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## Rural Business Development Grant

Formerly Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) and Rural Business Opportunities Grant (RBOG)

### Applications Requested

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#### Pennsylvania

**APPLICATIONS DUE: Friday, March 29, 2019**

**Application Cycle Open:** USDA Rural Development invites applications to compete for FY19 funding for the Rural Business Development Grant Program.

Eligible applicants for grant funds include non-profits, municipalities, development corporations, and state agencies.

Rural Business Development Grant Program (RDBG) has consolidated both the Rural Business Enterprise and Rural Business Opportunities grant programs into one grant program. Please indicate which project type you are applying for (see below).

- **Rural Business Enterprise Activities:** Technical assistance (i.e. feasibility studies, marketing plans) and equipment purchases (grantee must retain ownership) are encouraged (i.e. shared business incubator equipment).
- **Rural Business Opportunity Activities:** Promote sustainable economic development in rural communities, economic planning for rural communities, provide technical assistance to rural businesses, or provide training for rural entrepreneurs, or comprehensive area wide planning.

***Please note: Funding for RBOG like activities has been limited to 10% of available funds. Please contact Rural Development if you are seeking funds for an RBOG like activity.***

**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 2019.

1. Projects that impact locally produced / locally manufactured food networks and/or distribution systems.
2. Projects targeting strategic economic and community development (SECD-6025) communities.
3. Projects located in Keystone Innovation Zones <https://dced.pa.gov/business-assistance/kiz-coordinator-locations/>.
4. Projects targeting the opioid epidemic or enhancing access to broad band in rural communities.

**Pre-Screen:** To pre-screen your project please reference the list below and contact the Business Program Specialist that services the area where your project is located. We highly encourage pre-screening prior to application submission. We also encourage you to discuss and submit your proposals early. Please do not wait until the deadline!

To compete for the Pennsylvania State Allocation your completed application must be received by close of business **Friday, March 29, 2019** to the appropriate Rural Business Specialist listed below.

- North East PA: Jason Cali, 570-836-5111 ext. 123
- South East PA: Rory Piermattei, 717-376-3500
- South Central PA: Rob Lane, 717-601-3246
- South West PA: Karen Kuhns, 724-261-3893
- North West PA: Mike Richards, 814-547-5958
- North Central PA: Allen Hopkins, 570-433-3902 ext. 117

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