



Rural Business Development Grant

RBDG



Purpose

- RBDG is a competitive grant designed to support targeted technical assistance, training and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas
 - Programmatic activities are separated into enterprise or opportunity type grant activities

Definitions

Enterprise Type Grant

Project will result in the development or financing of small and emerging businesses:

- Snowmobile trail groomers
- Acquisition or development of land, easements, or rights of way; construction, conversion, renovation, of buildings, plants, machinery, equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas, utilities
- Training/technical assistance for business counseling/training, market research, feasibility studies
- Revolving loan funds
- Distance adult learning for job training and advancement
- Technology based economic development
- Rural business incubators

Opportunity Type Grant

Project will result in the economic development of a rural area:

- Community economic development
- Technology based economic development
- Feasibility studies/business plans
- Leadership/entrepreneur training
- Rural business incubators
- Long-term business strategic planning

Definitions

Eligible Area	Small and Emerging Businesses
<p>Rural area or town:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Population less than 50,000 ▪ Cannot be in the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town with a population of more than 50,000 ▪ Check your eligibility here 	<p>Any private and/or Nonprofit business that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have fewer than 50 employees ▪ Less than \$1 million in gross revenues

Eligible Applicants



- Towns/Communities
- Federally recognized Tribes
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Nonprofit Corporations
- State Agencies



- For-Profit businesses are **NOT** eligible applicants



Eligible Applicants are required to...

Have sufficient financial strength and expertise in activities proposed in the application



- ✓ Have legal authority to apply and carryout grant
- ✓ Have staff that is qualified to do the work; or the ability to contract required services
- ✓ Have a Dun & Bradstreet Number (DUNS)
- ✓ Have a valid SAM.GOV registration



RBDG Grant Assistance



There is no maximum grant request – smaller requests given higher priority

✓ Matching Funds are not required, however commitment of funds is a scoring criteria.

✓ Total opportunity type grant funding is limited statutorily to up to 10% of the total RBDG annual funding.



RBDG Grant Fund Uses



Eligible Project Costs

- ✓ Salaries
- ✓ Travel expenses
- ✓ Construction, conversion, or modernization of buildings, machinery, equipment
- ✓ Reasonable fees and charges for professional services necessary for the planning and development of the Project

Project costs must be directly related to the RBDG project



Ineligible Project Costs

- Duplicate current services
- Costs of preparing application package for funding
- Payment of any judgment or debt owed to US
- Expenses incurred prior to receipt of full application
- Assistance to any private business that does not create/support jobs in the US
- Funding political or lobbying activities

How it Works

Eligible Applicant applies for a Opportunity or Enterprise type grant



Application competes in a Statewide Competition for Available Grant Funds



Successful applicants will be awarded grant funds to assist small and emerging businesses in rural Maine

Example # 1



A snowmobile club receives grant funds to purchase a new trail groomer. This allows for businesses to be able to remain open in the winter and attracts tourism to the region, which increases the customer base for the local small businesses.



Example # 2



A University receives grant funds to provide targeted training, networking, and individual assistance for small and emerging businesses in an area adversely affected by the closure of their manufacturing plant.



Example # 3



A town purchases equipment that it then leases to a small/emerging business. Thanks to the equipment, the business is able to triple their sales and meet the growing demand for their product.



How to Apply

- Contact us for more information or an application:
 - Brian Wilson, Business and Cooperative Programs Director – 207-990-9125; brian.wilson@me.usda.gov
 - Ivana Hernandez Clukey – Business and Cooperative Programs Technician – 207-990-9127; ivana.hernandezclukey@me.usda.gov

- Funding selections are made once per year.



Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG)

[USDA RBDG link](#)

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