



Rural Business Service • USDA / SBA Memorandum of Understanding FY2019

Rural Funding Forum at SUNY Morrisville

Morrisville, NY — On Tuesday, March 26th, 2019 representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development agency and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) gathered at the State University of New York (SUNY): Morrisville to present on a number of business related programs and resources that are available to the rural small business community in NY.

This was the second in a series of forums that are taking place throughout NY this fiscal year which are highlighting the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the USDA and the SBA. Richard Mayfield, NY State Director for USDA Rural Development and Steve Bulger, SBA Regional Administrator shared program information as well as listened to the needs of the more than two dozen stakeholders who attended.



The MOU between the two agencies aims to enhance agency collaboration and coordination efforts in areas of mutual interest—in this case the rural New York small business sector. These funding forums are working to: Expand program awareness among stakeholders and communities; Improve investment opportunities in rural areas; Identify ways to increase the benefits of the Tax Cuts and Job Act of 2017; and Improve innovation for rural technical assistance providers as well as aid rural businesses in providing tools to export products around the world.

“As I have traveled across the state and spoken with our partners in the rural small business community one theme keeps repeating itself... *Optimism*. Through the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Sonny Perdue, the USDA has been keenly focused on directing not only our programs and resources -- but our time and talents to create these regional economic opportunities that will help write the next chapter of rural prosperity in America. I look forward to continuing this partnership with our friends at the SBA – and I say that with all sincerity. While federally they are our colleagues, through the efforts of the past year and the staff interaction I have seen, I can honestly tell you that they have become our friends,” Richard Mayfield said.

These engagement efforts are working toward the goals of the shared national operational plan whose goals are to facilitate access to capital that will increase rural prosperity. To learn more about the MOU visit: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/04/04/usda-and-sba-join-forces-help-businesses-rural-america>.

“The partnership between SBA and USDA is stronger than ever before as we work to support and grow our local rural small businesses throughout Upstate New York. I’m pleased to partner with my colleague in government, USDA Rural Development State Director Richard Mayfield, in maximizing our joint efforts to assist entrepreneurs and other small business owners across the vast majority of the Empire State. Rural communities represent more than just vast farmlands and small mountain towns, they are the fabric of our nation. That is why it is so important to support these job creating regions because they in turn support our cities and population centers,” said SBA Atlantic Regional Administrator Steve Bulger.

Are you a rural small business stakeholder in New York State? Do you have questions on what programs are available in your community? We encourage you to visit us online at www.rd.usda.gov/NY or contact us at our NY State Office at (315) 477—6400 and speak with a USDA Rural Development business program specialist today!