

Your guide to the new Farm Bill

Rural Development Programs

Below is a quick summary of changes made to rural development programs in the new Farm Bill, enacted on February 7, 2014. These programs are administered by USDA Rural Development. To get started with USDA Rural Development, visit www.rurdev.usda.gov or your local USDA service center.

Reauthorizations: The laws governing some programs expire and must be reauthorized by Congress to extend the programs' lifespan. In addition to reauthorizations, the Farm Bill also includes funding for some programs, but most are funded through separate appropriations by Congress.

	Rural Development Programs	The New Farm Bill
Community Infrastructure	Single- and Multi-Family Housing	Makes areas with population up to 35,000 and rural in character eligible.
	Community Facilities	Allows use of some funds for technical assistance and training grants.
	Water and Waste Disposal	Provides funds that will finance about 1/5 of the pending queue of completed applications.
	Broadband	Emphasizes underserved areas and data collection.
	Electric	Allows financing of base load.
Business Development	Business & Industry Guaranteed Loans	Allows loans for working capital and reserves funds for local foods projects.
	Rural Business Enterprise Grants Rural Business Opportunity Grants	Combines these into one new Rural Business Development Grant Program.
	Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program	Provides new funding for the program to continue.
	Intermediary Relending Program	Provides new funding for the program with some small changes.
	Value Added Producer Grants	Provides new funding, sets new priorities to support a broad range of projects, including local foods.
	Healthy Foods Financing Initiative	Creates new initiative in underserved areas.
Community Partnerships	Community Colleges	Creates a new partnership with rural colleges to guide future investments.
	Rural Cooperative Development Grants	Creates a new interagency working group to improve communications and increase co-op development.
	Regional Authority	Prioritizes funding for projects that are part of a multi-jurisdictional development plan
Good Government	Simplified Applications	Requires simpler application processes for most programs.
	Program Metrics	Requires data collection to measure economic activity, jobs created, and borrower success after receiving assistance.