United States
Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

INVESTMENTS IN DELAWARE
FISCAL YEAR 2014

Committed to the future of rural communities.

Dr. Bill McGowan
State Director
Delaware – Maryland

Dear Friends:

Now and in the future, prosperity for our rural communities depends on ensuring residents have a wide range of economic opportunities to build strong economies and to improve their quality of life. USDA Rural Development strives to build strong partnerships with communities as they build their capacity and economy.

Through our community economic development work Rural Development turns outward. This means we work hard at understanding the aspirations and challenges of the communities we serve. We strive to work from a perspective in which the community understands we know their hopes and dreams and works accordingly. We are not just a lending institution. We see ourselves as an organization that listens, learns, and makes connections. We can learn from each other by sharing our knowledge, skills, talents and stories.

Across Delaware and Maryland there are numerous places/communities I call "small jewels"; rich in history and character that are looking for ways to solve problems. USDA Rural Development and our partners work alongside you with technical and financial help in carrying out the hopes and aspirations for your community.

With the support of dedicated staff, the Delaware and Maryland Congressional delegation, and our many partners, we are truly committed to the future of your community.

William A. McGowan, Ed.D
State Director
Delaware and Maryland

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development mission area was created by the 1996 Farm Bill. It consists of three services: the Rural Housing Service (RHS); Rural Utilities Service (RUS); and the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS).

VISION

A rural America that is a healthy, safe, and prosperous place to live and work.

MISSION

To assist rural communities in creating prosperity so they are self-sustaining and economically thriving through investments that create ladders of opportunity, build regional resilience, and support the growth of emerging markets.

During fiscal year 2014, the following USDA Rural Development investments were made in Delaware.

	FY 2013	FY2014
Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants	$ 7,115,700	$ 11,404,000
SEARCH* Grants	$ 30,000	$ 30,000
Predevelopment Planning Grants	$	$ 24,000
Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans	$	$
Rural Business Enterprise Grants	$ 96,000	$ 141,800
REDLG**	$	$ 593,120
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program	$	$ 605,000
Value Added Producer Grants	$ 41,000	$ 248,750
Rural Energy for America Program	$	$ 142,000
Rural Single Family Housing Direct Loans	$ 5,967,934	$ 6,288,961
Rural Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loans	$ 158,840,964	$ 124,315,662
Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance Grant	$ 1,580,000	$
Home Improvement and Repair Loans and Grants	$ 53,600	$ 36,000
Housing Preservation Grant	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
Rental Assistance	$ 4,971,408	$ 8,265,120
Voucher Program	$ 32,976	$ 33,162
Rural Community Development Initiative	$ 400,000	$ 152,492
Community Facilities Loans and Grants	$ 16,928,940	$ 18,224,800
TOTAL ASSISTANCE TO DELAWARE:	**$ 195,708,522**	**$ 170,554,867**

*Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH)
**Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG)

Delaware and Maryland Rural Development programs are administered through the State Office in Dover, DE; one Area Office in Hagerstown, MD and two Satellite Offices located in La Plata, MD and Upper Marlboro, MD. Office information can be found at the back of this report.

Rural Utilities - FY 2014 Investments $11,458,000

USDA Rural Development's utility programs are the primary financial source for infrastructure investment for rural America. Rural utility programs help provide modern telecommunications, electricity, clean water and wastewater disposal facilities in rural areas.

Water and waste disposal loans and grants develop water and waste disposal systems (including solid waste disposal and storm drainage) in rural areas and towns with populations up to 10,000. This program provides safe, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound wastewater facilities in rural America. Funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, Indian tribes, and non-profit corporations. Rural Development also guarantees water and waste disposal loans made by banks and other eligible lenders. The same types of applicants are eligible for both grants and loans. This program addresses basic unmet needs of health and infrastructure in rural areas.

NAME	TYPE	RUS LOAN AMOUNT	RUS GRANT AMOUNT	OTHER FUNDING SOURCE	CONNECTIONS
City of Harrington	Sewer	$ 520,000	$ 580,000	$ 373,000	1,731
Kent County - Levy Court (County Wastewater Treatment Plant)	Sewer	$ 5,000,000 *Subsequent funding*	$ 0	$ 22,951,000	18,265
Kent County – Levy Court (Paris Villa area Magnolia)	Sewer	$ 632,000	$ 1,894,000	$ 0	158
City of Milford	Sewer	$ 600,000	$ 1,000,000	$ 400,000	8,187
Sussex County Council (Blades)	Sewer	$ 729,000	$ 449,000	$ 0	62
Totals:		**$ 7,481,000**	**$ 3,923,000**	**23,724,000**	**28,403**

Kent County Wastewater Treatment Facility
USDA funding supported energy savings upgrades.

Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH) Program is designed to make predevelopment planning grants for feasibility studies, design assistance, and technical assistance to financially distressed communities in rural areas with populations of 2,500 or fewer inhabitants for water and waste disposal projects.

NAME	GRANT AMOUNT	OTHER FUNDING SOURCE	PURPOSE
Town of Cheswold	$30,000	$0	To fund the cost of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and Environmental Report(ER) for wastewater treatment facilities for the town.
Totals:	**$30,000**	**$0**	

Predevelopment Planning Grants for Water and Waste Disposal Projects help pay costs associated with developing an application for water and waste disposal projects that can be funded by Rural Development. Major cost items are the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and the Environmental Report.

NAME	GRANT AMOUNT	OTHER FUNDING SOURCE	PURPOSE
Town of Laurel	$24,000	$8,000	To fund the cost of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and Environmental Report(ER) to explore options to replace a well in town.
Totals:	**$24,000**	**$8,000**	

Rural Business - FY 2014 Investments $1,730,670

USDA Rural Development's business programs help provide financial assistance, business planning, technical assistance, research, education, and information to cooperatives and rural businesses in cooperation with public and private community-based organizations.

Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) are made to finance and facilitate development of small and emerging private business enterprises in rural areas of places up to 50,000 population with priority to applications for projects in rural communities and towns of 25,000 and smaller, and economically distressed communities. This program includes grants made to third party lenders to establish revolving loan programs. *Beginning in FY 2015, refer to the Rural Business Development Program that was created through the 2014 Farm Bill.*

NAME	GRANT AMOUNT	TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	ANTICIPATED JOBS CREATED OR SAVED
State of Delaware Polytech Adult Education	$49,713	For the purchase of equipment and training to students for the Industrial Training Lab.	30

Rural Business Enterprise Grants (continued)

NAME	GRANT AMOUNT	TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	ANTICIPATED JOBS CREATED OR SAVED
University of Delaware	$28,287	Funds will be used for developing a brand name for the sale of Inland Bay Oysters.	84
Town of Laurel	$37,800	To fund a planning study for a new commercial business park.	1
Town of Smyrna	$26,000	Funds will be used to implement a two0phase strategic marketing outreach plan.	1
Totals:	**$141,800**		**116 created / saved**

Left to right: Dave Small, Secretary of DNREC; U.S. Senator Tom Carper; Sunny Jardine, Assist. Professor School of Marine Science and Policy; Ed Lewandowski, UD Coastal Communities Development Specialist; Chris Bason, Executive Director Center for the Inland Bays; and Kathy Beisner, USDA Rural Development Assistant to the State Director. Press event held October 3, 2014 to highlight support for the development of oyster farming in Delaware's Inland Bays.

Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program provides financing to eligible electric or telecommunications Intermediaries to promote sustainable rural economic development and job creation projects. **Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation received a $593,120 loan** to relend to seven rural municipalities to convert existing street lights to more affordable LED lights. The municipalities, Middletown, Smyrna, Clayton, dover, Milford, Seaford and Lewes, will received loans in totoal of $593,120 for 10 years at zero percent interest.

Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program provides direct loans, technical assistance grants, and technical assistance-only grants to microdevelopment organizations to support the development and ongoing success of rural microentrepreneurs and microenterprises. **First State Community Loan Fund received a $500,000 loan and $105,000 grant** to capitalize a Rural Microloan Revolving Fund to make microloans.

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) was authorized as part of the 2008 Farm Bill to assist farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses develop renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements to their operations.

AgroLab – Harrington, Del.
This small business was awarded a $40,200 grant supporting 25% of the cost of solar panels to help offset utility expenses.

NAME	GRANT AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Dempsey Farms,. LLC (Dover)	$21,544	Renewable energy – solar Dairy and Grain farm
Par 3, Inc. (Dover)	$12,206	Renewable energy – solar Golf Business
John M. Slaubaugh (Greenwood)	$68,050	Renewable energy – solar Poultry farm
Total	**$142,000**	

Value-Added Producer Grants A competitive grant program for agricultural producers that add value to their products through processing, segregation, or other means. Funds may be used for feasibility studies or business plans, working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy projects. Eligible applicants include independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and agricultural producer groups. Value-added products are created when a producer increases the consumer value of an agricultural commodity in the production or processing stage.

BUSINESS	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Fifer Orchards, Inc. (Delmar)	$200,000	Funds will be used to increase marketing efforts and allow the organization to process, package, and deliver their local produce.
Harvest Ridge Winery (Marydel)	$ 48,750	Funds will be used to reinforce the marketing, sales, and promotional efforts of the winery. The funds will also expand the winery's reach and draw visitors through agro-tourism.
Total:	**$248,750**	

Rural Housing - FY 2014 Investments $139,141,397

USDA Rural Development's housing programs help provide rural Americans with decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing. The housing programs are designed for rural Americans whose incomes range from very low to moderate.

Home Ownership Loans are available in two types: guaranteed and direct. The purpose is to provide financing with no down payment and at favorable rates and terms to rural residents living in communities with a population of 35,000 people or less and is rural in character. A guaranteed loan is made by a private financial institution and is guaranteed against most loss if there is a default. Loans are for the purchase, construction, rehabilitation, or relocation of a dwelling and related facilities.

DIRECT LOANS	GUARANTEED LOANS	NUMBER OF HOMES
$6,288,961	$124,315,662	698

Total FY 2014 Home Ownership Loans: $130,604,623

Home Improvement & Repair Loans and Grants enable very low-income rural homeowners to remove health and safety hazards from their homes and to make homes accessible for people with disabilities. Loans have a maximum interest rate of one percent. Grants are available for people 62 years old and older who cannot afford to repay a loan.

GRANTS	LOANS	NUMBER OF HOMES REPAIRED
$34,050	$1,950	5

Total FY 2013 Home Improvement & Repair Loans & Grants: $36,000

Regional Self-Help Technical and Management Assistance Grant $852,300 awarded to National Council on Agriculture Life and Labor Research Fund, Inc. (NCALL) headquartered in Dover, DE. The grant enables NCALL to assist and train organizations interested in or already operating self-help, sweat equity, homeownership programs throughout a 21-State region including the northeast and north central portion of the nation (CT, DE, IL, IA, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VA, VT, WI, and WV.)

Housing Preservation Grants are provided to non-profit groups and public bodies to help very low- and low-income homeowners repair and rehabilitate their homes. Rental property owners can use them to repair and rehabilitate their units if they agree to make such units available to low and very low-income families.

NAME	GRANT AMOUNT
Kent County Levy Court	$25,000
Sussex County Council	$25,000
Total	**$50,000**

Rural Rental Housing Direct and Guaranteed Loans provide apartment living for people who cannot afford to purchase and maintain their own home. Loans are made for site development and construction of apartments for people with very low, low, and moderate incomes. Some units are reserved for people age 62 and over, and people with disabilities age 18 and over. **Farm Labor Housing loans and grants** provide decent and safe living quarters for migrant or year-round farm workers. Loans are available to farmers, public or private nonprofit organizations and units of state and local governments. Rental Assistance helps reduce rents for lower income households.

This year, Rural Development provided **$8,265,120** in servicing and renewal rental assistance that will serve 1,340 rental units. Overall, USDA Rural Development provides continuous monitoring, guidance and servicing of 51 properties in Delaware consisting of 1,681 units.

Rural Development Voucher Program is intended to offer protection to eligible multifamily housing tenants in properties financed through Rural Development's Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Program (515 property) who may be subject to economic hardship through prepayment of the Rural Development mortgage. When the owner of a 515 property pays off the loan prior to the loan's maturity date (either through prepayment or foreclosure action), the Rural Development affordable housing requirements and rental assistance subsidies generally cease to exist. Rents may increase, thereby making the housing unaffordable to tenants. Through this program, **$33,162** was made available to provide housing rent assistance to tenants living in a Rural Development rental housing property where the owner has prepaid the existing Rural Development mortgage.

Rural Community Development Initiative Grants help develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, and low income rural communities to improve housing, community facilities, community and economic development projects in rural areas.

NAME	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
National Council on Agricultural Life and Labor Research Fund, Inc. (NCALL)	To provide technical assistance and training to two non-profit organizations in Delaware: Better Homes of Seaford and Millsboro Housing for Progress.	$152,492
Total:		**$152,492**

Community Facilities Loans and Grants – FY 2014 Investments $18,224,800

Community Facilities direct and guaranteed loans help provide essential services in rural areas and towns with a population of up to 20,000. Direct loan funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, and non-profit corporations. Rural Development also guarantees community facility loans made by banks or other lenders. The Community Facilities program is very versatile. Projects can range from libraries, museums, public schools, police and fire equipment, jails, civil defense buildings, streets and sidewalks to hospitals, animal shelters, dental clinics, nursing homes and child care facilities.

NAME	PURPOSE	LOAN/GRANT AMOUNT	LEVERAGED FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES
Cheswold VFC	To purchase emergency communication radios and new banquet chairs.	$ 50,000 grant	$ 51,779

Community Facilities Loans and Grants (continued)

NAME	PURPOSE	LOAN/GRANT AMOUNT	LEVERAGED FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES
Delmarva Community Services, Inc. (Cambridge, MD)	For a small handicapped bus to transport residents with special needs to day programs in Sussex County, DE.	$ 10,000 grant *(Subsequent)*	$ 14,115
City of Harrington	To purchase two new gas heaters for the Parks and Recreation building and to replace the roof.	$ 25,800 grant	$ 47,915
Sussex Academy Foundation, Inc. (Georgetown)	To perform interior renovations to the Sussex Preparatory Academy.	$ 2,000,000 loan	$ 0
MOT Charter School, Inc. (Middletown)	For the construction of a new high school that is focused on Science/ Technology and the Arts.	$ 16,000,000 loan	$ 2,020,000
Primeros Pasos, Inc. (Georgetown)	To help complete the renovations of donated modular buildings.	$ 100,000 loan	$ 1,227,000
United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware, Inc. (Felton)	To reconstruct a pool house to add bathrooms, showers and upgrade the changing area for campers at Camp Lenape.	$ 39,000 grant	$ 32,000
Totals:		**$ 18,224,800**	**$ 3,392,809**

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Rural Development – Housing and Community Facilities Programs

Program	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Population	Loan/Grant	Terms/Conditions
Single Family Home Ownership Direct Loans	Safe, well-built, affordable homes for rural Americans.	Families and individuals.	Buy, build, improve, repair or rehabilitate a rural home as the applicant's permanent residence.	Rural areas with populations of up to 35,000.	Direct loan.	Up to 100% of market value or cost. Loan term of 33/38 years. Applicant may be eligible for payment assistance (subsidy) on the loan.
Single Family Home Ownership Guaranteed Loans	To assist moderate-income applicants(s)/household(s) in buying their homes by guaranteeing loans made by private lenders.	Families and individuals.	Purchase new or existing home and refinance existing Rural Development guaranteed or direct loans.	Rural areas with populations of up to 35,000.	Loan guarantee.	30-year, fixed rate. Interest rate is negotiated between lender and borrower. Loans up to 100% of market value plus the amount of the up-front guarantee fee being financed.
Single Family Repair Loans and Grants	To help very-low-income applicants remove health and safety hazards or repair their homes.	Families and individuals who currently own their home.	Repair/replace roof, winterizing, purchase or repair heating system, structural repair, water/sewage connect fees, etc.	Rural areas with populations of up to 35,000.	Direct loan and grant.	Loans up to $20,000 up to 20 years at 1%. Grants available to very-low-income applicants 62 years or older unable to pay 1% loan.
Mutual Self-Help Housing Grants	Assist lower-income families in building their own homes.	Non-profits and public bodies.	Technical assistance to help small groups of families to build each other's homes.	Rural areas with populations of up to 35,000.	Grant.	Grant agreement.
Rural Rental Housing Direct Loans	Safe, well-built, affordable rental housing for very-low-income individuals and families.	Individuals, trusts, associations, limited partnerships, for-profit and non-profit entities, Tribes, public bodies.	New construction or substantial rehabilitation of rental housing.	Rural areas with populations of up to 35,000.	Direct loan.	Up to 100% of total development cost (non-profits); 97% (for-profits); 95% (for-profits with Low-Income Housing Tax Credits). 30-year term with up to 50-year amortization.
Rural Rental Housing Loan Guarantees	Provides loan guarantees on loans to build or preserve affordable housing for very-low to moderate-income tenants.	For profit and non-profit lenders.	Build or rehabilitate affordable rental housing.	Rural areas with populations of up to 35,000.	Loan guarantee.	At least 25-year term with fixed interest rate. Loan guarantees up to 90% of the principal.
Housing Preservation Grants	Repair and rehabilitate housing owned or occupied by very-low- and low-income rural families.	Public bodies and non-profit organizations.	Operation of a program which finances repair and rehabilitation activities for single-family and small rental properties.	Rural areas with populations of up to 35,000.	Grant.	Grant agreement.
Farm Labor Housing Loans and Grants	Safe, well-built affordable rental housing for farmworkers.	Individuals, public and private non-profit organizations.	New construction or substantial rehabilitation of rental housing.	N/A.	Direct loan and grant.	Up to 102% of total development cost. Up to 33 years to repay at 1% interest.
Community Facilities Loans and Grants	Improve, develop, or finance essential community facilities for rural communities.	Public bodies, non-profits, and Federally recognized Indian Tribes.	Construct, enlarge or otherwise improve essential community facilities, such as public safety, fire and rescue, telecommunications, schools, libraries, hospitals, other health care facilities, etc. This may include furnishings, fixtures and other required equipment.	City, town or unincorporated area of not more than 20,000 in population. Facilities must primarily serve rural residents.	Direct loan, loan guarantee or grant.	Up to 100% of market value. Term is for useful life of the facility or equipment, the state statute, or 40 years. Maximum grant 75% of project cost. Grant eligibility based on income, population and need.
Rural Community Development Initiative	To facilitate housing, community facility and community and economic development projects.	Private non-profit or public organizations, philanthropic foundations, low-income communities.	Technical assistance grants of $50,000 to $300,000 to develop the capacity and ability of the awardees to carry out needed projects.	City, town or unincorporated area of not more than 50,000 in population.	Grant.	Matching funds required for grant.

Direct Loans and Grants: Apply to Rural Development. Loan Guarantees: Apply to participating intermediaries such as approved banks, mortgage companies, etc.

Rural Development – Business and Cooperative Programs

Program	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Population	Loan/Grant	Terms/Conditions
Business and Industry Loan Guarantees	Create jobs/stimulate rural economies by providing financial backing for rural businesses.	Lender/Businesses.	Real estate, buildings, equipment, supplies, working capital, and some debt refinancing.	All areas except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.	Loan guarantee.	Lender and borrower negotiate terms. Up to 30 years for real estate, 15 years for machinery and equipment, and 7 years for working capital.
Rural Business Development Grants	Assist the startup or expansion of small and emerging private businesses and/or non-profits in rural communities. **Note**: This program combines the former Rural Business Enterprise Grant and Rural Business Opportunity Grant programs and was created through the 2014 Farm Bill.	Public bodies, government entities, non-profit entities, and Federally recognized Indian Tribes.	Acquire or develop land, buildings, plants and equipment; build or improve access roads, parking areas, utility extensions, and water and waste disposal facilities; provide technical assistance; establish revolving loan funds; and to support rural distance learning programs that provide educational or job training.	All areas rural in character except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.	Grant.	Refer to the new rules, when available, for grant terms and conditions.
Intermediary Relending Program Loans	Establish revolving funds for business facilities and community development projects.	Public bodies, non-profit corporations, Native American Tribes and cooperatives.	Community development projects, establishment or expansion of businesses, creation or saving of rural jobs.	Rural areas and incorporated places with populations of less than 50,000.	Direct loan.	The intermediary makes loans to businesses from its revolving loan fund on terms consistent with security offered. Intermediary pays 1% for 30 years.
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program	Establish revolving funds to target assistance to small rural enterprises.	Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs).	Loans, technical, and capacity-building assistance to businesses with 10 or fewer employees and sole proprietorships.	All areas except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.	Loans, grants.	Rural microenterprises apply directly to the intermediary.
Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants	Finance economic development and job creation in rural areas.	Rural Utilities Service-financed electric and telephone utilities.	Business startups or expansion projects that create rural jobs.	Rural areas with priority to places with populations of 2,500 or less.	Direct loan or grant to establish revolving loan fund.	Intermediary makes loans to for-profit or non-profit businesses and public bodies. Loans are 0% for 10 years.
Rural Cooperative Development Grants	Establish/operate centers for cooperative development.	Non-profits and institutions of higher education.	Establish centers to provide technical assistance, training, applied research, and collection and interpretation of data, for the purpose of cooperative development.	All areas except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.	Grant.	Minimum 25% fund match (5% for 1994 Institutions). Grants awarded competitively.
Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grants	Provides funds to eligible cooperatives or an association of cooperatives to provide technical assistance to small, socially disadvantaged producers in rural areas.	Cooperatives and associations of cooperatives whose membership and board of directors is comprised of at least 75% socially disadvantaged agricultural producers.	Technical assistance.	All areas, except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.	Grant.	Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. There is no matching requirement.
Value-Added Producer Grants	Help independent agricultural producers enter into activities that add value to their crops.	Independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, producer groups, majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.	Feasibility studies, business plans; working capital.	All areas.	Grant.	Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Funds cannot be used to build facilities or purchase equipment. Funds must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Rural Development – Business and Cooperative Programs (Cont'd.)

Program	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Population	Loan/Grant	Terms/Conditions
Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Loan Guarantees and Grants	Provide assistance for energy efficiency improvements or purchase of a renewable energy system for operations.	Rural small businesses and agricultural producers.	Energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy systems, land acquisition and working capital.	Cities, towns, unincorporated areas with population less than 50,000. (Population limits do not apply to agricultural producers)	Loan guarantee and/or grant..	Grants up to 25% of project costs not to exceed $250,000 for energy efficiency projects and $500,000 for renewable energy. Loan guarantees up to 75% of project cost not to exceed $25 million.
REAP Audit/Development Grants	Provide grant to entity to pass through to a small business or agricultural producer for 75% of the cost of an energy audit or renewable energy development assistance.	State, Tribal or local government institutions of higher education; rural electric cooperatives; or public power entities.	$100,000 grant to entities, smaller ones to small business and agricultural producers for 75% of energy audit or renewable energy development assistance.	Cities, towns, unincorporated areas with population less than 50,000.	Grant.	$100,000 to entities and up to 75% of the cost of energy audit for renewable energy development assistance.
Biorefinery Assistance Program Loan Guarantees	Provide loan guarantees for the development and construction of commercial-scale biorefineries or to retrofit facilities using eligible technology for the development of advanced biofuels.	Individuals, Indian Tribes, State or local governments, corporations, farm cooperatives, associations of agricultural producers, national laboratories, higher learning institutions, rural electric co-ops, public power entities, consortiums of any of the entities.	Loan guarantees to develop and construct commercial-scale biorefineries or retrofit facilities to use eligible technology for the development of advanced biofuels.	No restrictions.	Loan.	90% (maximum) guarantee on loans up to $125 million; 80% (maximum) guarantee on loans less than $150 million; 70% (maximum) guarantee on loans of $150 million but less than $200 million; 60% (maximum) guarantee on loans of $200 million up to $250 million.
Repowering Assistance Program	Provide payments to biorefineries to replace fossil fuels with biomass.	Biorefineries.	Grant to biorefineries, including ethanol and biodiesel plants that use electricity generated from natural gas and coal and require this for the fermentation process.	No restrictions.	Grant.	As funds are available. Complete applications submitted to National Office for review.
Advanced Biofuel Payment Program	Provide payments to producers of advanced biofuels.	Eligible producers of advanced biofuels.	Grant to producers of advanced biofuels (non-cornmercial-based).	No restrictions.	Grant.	As funds are available. Complete applications submitted to National Office for review. Grant awards determined by National Office.

Direct Loans and Grants: Apply to Rural Development. Loan Guarantees: Apply to participating intermediaries such as eligible banks, etc. Revolving Funds (RMAP, IRP, REDLG): Intermediaries apply to Rural Development, others to the intermediaries.

Rural Development – Utilities Programs

Program	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Population	Loan/Grant	Terms/Conditions
Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants	Provide infrastructure for rural areas.	Public entities, Indian Tribes and non-profit corporations.	Build, repair and improve public water systems and waste collection and treatment systems.	Rural areas, and towns with up to 10,000 population.	Direct loan and grant.	Repayment period is a maximum of 40 years. Grant funds may be available.
Water and Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees	Provide infrastructure for rural areas.	Public entities, Indian Tribes and non-profit corporations.	Construct, repair and improve water supply and distribution systems and waste collection and treatment systems.	Rural areas, and towns with up to 10,000 population.	Loan guarantee.	Eligible lenders obtain up to a 90% guarantee on loans they make and service.
Solid Waste Management Grants	Provide technical assistance and/or training to those who operate and maintain active landfills.	Public bodies, private non-profit organizations, Indian Tribes, academic institutions.	Technical assistance and training to improve landfill conditions and protect against threats to nearby water resources.	Rural areas, and towns with up to 10,000 population.	Grant.	Applications accepted year-round. Complete applications submitted to National Office for review.
Technical Assistance/ Training/Circuit Rider	Provide technical assistance and training.	Public, private, and non-profit organizations.	Provide technical assistance and training to assist with management of water and waste projects.	Rural areas and towns with up to 10,000 population.	Grant.	As funds are available. Complete applications submitted to National Office for review.
Rural Broadband Loan and Loan Guarantee	Deployment of broadband service to eligible rural communities. **Note**: The 2014 Farm Bill revises program provisions. New rules are expected to be published in FY 2015.	Entities seeking to provide broadband services in rural areas.	Finance the construction, improvement and acquisition of facilities and equipment to provide broadband service in eligible rural communities.	Refer to the new rules, when available, for population limits.	Refer to the new rules, when available, for loan details.	Refer to the new rules, when available, for loan terms and conditions.
Electric and Telecommunications Loans	Assist rural communities in obtaining affordable, high-quality electric and telecommunications services.	Non-profit and cooperative associations, public bodies, and other utilities.	Generation, transmission facilities and distribution of electric power, including alternative, renewable, conservation and energy efficiency programs. Enhance 911 emergency service, digital switching equipment, and fiber optic cable, along with traditional main system telecommunications service.	Electric: areas served by an existing rural electric borrower, or rural areas other than a city or town of more than 20,000. Telecommunications: areas cities with population over 5,000.	Direct loan or loan guarantee.	Interest rates are established in accordance with 7CFR 1714. Contact RUS at www.rd.usda.gov or 1 (800) 670-6553.
Distance Learning and Telemedicine	Development and deployment of advanced telecommunication services throughout rural America to improve education and health care.	Incorporated entities, including municipalities, for-profit, and non-profit corporations that operate rural schools, libraries, health care clinics and other educational or health care facilities.	To provide end-user equipment and programming that delivers distance learning and telemedicine services into eligible areas.	Rural areas outside incorporated or unincorporated cities with population over 20,000.	Grant.	Awards range from $50,000 to $500,000. A minimum of 15% in matching funds is required.

Water and Electric Programs: Contact the Rural Utilities Service Administrator; All others: Contact the Rural Development State or local office.

Summary of Rural Development Program Purposes

	Land & Bldgs.	Mach. & Equip.	Working Capital	Infrastructure	Tech. Asst./Train.
Rural Housing and Community Facilities Programs					
Single Family Housing Direct Loans (including Self-Help Loans)	♦				
Single Family Housing Loan Guarantees	♦				
Single Family Housing Repair Loans/Grants	♦				
Rural Rental Housing Direct Loans	♦			♦	
Rural Rental Housing Loan Guarantees	♦			♦	
Housing Preservation Grants	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Farm Labor Housing Loans/Grants	♦			♦	
Community Facilities Direct Loans, Loan Guarantees, Grants*	♦	♦	♦	♦	
Rural Community Development Initiative					♦
Rural Business and Cooperative Programs					
Business and Industry Loan Guarantees	♦	♦	♦	♦	
Rural Business Development Grants	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Intermediary Relending Loans	♦	♦	♦		
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Rural Cooperative Development Grants				♦	♦
Value-Added Producer Grant			♦	♦	♦
Rural Energy for America Program Loan Guarantees/Grants	♦	♦		♦	♦
Biorefinery Assistance Program Loan Guarantees					
Repowering Assistance Program					
Advanced Biofuel Payment Program					
Rural Utilities Programs					
Water and Waste Disposal Direct Loans, Loan Guars., Grants	♦	♦		♦	
Solid Waste Management Grants					♦
Rural Broadband Direct Loans and Loan Guarantees	♦			♦	
Electric and Telecommunications Direct Loans/Loan Guarantees	♦	♦		♦	
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loans/Grants		♦		♦	
Community Connect Grants	♦	♦	♦	♦	

***** Initial operating expenses are eligible in conjunction with the financing of an eligible community facility project. However, grant funds may not be used to fund initial operating expenses.

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