

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Seeks Applications to Strengthen Community and Economic Development to Benefit All People in Rural Communities

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8, 2022 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary for Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small today announced that USDA is accepting applications for grants that will advance equity in rural communities through improvements in housing, community facilities, and community and economic development.

USDA is making the grants available under the [Rural Community Development Initiative](#) program. Qualified intermediaries may use the funds to improve housing and community facilities, and to implement community and economic development projects in rural areas.

USDA is offering [priority points](#) to projects that advance key priorities under the Biden-Harris Administration to help communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, advance equity and combat climate change. These extra points will increase the likelihood of funding for projects seeking to address these critical challenges in rural America.

Eligible applicants include public bodies and tribal authorities, nonprofit organizations and qualified for-profit organizations.

Grants may be used to train sub-grantees to conduct educational training on homeownership or minority-owned business entrepreneurship. The grants also may be used to provide technical assistance to sub-grantees on the following:

- strategic plan development
- accessing alternative funding sources
- training and resources for board operations, management, financial systems and information technology

Awardees must contribute matching funds equal to the amount of the grant.

Electronic applications will be accepted via [Grants.gov](#). Electronic applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on April 19, 2022.

The deadline for paper applications is 4 p.m. local time, April 25, 2022.

Additional information is available on page 7084 of the February 8 [Federal Register](#) or by contacting your [local USDA Rural Development office](#).

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