



# Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant

## What does this program do?

The primary objective of the SDGG program is to provide technical assistance to socially-disadvantaged groups through cooperatives and Cooperative Development Centers. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a Notice published in the **Federal Register** and an announcement posted on **Grants.gov**.

## Who may apply for this program?

Cooperatives and Cooperative Development Centers are eligible to apply for this program.

### How may funds be used?

Grant funds must be used to provide technical assistance to socially-disadvantaged groups in rural areas. Examples of technical assistance are:

- Feasibility studies
- Business plans
- Strategic planning
- Leadership training

### How do we get started?

Before you apply:

- Request a Data Universal Number System (**DUNS**) number if your organization does not already have one. It should not take more than a few business days to get your number. However, you should plan on requesting it at least a month before the application deadline because you'll need that number for the next pre-application step (see below).

- Register your organization with the System for Award Management (**SAM**) if you are not already registered. The registration is free, but you need to complete several steps. It's a good idea to start the registration process at least a month before any application deadline. Before you start the registration process, we suggest reading through the HELP materials available on the SAM website. Then, you'll need to create an account. After you create your account by setting up a user id and password, you can register your organization. Remember, you'll need your DUNS number to complete your registration. Also, make a note of your CAGE code and expiration date because you'll need those for your application.

### Who can answer questions?

If you have questions, you can contact your nearest Rural Development Office at [www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices](http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices).

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled "What Law Governs this Program?" You may also contact **your local office** for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at [www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov). *USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*