

PROGRAM: RD Housing Preservation Grants - Section 533

AGENCY: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD), Rural Housing Service (RHS)

DESCRIPTION: The Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program provides grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of low- and very low-income housing. Housing Preservation Grant assistance is available from grantees to assist very-low and low-income homeowners to repair and rehabilitate their homes. The grants are competitive and are made available in areas with a population of 20,000 or less and where there is a concentration of need. The objective of the HPG program is to repair or rehabilitate individual housing, rental properties, or co-ops owned and/or occupied by very low- and low-income rural persons.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Grantees will provide eligible homeowners with financial assistance through loans, grants and interest reduction payments for necessary repairs and rehabilitation, including providing accessibility for handicapped persons.
- Those assisted must own very low- or low-income housing, either as homeowners, landlords, or members of a cooperative. Very low income is defined as below 50 percent of the area median income (AMI); low income is between 50 and 80 percent of the AMI.
- Eligible sponsors include state agencies, units of local government, Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations. HPG funds received by the sponsors are combined with other programs or funds and used as loans, grants, or subsidies for recipient households based on a plan contained in the sponsor's application. Funds must be used within a two-year period.
- Assistance is also available to rental property owners to repair and rehabilitate their units providing they agree to make such units available to very-low and low-income families.

PROGRAM/LOAN STRUCTURE:

- Maximum Program Benefits: Varies by state.
- Term: Funded under the terms of a grant agreement for a period of up to two years.

QUALIFICATION CRITERIA/COMMENTS:

- Program for state, commonwealth, trust territory or other political subdivision; public non-profit corporation; Indian Tribe, band, group, nation including: Alaskan Indians, Aleuts, Eskimos, and any Alaskan native village of the United States; and private nonprofit organizations.
- Applications are accepted under a NOFA process.
- Visit the programs page at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa/MFHhpg.htm> , the multifamily programs at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa/MFHPrograms.htm> , and http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/mfh/brief_mfh_hpg.htm for more information.
- Rural Development Homepage: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/index.html>