

PROGRAM: RD Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program (RBOG)

AGENCY: USDA Rural Development (RD), Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS)

DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this program is to promote sustainable economic development in rural areas under 50,000 in population. Priority is given to applications for projects in rural communities of 25,000 in population and under.

ELIGIBLE USE:

- Eligibility is limited to public bodies, private nonprofit corporations, and Federally-recognized Indian Tribal groups.
- Identify and analyze business opportunities; identify and provide technical assistance; establish business support centers; conduct local community or multi-county economic development planning; establish centers for training, technology and trade; conduct leadership training; pay reasonable fees for professional services.

PROGRAM/LOAN STRUCTURE:

- Maximum Program Benefits: Grant

QUALIFICATION CRITERIA/COMMENTS:

- Public bodies include incorporated towns and villages, counties, states, authorities and districts.
- All community projects funded by RD are subject to an environmental assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.
- You must be able to show that the funding will result in economic development of a rural area.
- Funds may not be used for
 - Duplication of current services or replace or substitute support previous provided,
 - Pay costs of preparation of application,
 - Costs incurred prior to effective date of the grant,
 - Fund political activities, or
 - Acquisition of real estate, building construction or development.
- For more information, visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbog.htm> .
- Rural Development Homepage: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/index.html>