Strategic Economic Development Application Guide

Thank you for applying to USDA Rural Development for a Rural Business Development Grant. A recent provision of the Farm Bill (Section 6025) gives funding priority to projects that support implementation of multi-jurisdictional strategic economic development plans. This initiative encourages the creation and utilization of strategic regional development plans because leveraging resources and assets can increase the success of economic development within a region--especially in small, rural places that are best positioned to grow when they share resources among multiple jurisdictions.

While your project might not have originally been envisioned as regional in nature, it is possible that it supports one or more goals of a multi-jurisdictional plan. As a result, we encourage you to provide us with additional information to ensure that your application is competitive as possible.

Using Form 1980-88 (see link below), please identify up to three specific goals from a regional development plan and describe the ways in which your project will contribute to their achievement. Once you have completed the form, please return it to, Ben Doyle, Community and Economic Development Specialist, by **Wednesday, February 15**. You can mail the form to:

Ben Doyle

Community and Economic Development Specialist  
USDA Rural Development  
87 State Street, Suite 324  
Montpelier, VT

05601

Or send it via email to: [benjamin.doyle@vt.usda.gov](mailto:benjamin.doyle@vt.usda.gov)

***This opportunity is optional*.** Completion of form 1980-88 is not required for USDA Rural Development to review your application and its absence does not preclude your project from receiving funding.

If you are unsure if your project supports the implementation of a multi-jurisdictional plan, we suggest you start by reviewing any plans your regional planning commission may maintain, any Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy documents your EDA sponsored Economic Development District may maintain, or any other multi-town, multi-county or multi-state plan that an organization (including independent non-profit organizations) may maintain that your project my benefit.

USDA Rural Development staff is committed to helping you assemble the most competitive application possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about identifying an appropriate multi-jurisdictional plan, form 1980-88, or any other aspect of the application process.

**Forms and Additional Information**

Form 1980-88 [Click Here](http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/vtnh.RBDG_.RD1980-88.16.pdf)

Strategic Economic Development Checklist [Click Here](http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/vtnh.RBDG_.6025checklist.16.pdf)

Strategic Economic Development Fact Sheet [Click Here](http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/vt.nh_.RBDG_.6025factsheet.16.pdf)