



Committed to the future of rural communities.

# Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG)

## Purpose

The program is intended to support and facilitate the development of small and emerging private business enterprises in rural areas either directly or through the use of a revolving loan fund.

## Use of Funds

Acquisition of land and rights; construction of buildings, plants, machinery, equipment, access roads, parking areas and utilities; start-up costs; technical assistance; professional service fees for project development; and establishment of revolving loan funds. The funds can be used jointly with funds furnished by the grantee or from other sources.

## Eligible Applicants

Non-profit corporations and public bodies such as municipalities, counties and special purpose districts. The applicant must have the legal authority to carry out the purposes of the proposed grant.

## Eligible Areas

Incorporated communities under 50,000 population and not adjacent to urban areas. Check applicant location eligibility at: <http://maps.ers.usda.gov/loanlookup/viewer.htm>

## Priorities

- Communities with a population of 25,000 or less.
- Areas of high unemployment as compared to state average.
- Areas where median household income is less than state average
- Applicants having experience in administering a rural development program similar to the proposal.

- Applicants having an industry or business committed to locate or expand.
- Applicants having a substantial commitment of funds from non-federal sources.
- Grant requests less than \$100,000.

## Application Documents

1. Standard Form 424, "Application for Federal Assistance."
2. Clearinghouse comments.
3. Legal opinion that applicant is legally formed, in continued existence and has authority to undertake proposed project.
4. For non-profit corporations - certified copy of original Articles of Incorporation, any amendments thereto, certified copy of By-Laws and Certificate of Incorporation.
5. For special purpose districts - copy of the legislation, court order including petition or referendum evidencing organization and authority.
6. Latest unemployment rate for project location and the state.
7. Median household income of project location and state.
8. Scope of work including outline of service area and description of project.

## Applications

Information and pre-applications may be obtained from one of the four USDA Rural Development Area Offices:

- Findlay (419) 422-0242
- Hillsboro (937) 393-1921
- Marietta (740) 373-7113
- Massillon (330) 830-7700

or contact the State Office at:

Federal Building, Room 507  
200 North High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone: (614) 255-2500  
FAX: (614) 255-2562

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender". To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410,