

# *Appalachian Regional Development Initiative*



Committed to the future of rural communities.

***Abingdon, VA  
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- USDA has the unique responsibility of coordinating Federal assistance to rural areas of the nation.
- Rural Development programs are delivered across three primary program areas:
  - Rural Housing Service
  - Rural Utilities Service
  - Rural Business and Cooperative Programs

## *Vision*

A Rural America that is a Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Place to Live and Work.

## *Mission*

To Increase Economic Opportunity and Improve the Quality of Life for all Rural Americans.



# Each year, across the country, USDA Rural Development programs:

- Create or preserve tens of thousands of rural jobs
- Build and update rural infrastructure
- Create or improve more than 60,000 units of quality rural housing



- In Fiscal Year 2010, Rural Development invested more than \$42 billion in loans and grants to communities, businesses and individuals across rural America.
- Another \$21.2 billion was made available through The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.



# *Rural Utilities Service*

## *(Community Programs)*

- Administers water and wastewater loan and grant programs to improve the quality of life and promote economic development in rural areas
- Electric Program makes loans and grants to finance the construction of electric distribution, transmission and generation facilities
- Telecommunications programs help promote state-of-the-art advanced telecommunications technologies



# *Water and Environmental Programs*



- Direct loans offered to water and wastewater systems, including solid waste disposal and storm drainage
- Eligible applicants include municipalities of 10,000 or less population, counties, special-purpose districts and Indian tribes
- Maximum loan term – 40 years not to exceed useful life of the facility



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# *Electric Programs*

- Assistance is offered through the following sources of financing assistance:
  - Federal Financial Bank (FFB) Guaranteed Loans
  - Hardship Loans
  - Treasury Rate Loans
  - Municipal Rate Loans





# *Telecommunications Programs*

- Broadband Loan Program

Construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment for broadband service in rural communities of 20,000 or less population.

Eligible applicant may be nonprofit or for-profit organization, and must be either (1) a Corporation; (2) a limited liability company (LLC); (3) a cooperative or mutual organization; (4) a Federally recognized Indian tribe or tribal organization; or (5) State or local government

# Telecommunications Program

- Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program
  - Loans and grants to support advanced telecommunications technologies that provide enhanced learning and health care opportunities for rural residents



- “Community Connect” Grant
  - Grants to establish broadband service in rural communities not currently served
  - Must foster economic growth and deliver enhanced educational, health care and public safety services

# *Rural Housing Service Community Facilities Program Direct Loans and Grants*



- Used to develop projects deemed essential community facilities for public use in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population
- Eligible entities include municipalities, counties and special-purpose districts, as well as non-profit associations and tribal governments



# *Rural Housing Service Community Facilities Program Direct Loans and Grants*

## **Examples:**

- Schools
- Libraries
- Fire and Rescue Stations
- Police Stations
- Community Centers
- Public Buildings
- Hospitals / Medical Clinics
- Childcare Facilities

## **Purpose:**

- Construct, enlarge or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services.
- Can include costs to acquire land, purchase equipment, or pay necessary professional fees.

# *Local Impact*

- In Fiscal Year 2010, USDA Rural Development invested more than \$1.3 Billion in loans and grants to communities, businesses and individuals across rural Virginia.
  - Utility programs assisted 47 different communities with water and waste water improvements
  - Community Facilities program provided assistance to 203 organizations/local government entities
  - Housing programs helped finance new or improved housing or provided rental assistance for more than 8,600 Families in rural VA
  - Business programs created and saved over 1047 Jobs ; assisted 57 businesses in rural communities across VA

# *Application Tips*

- Start addressing environmental concerns early in process
- Follow the application checklist
- Check maps to determine eligibility
- Explore opportunities to leverage funds
- Ensure activities are consistent with program guidelines



# *Common Mistakes/Problems*

- Incomplete applications
- Failure to submit/obtain accurate financial information
- Applicant is not located/doesn't serve an eligible area
- Applicant drives the project / Good project team
- Post-award issues (e.g. reporting, maintenance, project sustainability)

# *Success Stories*

- *Ferrum College in Rocky Mount receives RD funding for 3 new dormitories and dining hall*
- *Clinch River Health Services in Dungannon, VA is constructed with RD Assistance*
- *New Water System installed in Patrick Springs, VA*
- *New Courthouse Constructed in Carroll County*
- *Five new Farmers Markets Constructed over the last 2 years*
- *The Crossroads Institute is Created to help improve workforce training in Galax, Virginia*

# USDA Rural Development

Through our more than 40 programs, USDA Rural Development strives to meet its mission to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural American's

*“Every Day, Every Way!”*



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# *For more information . . .*

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