

RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (RBDG) – Scoring Criteria

- **Leveraging (Non-federal)** - Executed commitments regarding availability & amounts of other funds for the project **(0-30 points)**
- **Duress (Maximum 40 points)**
 - 1) Trauma – Major natural disaster not more than 3 years prior
<https://www.fema.gov/states/maine> **(0-15 points)**
 - 2) Economic distress – Loss of $\geq 20\%$ of total jobs via military or employer closure not more than 3 years prior (supported by published news articles and MDOL data) **(0-15 points)**
 - 3) Long-term poverty (former Empowerment Zone (parts of Aroostook County), Enterprise Community (Lewiston Census tracts), Champion Community) (Maine has no ERS persistent poverty counties) **(0-10 points)**
 - 4) Population decline – per US Census Bureau data
http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml &
<http://censtats.census.gov/cgi-bin/pl94/pl94data.pl> **(0-10 points)**
- **Population** - per US Census Bureau data
http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml **(0-15 points)**
- **Unemployment** – Most recent 12-month period per MDOL statistics
<http://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/laus2.html> **(0-20 points)**
- **Median Household Income** – per US Census Bureau/American Community Survey data
http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml **(0-25 points)**
- **Experience** – Written description certified by applicant with key project staff resumes included. **(0-30 points)**
- **Small business start-up or expansion** – Written evidence that small and emerging business development will be supported by the grant. **(0-25 points)**
- **Jobs created and/or supported** - Written evidence from small and emerging businesses. **(0-25 points)**
- **Size of grant request** - Standard Form 424, #18. a. **(0-25 points)**
- **Indirect cost** - Line-item project budget. **(0-5 points)**
- **Discretionary points** – At agency discretion for geographic distribution, Secretary of Agriculture initiatives, or a State’s strategic goals. **Initial grants only. (0-50 points)**

Please also refer to **RD Instruction 4280-E, section 4280.435** for an in-depth description of the scoring.