

## STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

### USDA Invites Applications for Grants to Help Repair Housing in Rural Communities

ST. PAUL, June 25, 2018 – USDA Rural Development State Director Brad Finstad today announced that USDA is seeking applications for grants to make housing repairs for low- and very-low-income rural residents. The grants are being provided through [USDA's Housing Preservation Grant program](#).

Eligible applicants include town or county governments, public agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, and nonprofit and faith-based organizations. USDA does not provide funding directly to homeowners under this program. For additional eligibility information, see page 29529 of the June 25, 2018 [Federal Register](#).

For FY 2018, USDA plans to award up to \$3 million in grants. The maximum grant award is \$175,000. Grants may be used to develop and operate a Rural Cooperative Development Center that could provide the following technical assistance and other services to rural businesses:

- Conducting feasibility studies
- Developing business plans
- Providing leadership and operational improvement training

Applications are due by 5:00pm CST on **August 9, 2018**. Questions about the application process may be directed to your local Rural Development [Area Office](#).

USDA encourages applications that will support recommendations made in the report to the President from the [Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#) to help improve life in rural America. Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic investments in infrastructure, partnerships and innovation. Key strategies include:

- Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America
- Developing the Rural Economy
- Harnessing Technological Innovation
- Supporting a Rural Workforce
- Improving Quality of Life

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