

Application Deadline Dates

Application **MUST** be received by:

***April 1, 2018 at 4:30 PM to be considered for State Director Points (*See Agency Initiatives on page 2*).**

April 30, 2018 at 4:30 for all RBDG Applications.

This applies to both New Mexico Allocation Applications and Native American Set-Aside Applications.

Applications **must be received by the due date at any of the locations below or by email or by fax**

Please contact the staff below should you have any questions.

Contact	Area Served	Address	Phone	Email
Carlos Contreras, RBDG Coordinator	<i>State Office, Bernalillo, Guadalupe, Harding, Mora, Quay, Sandoval, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Socorro, Torrance, and Valencia.</i>	One Sun Plaza 100 Sun Avenue NE, Suite #130 Albuquerque, NM 87109	505-761-4958	Carlos.Contreras@nm.usda.gov
Jesse Bopp, Program Specialist	<i>State Office.</i>	One Sun Plaza 100 Sun Avenue NE, Suite #130 Albuquerque, NM 87109	505-761-4952	Jesse.Bopp@nm.usda.gov
Ray Melton, Program Specialist	<i>Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lincoln and Roosevelt.</i>	300 Pennsylvania, Suite #4 Roswell, NM 88201	575-622-8745 Ext. 3323	Ray.Melton@nm.usda.gov
Kathy Barrett, Program Specialist	<i>Catron, Dona Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Otero, and Sierra.</i>	760 Stern Drive, Suite #139 Las Cruces, NM 88005	575-522-8775 Ext. 122	Kathy.A.Barrett@nm.usda.gov
Evert Oldham, Program Specialist	<i>Cibola, Colfax, Los Alamos, McKinley</i>	1427 W. Aztec Blvd, Suite #1 Aztec, NM 87410	505-334-3090 Ext. 5623	Evert.oldham@nm.usda.gov

FAX Submission Number: 1-855-543-9499

Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG)

"Good To Know Before You Start"

What does this program do?

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 that have fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues. Programmatic activities are separated into enterprise or opportunity type grant activities.

Why does USDA Rural Development do this?

This program provides grants for rural projects that finance and facilitate development of small and emerging rural businesses, help fund distance learning networks, and help fund employment related adult education programs. To assist with business development, RBDGs may fund a broad array of activities.

What governs this program

- Basic Program – **7 CFR Part 4280, Subpart E**
- This program is authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (ConAct)

What governed the predecessor programs of RBEG and RBOG, as well as all awards given before FY 2015?

- RBEG Basic Program - **RD Instruction 1942-G**
 - RBOG Basic Program - **7 CFR Part 4284**
 - This program was authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (ConAct)
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Who may apply for this program? Rural public entities including, but not limited to:

- Towns
- State agencies
- Nonprofit Corporations
- Federally recognized Tribes
- Communities
- Authorities
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Rural Cooperatives

What is an eligible area?

RBDG funds must be directed for projects benefiting rural areas or towns outside the urbanized periphery of any city with a population of 50,000 or more. <https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do>

How much funding is available?

There is no maximum grant amount for enterprise or opportunity type grants; however, smaller requests are given higher priority. Generally, grants range from \$10,000 up to \$500,000. There is no cost sharing requirement. Total opportunity type grant funding is limited statutorily to up to 10% of the total RBDG annual funding.

Agency Initiative:** Nearly all business sectors can be assisted with the program. However, USDA RD is placing specific emphasis on the following business sectors for Fiscal Year 2018. ***Eligible initial applications may receive discretionary State Director points that support Agency and Departmental goals. The applicant is encouraged to provide documentation to support discretionary points. The following categories are:

- Projects impacting locally produced/ locally manufactured food and or distribution systems.
- Projects targeting Strategic Economic and Community Development (6025) communities
- the opioid epidemic in rural communities.

How may funds be used?

Enterprise type grant funds must be used on projects that will promote the development of multiple rural small and emerging businesses in rural areas as specified in the grant application.

Uses May Include:

- Technical Assistance Activities (*i.e. feasibility studies, marketing plans*)
- Equipment purchases (*\$5,000 or less- grantee must retain ownership and or shared business incubator equipment*)
- Construct, improve, or purchase buildings, used for economic development of multiple small and emerging private rural business
- Infrastructure
- To Capitalize Revolving Loan Funds

§ 200.311 Real property. 2 CFR 200.311(c)(1)(2)(3) provides instructions concerning security interest a grantee and the Federal awarding agency must adhere to. regarding the disposition of real property and equipment (if applicable).

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Opportunity type grant funding must be used for projects in rural areas and they can be used for:

Uses May Include:

- Promote sustainable economic development in rural communities
 - Economic planning for rural communities
 - Provide technical assistance to rural businesses
 - Provide training for rural entrepreneurs, or comprehensive area wide planning
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How are applications evaluated for competitive funding? RBDG applications compete at the state office level, which are dependent on appropriations and Native American Set-A-Side compete at the National Level.

All applications are evaluated based on:

- Evidence showing job creation to occur with local businesses;
- Consistency with local economic development priorities;
- Percent of nonfederal funding committed to the project;
- Experience of the grantee with similar efforts; and
- Economic need in the area to be served;
- Other factors described in the current Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA), if one is published.

How do we get started?

Applications are accepted through USDA Rural Development’s **local or State offices** once per year. Applicants are advised to view program information, learn about local application timelines, and required paper work to complete application requirements and comply with the terms and conditions of the award.