify recipient eligibility. Acceptable documentation varies depending on the type of recipient. Private nonprofit community-based housing and development organizations must provide a letter confirming its tax-exempt status from the IRS, a certificate of incorporation and good standing from the Secretary of State, or other similar and valid documentation of nonprofit status. For low-income rural community recipients, the Agency requires evidence the entity is a public body and census data verifying that the median household income of the community where the office receiving the financial and technical assistance is located is at, or below, 80 percent of the State or national median household income. For Federally recognized tribes, the Agency needs the page listing their name from the current **Federal Register** list of tribal entities recognized and eligible for funding services (see the definition of federally recognized tribes in this Notice for details on this list).

4. Individuals cannot be recipients.

5. The intermediary must provide matching funds at least equal to the amount of the grant.

6. The intermediary must provide a program of financial and technical assistance to the recipient.

7. The intermediary organization must have been legally organized for a minimum of 3 years and have at least 3 years prior experience working with private nonprofit community-based housing and development organizations, low-income rural communities, or tribal organizations in the areas of housing, community facilities, or community and economic development.

8. Proposals must be structured to utilize the grant funds within 3 years from the date of the award.

9. Each intermediary, whether singularly or jointly, may only submit one application for RCDI funds under this NOFA unless the intermediary's participation is limited to providing all or part of the matching funds.

10. Recipients can participate in more than one RCDI application; however, after grant selections are made, the recipient can only participate in multiple RCDI grants if the type of financial and technical assistance they will receive is not duplicative.

11. The intermediary and the recipient cannot be the same entity. The recipient can be a related entity to the intermediary, if it meets the definition of a recipient.

12. A nonprofit recipient must provide evidence that it is a valid nonprofit when the intermediary applies for the RCDI grant.

Organizations with pending requests for nonprofit designations are not eligible.

13. If the recipient is a low-income rural community, identify the unit of government to which the financial and technical assistance will be provided, e.g., town council or village board. The financial and technical assistance must be provided to the organized unit of government representing that community, not the community at large.

14. Nonprofit recipients located in a rural area that is also a census designated place (CDP) are eligible recipients.

15. The indirect cost category in the project budget should be used only when a grant applicant currently has an indirect cost rate approved by the Department of Agriculture or another cognizant Federal agency. If the applicant will charge indirect costs to the grant, enclose a copy of the current rate agreement. If the applicant is in the process of initially developing or renegotiating a rate, the applicant must submit the indirect cost proposal to the cognizant agency immediately after the applicant is advised that an award will be made. In no event, shall the indirect cost proposal be submitted later than three months after the effective date of the award. Consult OMB Circular A-122 for information about indirect costs.

#### Eligible Fund Uses

Fund uses must be consistent with the RCDI purpose. A nonexclusive list of eligible grant uses includes the following:

1. Provide financial and technical assistance to develop recipients' capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development, i.e., the intermediary hires a staff person to provide technical assistance to the recipient or the recipient hires a staff person, under the supervision of the intermediary, to carry out the financial and technical assistance provided by the intermediary.

2. Develop the capacity of recipients to conduct community development programs, e.g., homeownership education or training for business entrepreneurs.

3. Develop the capacity of recipients to conduct development initiatives, e.g., programs that support micro-enterprise and sustainable development.

4. Develop the capacity of recipients to increase their leveraging ability and access to alternative funding sources by providing training and staffing.

5. Develop the capacity of recipients to provide the financial and technical assistance component for essential community facilities projects.

6. Assist recipients in completing pre-development requirements for housing, community facilities, or community and economic development projects by providing resources for professional services, e.g., architectural, engineering, or legal.

7. Improve recipient's organizational capacity by providing training and resource material on developing strategic plans, board operations, management, financial systems, and information technology.

8. Purchase computers, software, and printers at the recipient level when directly related to the financial or technical assistance program being undertaken by the intermediary.

9. Provide funds to recipients for training-related travel costs and training expenses related to RCDI.

#### Ineligible Fund Uses

1. Funding a revolving loan fund (RLF).

2. Construction (in any form).

3. Intermediary preparation of strategic plans for recipients.

4. Funding illegal activities.

5. Grants to individuals.

6. Funding a grant where there may be a conflict of interest, or an appearance of a conflict of interest, involving any action by the Agency.

7. Paying obligations incurred before the beginning date or after the ending date of the grant agreement.

8. Purchasing real estate.

9. Improvement or renovation of the grantee's office space or for the repair or maintenance of privately owned vehicles.

10. Any other purpose prohibited in 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016, and 3019, as applicable.

11. Using funds for recipient's general operating costs.

12. Using grant or matching funds for Individual Development Accounts.

#### Program Examples

The purpose of this initiative is to develop or increase the recipient's capacity through a program of financial and technical assistance to perform in the areas of housing, community facilities, or community and economic development. Strengthening the recipient's capacity in these areas will benefit the communities they serve. The RCDI structure requires the intermediary (grantee) to provide a program of financial and technical assistance to recipients. The recipients will, in turn, provide programs to their communities (beneficiaries). The following are examples of eligible and ineligible purposes under the RCDI program. (These examples are

illustrative and are not meant to limit the activities proposed in the application. Activities that meet the objective of the RCDI program will be considered eligible.)

1. The intermediary must work directly with the recipient, not the beneficiaries. As an example: The intermediary provides training to the recipient on how to conduct homeownership education classes. The recipient then provides ongoing homeownership education to the residents of the community—the ultimate beneficiaries. This "train the trainer" concept fully meets the intent of this initiative. The intermediary is providing financial and technical assistance that will build the recipient's capacity by enabling them to conduct homeownership education classes for the public. This is an eligible purpose. However, if the intermediary directly provided homeownership education classes to individuals in the recipient's service area, this would not be an eligible purpose because the recipient would be bypassed.

2. If the intermediary is working with a low-income community as the recipient, the intermediary must provide the financial and technical assistance to the entity that represents the low-income community and is identified in the application. Examples of entities representing a low-income community are a village board or a town council. If the intermediary provides technical assistance to the board of directors of the low-income community on how to establish a cooperative, this would be an eligible purpose. However, if the intermediary works directly with individuals from the community to establish the cooperative, this is not an eligible purpose. The recipient's capacity is built by learning skills that will enable them to support sustainable economic development in their communities on an ongoing basis.

3. The intermediary may provide technical assistance to the recipient on how to create and operate a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The intermediary may not monitor or operate the RLF. RCDI funds, including matching funds, cannot be used to fund RLFs.

#### Part IV—Application and Submission Information

##### A. Address to Request Application Package

Entities wishing to apply for assistance may download the application documents and requirements delineated in this Notice from the RCDI Web site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/>

*index.htm.* Application information for electronic submissions may be found at <http://www.grants.gov>. Applicants may also request paper application packages from: William Kenney, Rural Housing Service, Room 0183, Stop 0787, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0787, Telephone (202) 720-1506, e-mail:

[william.kenney@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:william.kenney@wdc.usda.gov).

*B. Content and Form of Application Submission*

A complete application for RCDI funds must include the following:

1. A summary page, double-spaced between items, listing the following: (This information should not be presented in narrative form.)

- a. Applicant's name,
- b. Applicant's address,
- c. Applicant's telephone number,
- d. Name of applicant's contact person and telephone number,
- e. Applicant's fax number,
- f. County where applicant is located,
- g. Congressional district number where applicant is located,
- h. Amount of grant request,
- i. Applicant's Tax Identification Number,
- j. Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number (Applicant Only),
- k. Number of recipients, and
- l. Source and amount of matching funds.

2. A detailed Table of Contents containing page numbers for each component of the application.

3. A project overview, no longer than five pages, including the following items, which will also be addressed separately and in detail under "Building Capacity" of the "Evaluation Criteria."

a. The type of financial and technical assistance to be provided to the recipients and how it will be implemented.

b. How the capacity and ability of the recipients will be improved.

c. The overall goals to be accomplished.

d. The benchmarks to be used to measure the success of the program.

4. Organizational documents, such as a certificate of incorporation and good standing from the Secretary of State where the applicant is incorporated and other similar and valid documentation of non-profit status, from the intermediary that confirms it has been legally organized for a minimum of 3 years as the applicant entity.

5. Verification of matching funds, i.e., a copy of a bank statement if matching funds are in cash or a copy of the confirmed funding commitment from the funding source. The applicant will be contacted by the Agency prior to

grant award to verify that the matching funds continue to be available. The applicant will have 10 working days from the date of contact to submit verification of matching funds. If the applicant is unable to provide the verification within that timeframe, the application will be considered ineligible.

6. Applicant should verify that they have a DUNS number. Applicants can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

7. The following information for each recipient:

- a. Recipient's entity name,
- b. Complete address (mailing and physical location, if different),
- c. County where located,
- d. Number of Congressional district where recipient is located, and
- e. Contact person's name and telephone number.

8. Submit evidence that each recipient entity is eligible:

a. Nonprofits—provide a valid letter from the IRS, confirming certificate from the Secretary of State, or other valid documentation of nonprofit status of each recipient.

b. Low-income rural community—provide evidence the entity is a public body, and a copy of the 2000 census data to verify the population, and evidence that the median household income is at, or below, 80 percent of either the State or national median household income. We will only accept data from <http://www.census.gov>. The specific instructions to retrieve data from this site are detailed under the "Evaluation Criteria" for "Population" and "Income."

c. Federally recognized tribes—provide the page listing their name from the current **Federal Register** list of tribal entities published on November 25, 2005, (70 FR 71194).

9. Each of the "Evaluation Criteria" must be addressed specifically and individually by category. Present these criteria in narrative form.

Documentation must be limited to three pages per criterion. The "Population" and "Income" criterions for recipient locations can be provided in the form of a list; however, the source of the data must be included on the page(s).

10. A timeline identifying specific activities and proposed dates for completion.

11. A detailed project budget that includes the RCDI grant amount and matching funds for the duration of the grant. This should be a line-item budget, by category. Categories such as salaries, administrative, other, and indirect costs

that pertain to the proposed project must be clearly defined. Supporting documentation listing the components of these categories must be included.

12. Form SF-424, "Application for Federal Assistance." (Do not complete Form SF-424A, "Budget Information." A separate line-item budget should be presented as described in No. 11 of this section.) The budget should be dated: year 1, year 2, year 3.

13. Form SF-424B, "Assurances—Non-Construction Programs."

14. Form AD-1047, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters—Primary Covered Transactions."

15. Form AD-1048, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion—Lower Tier Covered Transactions."

16. Form AD-1049, "Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements."

17. Certification of Non-Lobbying Activities.

18. Standard Form LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," if applicable.

19. Form RD 400-4, "Assurance Agreement," for the applicant and each recipient.

20. Identify and report any association or relationship with Rural Development employees.

The required forms and certifications can be downloaded from the RCDI Web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/index.htm>.

*C. Other Submission Information*

The original application package must be submitted to: William Kenney, Rural Housing Service, STOP 0787, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0787, and must be submitted to the Rural Development State Office where the applicant is located. A listing of Rural Development State Offices is included in this Notice.

Applicants may file an electronic application at <http://www.grants.gov>. Applications will not be accepted via facsimile or electronic mail. Applicants must still submit a paper copy of the application to the Rural Development State Office even though the application is being submitted electronically. Grants.gov contains full instructions on all required passwords, credentialing, and software. Follow the instructions at Grants.gov for registering and submitting an electronic application. If a system problem or technical difficulty occurs with an electronic application, please use the customer support resources available at the Grants.gov Web site.

First time Grants.gov users should go to the "Get Started" tab on the

Grants.gov site and carefully read and follow the steps listed. These steps need to be initiated early in the application process to avoid delays in submitting your application online. Step three, Registering with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR), will take some time to complete. Keep that in mind when beginning the application process.

In order to register with the CCR, your organization will need a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number. A DUNS number is a unique nine-character identification number provided by the commercial company, Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). To investigate if your organization already has a DUNS number or to obtain a DUNS number, contact Dun & Bradstreet at 1-866-705-5711. Be sure to complete the Marketing Partner ID (MPIN) and Electronic Business Primary Point of Contact fields during the CCR registration process. These are mandatory fields that are required when submitting grant applications through Grants.gov. Information about registering with CCR was published in a Notice in the **Federal Register** entitled "HHS Managing Partner Grants.gov E-Government Initiative" on January 17, 2006. (See 71 FR 2549.) Additional application instructions for submitting an electronic application can be found by selecting this funding opportunity on Grants.gov.

The deadline for receipt of an application is 4 p.m. eastern time October 10, 2006. The application deadline date and time are firm and apply to submission of the original application to the National Office in Washington, DC. The Agency will not consider any application received after the deadline. A listing of Rural Development State Offices, their addresses, telephone numbers, and person to contact is provided elsewhere in this Notice.

#### D. Funding Restrictions

**Meeting expenses.** In accordance with 31 U.S.C. 1345, "Expenses of Meetings," appropriations may not be used for travel, transportation, and subsistence expenses for a meeting. RCDI grant funds cannot be used for these meeting-related expenses. Matching funds may be used to pay for these expenses. RCDI funds may be used to pay for a speaker as part of a program, equipment to facilitate the program, and the actual room that will house the meeting. RCDI funds can be used for travel, transportation, or subsistence expenses for training and technical assistance purposes. Any meeting or training not delineated in the application must be approved by the Agency to verify

compliance with 31 U.S.C. 1345. Travel and per diem expenses will be similar to those paid to Agency employees. Rates are based upon location. Rate information can be accessed on the Internet at <http://policyworks.gov/perdiem>. Grantees and recipients will be restricted to traveling coach class on common carrier airlines. Grantees and recipients may exceed the Government rate for lodging by a maximum of 20 percent. Meals and incidental expenses will be reimbursed at the same rate used by Agency employees. Mileage and gas reimbursement will be the same rate used by Agency employees. The current mileage and gas reimbursement rate is 44.5 cents per mile.

#### Part V—Application Review Information

##### A. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria and weights:

###### 1. Building Capacity—Maximum 60 Points

The applicant must demonstrate how they will improve the recipients' capacity, through a program of financial and technical assistance, as it relates to the RCDI purposes. Capacity-building technical assistance should provide new functions to the recipients or expand existing functions that will enable the recipients to undertake projects in the areas of housing, community facilities, or community and economic development that will benefit the community. The program of financial and technical assistance provided, its delivery, and the measurability of the program's effectiveness will determine the merit of the application. All applications will be competitively ranked with the applications providing the most improvement in capacity development and measurable activities being ranked the highest. Capacity-building technical assistance may include, but is not limited to: Training to conduct community development programs, *e.g.*, homeownership education, or the establishment of minority business entrepreneurs, cooperatives, or micro-enterprises; organizational development, *e.g.*, assistance to develop or improve board operations, management, and financial systems; instruction on how to develop and implement a strategic plan; instruction on how to access alternative funding sources to increase leveraging opportunities; staffing, *e.g.*, hiring a person at intermediary or recipient level to provide technical or financial assistance to recipients; and purchasing technology equipment at the recipient

level, *e.g.*, computers, printers, and software.

a. The narrative response must:

1. Describe the nature of financial and technical assistance to be provided to the recipients and the activities that will be conducted to deliver the financial and technical assistance;

2. Explain how financial and technical assistance will develop or increase the recipient's capacity. Indicate whether a new function is being developed or if existing functions are being expanded or performed more effectively;

3. Identify which RCDI purpose areas will be addressed with this assistance: Housing, community facilities, or community and economic development; and

4. Describe how the results of the financial and technical assistance will be measured. What benchmarks will be used to measure effectiveness?

b. The maximum 60 points for this criteria will be broken down as follows:

1. Type of financial and technical assistance and implementation activities. 35 points.

2. An explanation of how financial and technical assistance will develop capacity. 10 points.

3. Identification of the RCDI purpose. 5 points.

4. Measurement of outcomes. 10 points.

###### 2. Expertise—Maximum 30 Points

The applicant must demonstrate that it has conducted programs of financial and technical assistance and achieved measurable results in the areas of housing, community facilities, or community and economic development in rural areas. Provide the name, contact information, and amount of the financial and technical assistance the applicant organization has provided to the following for the last 5 years:

a. Nonprofit organizations in rural areas.

b. Low-income communities in rural areas, (also include the type of entity, *e.g.*, city government, town council, or village board).

c. Federally recognized tribes or any other culturally diverse organizations.

###### 3. Population—Maximum 30 Points

Population is based on the average population from the 2000 census data for the communities in which the recipients are located. Community is defined for scoring purposes as a city, town, village, county, parish, borough, or census-designated place where the recipient's headquarters office is physically located. The applicant must submit the census data from the

following Web site to verify the population figures used for each recipient. The data can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov>; click on "American FactFinder" from the left menu; click on "Fact Sheet" from the left menu; at the right, fill in one or more fields and click 'Go'; the name and population data for each recipient location must be listed in this section. The average population of the recipient locations will be used and will be scored as follows:

Population	Scoring (points)
5,000 or less .....	30
5,001 to 10,000 .....	20
10,001 to 20,000 .....	10
20,001 to 50,000 .....	5

#### 4. Income—Maximum 30 Points

The average of the median household income for the communities where the recipients are physically located will determine the points awarded.

Applicants may compare the average recipient median household income to the State median household income or the national median household income, whichever yields the most points. The national median household income to be used is \$41,994. The applicant must submit the income data from the following Web site to verify the income for each recipient. The data being used is from the 2000 census. The data can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov>; click on "American FactFinder" from the left menu; click on "Fact Sheet" from the left menu; at the right, fill in one or more fields and click 'Go'; the name and income data for each recipient location must be listed in this section. Points will be awarded as follows:

Average Recipient Median Income Is: Scoring.

Less than 60 percent of the State or national median household income. 30 points.

Between 60 and 70 percent of the State or national median household income. 20 points.

Greater than 70 percent of the State or national median household income. 10 points.

#### 5. Soundness of Approach—Maximum 50 Points

The applicant can receive up to 50 points for soundness of approach. The overall proposal will be considered under this criterion. Applicants must list the page numbers in the application that address these factors.

a. The ability to provide the proposed financial and technical assistance based

on prior accomplishments has been demonstrated.

b. The proposed financial and technical assistance program is clearly stated and the applicant has defined how this proposal will be implemented. The plan for implementation is viable.

c. Cost effectiveness will be evaluated based on the budget in the application. The proposed grant amount and matching funds should be utilized to maximize capacity building at the recipient level.

d. The proposal fits the objectives for which applications were invited.

#### 6. Purpose Distribution Points—20 Points

The applicant must state the primary purpose of the application, i.e., housing, community facilities, or community and economic development. The applicant may identify any special needs for the rural community regarding the purposes listed above. A special need, for example, may include showing the need of a rural community affected by a Presidential declared natural disaster. After applications have been evaluated and awarded points under the first 5 criteria, the Agency may award 20 points per application to promote diversity of RCDI purposes and special needs.

#### 7. Proportional Distribution Points—20 Points

This criteria does not have to be addressed by the applicant. After applications have been evaluated and awarded points under the first 5 criteria, the Agency may award 20 points per application to promote an even distribution of grant awards between the range of \$50,000 to \$300,000.

#### B. Review and Selection Process

*Rating and ranking.* Applications will be rated and ranked on a national basis by a review panel based on the "Evaluation Criteria" contained in this Notice. If there is a tied score after the applications have been rated and ranked, the tie will be resolved by reviewing the scores for "Building Capacity" and the applicant with the highest score in that category will receive a higher ranking. If the scores for "Building Capacity" are the same, the scores will be compared for the next criterion, in sequential order, until one highest score can be determined.

*Initial screening.* The Agency will screen each application to determine eligibility during the period immediately following the application deadline. Listed below are many of the reasons for rejection from the previous funding rounds to help the applicant

prepare a better application. The following reasons for rejection are not all inclusive; however, they represent the majority of the applications previously rejected.

1. Recipients were not located in eligible rural areas based on the definition in this Notice.

2. Applicants failed to provide evidence of recipient's status, i.e., documentation supporting nonprofit evidence of organization.

3. Application did not follow the RCDI structure with an intermediary and recipients.

4. Recipients were not identified in the application.

5. Intermediary did not provide evidence it had been incorporated for at least 3 years as the applicant entity.

6. Applicants failed to address the "Evaluation Criteria."

7. The purpose of the proposal did not qualify as an eligible RCDI purpose.

8. Inappropriate use of funds (e.g., construction or renovations).

9. Providing financial and technical assistance directly to individuals.

#### Part VI—Award Administration Information

##### A. General Information

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the awarding official of the Agency shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged meritorious under the procedures set forth in this Notice.

##### B. Award Notice

Applicant will be notified of selection by letter. In addition, applicant will be requested to verify that components of the application have not changed. The award is not approved until all information has been verified, and the awarding official of the Agency has signed Form RD 1940-1, "Request for Obligation of Funds."

##### C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Grantees will be required to do the following:

1. Execute a Rural Community Development Initiative Grant Agreement, which is published at the end of this NOFA.

2. Execute Form RD 1940-1, "Request for Obligation of Funds."

3. Use Form SF 270, "Request for Advance or Reimbursement," to request reimbursements.

4. Provide financial status and project performance reports on a quarterly basis starting with the first full quarter after the grant award.

5. Maintain a financial management system that is acceptable to the Agency.  
 6. Ensure that records are maintained to document all activities and expenditures utilizing RCDI grant funds and matching funds. Receipts for expenditures will be included in this documentation.

7. Provide annual audits or management reports on Form RD 442-2, "Statement of Budget, Income, and Equity," and Form RD 442-3, "Balance Sheet," depending on the amount of Federal funds expended and the outstanding balance.

8. Collect and maintain data provided by recipients on race, sex, and national origin and ensure recipients collect and maintain the same data on beneficiaries. Race and ethnicity data will be collected in accordance with OMB **Federal Register** notice, "Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity," (62 FR 58782), October 30, 1997. Sex data will be collected in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. These items should *not* be submitted with the application but should be available upon request by the Agency.

9. Provide a final project performance report.

10. Identify and report any association or relationship with Rural Development employees on a format provided by the Agency.

11. The intermediary and recipient must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Executive Order 12250.

12. The grantee must comply with policies, guidance, and requirements as described in the following applicable OMB Circulars and Code of Federal Regulations:

a. OMB Circular A-87 (Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Government);

b. OMB Circular A-122 (Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations);

c. OMB Circular A-133 (Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations);

d. 7 CFR part 3015 (Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations);

e. 7 CFR part 3016 (Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments);

f. 7 CFR part 3017 (Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement));

g. 7 CFR part 3019 (Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of

Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations); and  
 h. 7 CFR part 3052 (Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations).

#### D. Reporting

Reporting requirements can be found in the Grant Agreement included in this Notice.

#### Part VII—Agency Contact

William Kenney, Rural Housing Service, Room 0183, Stop 0787, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0787, Telephone (202) 720-1506, e-mail: [william.kenney@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:william.kenney@wdc.usda.gov).

#### Grant Amount Determination

In the event the applicant is awarded a grant that is less than the amount requested, the applicant will be required to modify its application to conform to the reduced amount before execution of the grant agreement. The Agency reserves the right to reduce or withdraw the award if acceptable modifications are not submitted by the awardee within 15 working days from the date the request for modification is made. Any modifications must be within the scope of the original application.

#### Rural Development State Office Contacts

**Note:** Telephone numbers listed are not toll-free.

Alabama State Office  
 Suite 601, Sterling Centre  
 4121 Carmichael Road,  
 Montgomery, AL 36106-3683  
 (334) 279-3400  
 TDD (334) 279-3495  
 James B. Harris  
 Alaska State Office  
 800 West Evergreen, Suite 201  
 Palmer, AK 99645  
 (907) 761-7705  
 TDD (907) 761-8905  
 Merlaine Kruse  
 Arizona State Office  
 230 North 1st Avenue, Suite 206  
 Phoenix, AZ 85003  
 (602) 280-8747  
 TDD (602) 280-8705  
 Leonard Gradillas  
 Arkansas State Office  
 700 W. Capitol Ave., Rm. 3416  
 Little Rock, AR 72201-3225  
 (501) 301-3250  
 TDD (501) 301-3200  
 Jerry Virden  
 California State Office  
 430 G Street, Agency 4169  
 Davis, CA 95616-4169  
 (530) 792-5810  
 TDD (530) 792-5848  
 Janice Waddell  
 Colorado State Office  
 655 Parfet Street, Room E-100

Lakewood, CO 80215  
 720-544-2928  
 TDD 720-544-2976  
 Mike Bailey  
 Connecticut

Served by Massachusetts State Office  
 Delaware and Maryland State Office  
 1221 College Park Dr., Suite 200  
 Dover, DE 19904-8713  
 (302) 857-3580

TDD (302) 697-4303  
 James E. Waters  
 Florida & Virgin Islands State Office

4440 NW. 25th Place  
 P.O. Box 147010  
 Gainesville, FL 32614-7010  
 (352) 338-3485  
 TDD (352) 338-3499  
 Michael Langston

Georgia State Office  
 Stephens Federal Building  
 355 E. Hancock Avenue  
 Athens, GA 30601-2768  
 (706) 546-2171  
 TDD (706) 546-2034  
 Jerry M. Thomas  
 Guam

Served by Hawaii State Office  
 Hawaii, Guam, & Western Pacific Territories State Office

Room 311, Federal Building  
 154 Waianuenue Avenue  
 Hilo, HI 96720  
 (808) 933-8380  
 TDD (808) 933-8321  
 Ted Matsuo

Idaho State Office  
 9173 West Barnes Dr., Suite A1  
 Boise, ID 83709  
 (208) 378-5617  
 TDD (208) 378-5600

Daniel H. Fraser  
 Illinois State Office  
 2118 West Park Court, Suite A  
 Champaign, IL 61821  
 (217) 403-6200  
 TDD (217) 403-6240

Gerald A. Townsend  
 Indiana State Office  
 5975 Lakeside Boulevard  
 Indianapolis, IN 46278  
 (317) 290-3100 (ext. 431)  
 TDD (317) 290-3343  
 Gregg Delp

Iowa State Office  
 873 Federal Building  
 210 Walnut Street  
 Des Moines, IA 50309  
 (515) 284-4663  
 TDD (515) 284-4858

Dorman Otte  
 Kansas State Office  
 1303 SW. First American Place  
 Suite 100

Topeka, KS 66604-4040  
 (785) 271-2730  
 TDD (785) 271-2767

Gary L. Smith  
 Kentucky State Office  
 771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200  
 Lexington, KY 40503  
 (859) 224-7336  
 TDD (859) 224-7300

Vernon Brown	(603) 223-6055	Columbia, SC 29201
Louisiana State Office	TDD (603) 223-6083	(803) 253-3656
3727 Government Street	William Konrad	TDD (803) 765-5697
Alexandria, LA 71302	New Jersey State Office	Ken King
(318) 473-7962	8000 Midlantic Drive	South Dakota State Office
TDD (318) 473-7920	5th Floor North, Suite 500	Federal Building, Room 210
Richard Hoff Pauir	Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054	200 Fourth Street, SW.
Maine State Office	(856) 787-7750	Huron, SD 57350
967 Illinois Ave., Suite 4	Michael P. Kelsey	(605) 352-1100
P.O. Box 405	New Mexico State Office	TDD (605) 352-1147
Bangor, ME 04402-0405	6200 Jefferson St. NE., Room 255	Doug Roehl
(207) 990-9124	Albuquerque, NM 87109	Tennessee State Office
TDD (207) 942-7331	(505) 761-4950	Suite 300
Ron Lambert	TDD (505) 761-4938	3322 West End Avenue
Maryland	Martha Torrez	Nashville, TN 37203-1084
Served by Delaware State Office	New York State Office	(615) 783-1300
Massachusetts, Connecticut, & Rhode Island	The Galleries of Syracuse	TDD (615) 783-1397
State Office	441 S. Salina Street, Suite 357	Keith Head
451 West Street, Suite 2	Syracuse, NY 13202-2541	Texas State Office
Amherst, MA 01002-2999	(315) 477-6400	Federal Building, Suite 102
(413) 253-4300	TDD (315) 477-6447	101 South Main
TDD (413) 253-7068	Gail Giannotta	Temple, TX 76501
Daniel R. Beaudette	North Carolina State Office	(254) 742-9700
Michigan State Office	4405 Bland Road, Suite 260	TDD (254) 742-9712
3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200	Raleigh, NC 27609	Francesco Valentin
East Lansing, MI 48823	(919) 873-2000	Utah State Office
(517) 324-5208	TDD (919) 873-2003	Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building
TDD (517) 337-6795	Roger Davis	125 South State Street, Room 4311
Frank J. Tuma	North Dakota State Office	P.O. Box 11350
Minnesota State Office	Federal Building, Room 208	Salt Lake City, UT 84138
410 Farm Credit Service Building	220 East Rosser	(801) 524-4326
375 Jackson Street	P.O. Box 1737	TDD (801) 524-3309
St. Paul, MN 55101-1853	Bismarck, ND 58502-1737	Bonnie Carrig
(651) 602-7800	(701) 530-2037	Vermont State Office
TDD (651) 602-3799	TDD (701) 530-2113	City Center, 3rd Floor
William Slininger	Dale VanEchout	89 Main Street
Mississippi State Office	Ohio State Office	Montpelier, VT 05602
Federal Building, Suite 831	Federal Building, Room 507	(802) 828-6000
100 W. Capitol Street	200 North High Street	TDD (802) 223-6365
Jackson, MS 39269	Columbus, OH 43215-2418	Rhonda Shippee
(601) 965-4316	(614) 255-2400	Virgin Islands
TDD (601) 965-5850	TDD (614) 255-2554	Served by Florida State Office
Bettye Oliver	David M. Douglas	Virginia State Office
Missouri State Office	Oklahoma State Office	Culpeper Building, Suite 238
601 Business Loop 70 West	100 USDA, Suite 108	1606 Santa Rosa Road
Parkade Center, Suite 235	Stillwater, OK 74074-2654	Richmond, VA 23229
Columbia, MO 65203	(405) 742-1000	(804) 287-1550
(573) 876-0995	TDD (405) 742-1007	TDD (804) 287-1753
TDD (573) 876-9480	Michael W. Schrammel	Carrie Schmidt
Clark Thomas	Oregon State Office	Washington State Office
Montana State Office	1201 NE Lloyd Blvd, Suite 801	1835 Black Lake Boulevard, SW.
900 Technology Blvd., Suite B	Portland, OR 97232	Suite B
Bozeman, MT 59771	(503) 414-3300	Olympia, WA 98501-5715
(406) 585-2530	TDD (503) 414-3387	(509) 664-0203
TDD (406) 585-2562	Wayne Dunlap	Sandi Boughton
John Guthmiller	Pennsylvania State Office	Western Pacific Territories
Nebraska State Office	One Credit Union Place, Suite 330	Served by Hawaii State Office
Federal Building, Room 152	Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996	West Virginia State Office
100 Centennial Mall N.	(717) 237-2299	Federal Building
Lincoln, NE 68508	TDD (717) 237-2261	75 High Street, Room 320
(402) 437-5559	Gary Rothrock	Morgantown, WV 26505-7500
TDD (402) 437-5551	Puerto Rico State Office	(304) 284-4860
Denise Brosius-Meeks	IBM Building—Suite 601	TDD (304) 284-4836
Nevada State Office	654 Munos Rivera Avenue	Randy Plum
1390 South Curry Street	San Juan, PR 00918-6106	Wisconsin State Office
Carson City, NV 89703-9910	(787) 766-5095	4949 Kirschling Court
(775) 887-1222 (ext. 19)	TDD (787) 766-5332	Stevens Point, WI 54481
TDD (775) 885-0633	Ramon Melendez	(715) 345-7614
Herb Shedd	Rhode Island	TDD (715) 345-7610
New Hampshire State Office	Served by Massachusetts State Office	Mark Brodziski
Concord Center	South Carolina State Office	Wyoming State Office
Suite 218, Box 317	Strom Thurmond Federal Building	Federal Building, Room 1005
10 Ferry Street	1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007	
Concord, NH 03301-5004		

100 East B  
P.O. Box 11005  
Casper, WY 82601-5006  
(307) 261-6300  
TDD (307) 261-6333  
Kaylyn Nerby

Dated: June 13, 2006.

**Russell T. Davis,**  
*Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

OMB No. 0575-0180

United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Housing Service  
Rural Community Development  
Initiative Grant Agreement

THIS GRANT AGREEMENT  
(Agreement), effective the date the  
Agency official signs the document, is a  
contract for receipt of grant funds under  
the Rural Community Development  
Initiative (RCDI).

BETWEEN  
a private or public or tribal organization,  
(Grantee or Intermediary) and the  
United States of America acting through  
the Rural Housing Service, Department  
of Agriculture, (Agency or Grantor), for  
the benefit of recipients listed in  
Grantee's application for the grant.

WITNESSETH:

The principal amount of the grant is  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Grant Funds). Matching  
funds, in an amount equal to the grant  
funds, will be provided by Grantee. The  
Grantee and Grantor will execute Form  
RD 1940-1, "Request for Obligation of  
Funds."

WHEREAS,

Grantee will provide a program of  
financial and technical assistance to  
develop the capacity and ability of  
nonprofit organizations, low-income  
rural communities, or federally  
recognized tribes to undertake projects  
related to housing, community facilities,  
or community and economic  
development in rural areas;

According to the Paperwork  
Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are  
required to respond to a collection of  
information unless it displays a valid  
OMB control number. The valid OMB  
control number for this information  
collection is 0575-0180. The time  
required to complete this information  
collection is estimated to average 30  
minutes per response, including the  
time for reviewing instructions,  
searching existing data sources,  
gathering and maintaining the data  
needed, and reviewing the collection of  
information.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration  
of the grant;

Grantee agrees that Grantee will:

A. Provide a program of financial and  
technical assistance in accordance with  
the proposal outlined in the application,  
(see Attachment A), the terms of which  
are incorporated with this Agreement  
and must be adhered to. Any changes to  
the approved program of financial  
technical assistance must be approved  
in writing by the Grantor;

B. Use Grant Funds only for the  
purposes and activities specified in the  
application package approved by the  
Agency including the approved budget.  
Any uses not provided for in the  
approved budget must be approved in  
writing by the Agency in advance;

C. Charge expenses for travel and per  
diem that will not exceed the rates paid  
Agency employees for similar expenses.  
Grantees and recipients will be  
restricted to traveling coach class on  
common carrier airlines. Lodging rates  
may exceed the Government rate by a  
maximum of 20 percent. Meals and  
incidental expenses will be reimbursed  
at the same rate used by Agency  
employees, which is based upon  
location. Mileage and gas will be  
reimbursed at the existing Government  
rate. Rates can be accessed on the  
Internet at <http://policyworks.gov/perdiem>;

D. Charge meeting expenses in  
accordance with 31 U.S.C. 1345. Grant  
funds may not be used for travel,  
transportation, and subsistence  
expenses for a meeting. Matching funds  
may be used to pay these expenses. Any  
meeting or training not delineated in the  
application must be approved by the  
Agency to verify compliance with 31  
U.S.C. 1345;

E. Request quarterly reimbursement  
for grant activities during the previous  
quarter. Reimbursement will be made  
on a pro rata basis with matching funds.  
Form SF 270, "Request for Advance or  
Reimbursement," will be used to  
request reimbursement. A project  
performance report, in narrative form,  
and a financial report, reflecting the  
activities conducted, must accompany  
the request for reimbursement.  
Matching fund usage must be included  
in all reports;

F. Provide periodic reports as  
required by the Grantor. A financial  
status report and a project performance  
report will be required on a quarterly  
basis (due 30 working days after each  
calendar quarter). The financial status  
report must show how grant funds and  
matching funds have been used to date.  
A final report may serve as the last  
quarterly report. Grantees shall  
constantly monitor performance to  
ensure that time schedules are being  
met and projected goals by time periods  
are being accomplished. The project

performance reports shall include, but  
are not limited to, the following:

1. Describe the activities that the  
funds reflected in the financial status  
report were used for;

2. A comparison of actual  
accomplishments to the objectives for  
that period;

3. Reasons why established objectives  
were not met, if applicable;

4. Problems, delays, or adverse  
conditions which will affect attainment  
of overall program objectives, prevent  
meeting time schedules or objectives, or  
preclude the attainment of particular  
objectives during established time  
periods. This disclosure shall be  
accomplished by a statement of the  
action taken or planned to resolve the  
situation;

5. Objectives and timetables  
established for the next reporting  
period;

6. If available, a summary of the race,  
sex, and national origin of the recipients  
and a summary from the recipients of  
the race, sex, and national origin of the  
beneficiaries; and

7. The final report will also address  
the following:

a. What have been the most  
challenging or unexpected aspects of  
this program?

b. What advice would you give to  
other organizations planning a similar  
program? Please include strengths and  
limitations of the program. If you had  
the opportunity, what would you have  
done differently?

c. Are there any post-grant plans for  
this project? If yes, how will they be  
financed?

d. If an innovative approach was used  
successfully, the grantee must describe  
their program in detail for replication by  
other organizations and communities.

G. Consider potential recipients  
without discrimination as to race, color,  
religion, sex, national origin, age,  
marital status, sexual orientation, or  
physical or mental disability;

H. Ensure that any services or training  
offered by the recipient, as a result of  
the financial and technical assistance  
received, must be made available to all  
persons in the recipient's service area  
without discrimination as to race, color,  
religion, sex, national origin, age,  
marital status, sexual orientation, or  
physical or mental disability at  
reasonable rates, including assessments,  
taxes, or fees. Programs and activities  
must be delivered from accessible  
locations. The recipient must ensure  
that, where there are non-English  
speaking populations, materials are  
provided in the language that is spoken;

I. Ensure recipients are required to  
place nondiscrimination statements in

advertisements, notices, pamphlets and brochures making the public aware of their services. The Grantee and recipient are required to provide widespread outreach and public notification in promoting any type of training or services that are available through grant funds;

J. The Grantee must collect and maintain data on recipients by race, sex, and national origin. The grantee must ensure that their recipients also collect and maintain data on beneficiaries by race, sex, and national origin as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and must be provided to the Agency for compliance review purposes;

K. Upon any default under its representations or agreements contained in this instrument, Grantee, at the option and demand of Grantor, will immediately repay to Grantor any legally permitted damages together with any legally permitted interest from the date of the default. At Grantor's election, any default by the Grantee will constitute termination of the grant thereby causing cancellation of Federal assistance under the grant. The provisions of this Agreement may be enforced by Grantor, without regard to prior waivers of this Agreement, by proceedings in law or equity, in either Federal or State courts as may be deemed necessary by Grantor to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Agreement and the laws and regulations under which this grant is made;

L. Provide Financial Management Systems that will include:

1. Accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of each grant. Financial reporting will be on an accrual basis;

2. Records that identify adequately the source and application of funds for grant-supported activities. Those records shall contain information pertaining to grant awards and authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, liabilities, outlays, and income related to Grant Funds and matching funds;

3. Effective control over and accountability for all funds, property, and other assets. Grantees shall adequately safeguard all such assets and shall ensure that they are used solely for authorized purposes;

4. Accounting records supported by source documentation; and

5. Grantee tracking of fund usage and records that show matching funds and grant funds are used in equal proportions. The grantee will provide verifiable documentation regarding matching fund usage, *i.e.*, bank

statements or copies of funding obligations from the matching source.

M. Retain financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other records pertinent to the grant for a period of at least three years after grant closing except that the records shall be retained beyond the three-year period if audit findings have not been resolved. Microfilm or photocopies or similar methods may be substituted in lieu of original records. The Grantor and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Grantee's which are pertinent to the specific grant program for the purpose of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcripts;

N. Provide an A-133 audit report if \$500,000 or more of Federal funds are expended in a 1-year period. If Federal funds expended during a 1-year period are less than \$500,000 and there is an outstanding loan balance of less than \$500,000, a management report may be submitted on Forms RD 442-2, "Statement of Budget, Income and Equity," and 442-3, "Balance Sheet";

O. Not encumber, transfer, or dispose of the equipment or any part thereof, acquired wholly or in part with Grantor funds without the written consent of the Grantor; and

P. Not duplicate other program activities for which monies have been received, are committed, or are applied to from other sources (public or private).

Grantor agrees that:

A. It will make available to Grantee for the purpose of this Agreement funds in an amount not to exceed the Grant Funds. The funds will be disbursed to Grantee on a pro rata basis with the Grantee's matching funds; and

B. At its sole discretion and at any time may give any consent, deferment, subordination, release, satisfaction, or termination of any or all of Grantee's grant obligations, with or without valuable consideration, upon such terms and conditions as Grantor may determine to be:

1. Advisable to further the purpose of the grant or to protect Grantor's financial interest therein; and

2. Consistent with both the statutory purposes of the grant and the limitations of the statutory authority under which it is made.

*Both Parties Agree:*

A. Extensions of this grant agreement may be approved by the Agency, in writing, provided in the Agency's sole discretion the extension is justified and there is a likelihood that the grantee can

accomplish the goals set out and approved in the application package during the extension period;

B. The Grantor must approve any changes in recipient or recipient composition;

C. The Grantor has agreed to give the Grantee the Grant Funds, subject to the terms and conditions established by the Grantor: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any Grant Funds actually disbursed and not needed for grant purposes be returned immediately to the Grantor. This agreement shall terminate 3 years from this date unless extended or unless terminated beforehand due to default on the part of the Grantee or for convenience of the Grantor and Grantee. The Grantor may terminate the grant in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of completion, whenever it is determined that the Grantee has failed to comply with the conditions of this Agreement or the applicable regulations; Termination for convenience will occur when both the Grantee and Grantor agree that the continuation of the program will not produce beneficial results commensurate with the further expenditure of funds.

D. As a condition of the Agreement, the Grantee certifies that it is in compliance with, and will comply in the course of the Agreement with, all applicable laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and other generally applicable requirements, which are incorporated into this agreement by reference, and such other statutory provisions as are specifically contained herein.

E. The Grantee will ensure that the recipients comply with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Executive Order 12250. Each recipient must sign Form RD 400-4, "Assurance Agreement";

F. The provisions of 7 CFR part 3015, "Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations," part 3016, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments," or part 3019, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations," and the fiscal year 2006 "Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI)" are incorporated herein and made a part hereof by reference;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Grantee has this day authorized and caused this Agreement to be executed by

Attest

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Grantee)  
(Title) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Grantor) (Name)  
(Title) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
ATTACHMENT A

[Application proposal submitted by grantee.]

[FR Doc. 06-6150 Filed 7-11-06; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

*Title:* Basic Requirements for Special Exemption Permits and Authorizations to Take, Import, and Export Marine Mammals, Threatened and Endangered Species, and for Maintaining a Captive Marine Mammal Inventory Under the Marine Mammal Protection, the Fur Seal, and the Endangered Species Acts (formerly, Basic Requirements for All Marine Mammal Special Exception Permits to Take, Import and Export Marine Mammals, and for Maintaining a Captive Marine Mammal Inventory under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Fur Seal Act, and the Endangered Species Act).

*Form Number(s):* None.

*OMB Approval Number:* 0648-0084.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission.  
*Burden Hours:* 6,728.

*Number of Respondents:* 518.

*Average Hours Per Response:*

Scientific research and enhancement (SR/EN) permits, 32 hours; public display permits, 20 hours; photography and general authorization permits, 10 hours; amendments to existing permits and authorizations: major, 20 hours; minor, 3 hours; reports for SR/EN authorizations, 12 hours; reports for public display, photography and public display authorizations, 2 hours, reports for general authorizations, 8 hours;

recordkeeping for all authorizations and notifications of retaining or transferring rehabilitated animals, 2 hours.

*Needs and Uses:* The information in this collection instrument will be used to determine whether a proposed activity is consistent with the requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Fur Seal Act, and the Endangered Species Act for issuance of permits and authorizations for research, enhancement, photography, and public display. The respondents will be researchers, photographers, other members of the general public, and holders of marine mammals in captivity.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; not-for-profit institutions; business or other for-profit organizations; State, Local or Tribal Government; Federal Government.

*Frequency:* Annually and on occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.

*OMB Desk Officer:* David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, FAX number (202) 395-7285, or [David\\_Rostker@omb.eop.gov](mailto:David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: July 6, 2006.

### Gwellnar Banks,

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. E6-10895 Filed 7-11-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

*Title:* Alaska Region Permit Family of Forms.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*OMB Approval Number:* 0648-0206.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission.  
*Burden Hours:* 378.

*Number of Respondents:* 886.

*Average Hours Per Response:* Federal fisheries permits and processor permits, 21 minutes; and exempted fishing permits, 20 hours.

*Needs and Uses:* The information from this collection is used to monitor and manage participation in groundfish fisheries by National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region, and consists of the following permits: Federal fisheries permit, Federal processor permit, and exempted fishing permit. The permit information provides: harvest gear types; descriptions of vessels, shoreside processors, and stationary floating processors; and expected fishery activity levels. The identification of the participants and expected activity levels are needed to measure the consequences of management controls, and is an effective tool in the enforcement of other fishery regulations.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations.

*Frequency:* Federal fisheries permits and processor permits, every three year; exempted fishing permits, annually.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.

*OMB Desk Officer:* David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, FAX number (202) 395-7285, or [David\\_Rostker@omb.eop.gov](mailto:David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: July 5, 2006.

### Gwellnar Banks,

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. E6-10897 Filed 7-11-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).