

July 3, 2006

SUBJECT: USDA Rural Development use of “Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants”

TO: Rural Development State Directors

ATTN: Administrative Program Directors and Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Coordinators

The inclusion of the subject survey in applications for the 14 Rural Development programs identified by the Office of Management and Budget for the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives continues to be required. The survey was developed to assist the Federal government in ensuring that all qualified applicants for Federal assistance, small or large, non-religious or faith-based, have an equal opportunity to compete for funding.

Upon receipt of a completed survey, separate it from the application and track accordingly. Information provided on this survey will not be considered in any way in making funding decisions and will not be included in the Federal funding databases.

Applicants for direct loan and grant and guaranteed loans that are non-profit private organizations (not including private universities) are asked to complete and submit this survey with their application. The survey and the list of the 14 Rural Development programs are available online from the USDA Rural Development website: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/fbci>. Please continue tracking applications by faith-based and community based organizations.

EXPIRATION DATE:
July 31, 2007

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:
Administrative/Other Programs

You may direct inquiries regarding Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to Rhonda Brown, Rural Development Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Coordinator, on (202) 692-0298, or at rhonda.brown@wdc.usda.gov.

/Sharon Randolph/ for
SHERIE HINTON HENRY
Deputy Administrator
for Operations and Management

Attachment-OMB No. 1890-0014

Sent by electronic mail on 7/3/96 at 4:20PM by the Office of the Deputy Administrator for Operations and Management. State Directors shall notify other personnel as appropriate.