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News Release

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USDA Makes Funding Available to Help People and Organizations in Rural New Hampshire Repair Homes Damaged by Severe Winter Storms in December 2022

Funding Made Available through the USDA Rural Disaster Home Repair Program and USDA Housing Preservation Grant Program

WASHINGTON, April 21st, 2023 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development State Director for New Hampshire, Sarah Waring, today announced the availability of grants to help homeowners and non-profit organziations repair homes that were damaged by severe winter storms in late December, 2022.

"When an unexpected crisis impacts our lives, it reminds us of our connection to our communities and to the places we call home," Waring said. "That's why the Biden-Harris Administration and USDA stand ready to help rural residents when disaster strikes. There are four counties in New Hampshire that are eligible for disaster relief funding, and we want residents to reach out to us to learn about eligibility. We do this work because we know that when you make rural America your home, you also count on your neighbors, and USDA RD is one of those neighbors."

Direct grants to homeowners are being made available through supplemental disaster funding under the <u>Rural Disaster Home Repair Grant Program</u>. Through this program, people may apply to receive grants of up to \$40,675 directly from USDA to repair their homes.

Funds will be available until expended. They may be used to:

- pay for home repair expenses that were a result of a Presidentally declared disasters in calendar year 2022.
- prepare a site for a manufactured home.
- relocate a manufactured home.

To be eligible:

- applicants must have household incomes that do not exceed the <u>low-limits</u> based on their household size and county.
- homes must be located in an eligible rural area.
- homes must be located in presidentially declared disaster areas.

For more information, visit: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-rural-disaster-home-repair-grants.

Grants for organizations are being made available through supplemental disaster funding under the **Housing Preservation Grants** program. Organizations may apply to receive up to \$50,000 to help people make repairs to their homes that were damaged by natural disasters in calendar year 2022.

Eligible organizations include state and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes and nonprofits.

The organizations may use the funds to provide grants or low-interest loans to repair or rehabilitate housing for low- and very low-income residents. For example, funds may be used to:

- Repair or replace electrical wiring, foundations, roofs, insulation, heating systems and water/waste disposal systems.
- Support accessibility features.
- Purchase construction materials.
- Finance administrative expenses up to 20%.

Residents and organizations in the following New Hampshire counties may be eligible for funding if the homes were damaged from December 22, 2022 to December 25, 2022:

- Belknap
- Coos
- Carroll
- Grafton

Completed pre-applications for grants must be submitted by paper or electronically by 4:30 p.m. local time June 5, 2023. For additional information, see page 24148 of the April 19, 2023, Federal Register.

For more information on how to apply, visit https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-programs/housing-preservation-grants.

Background

The Biden-Harris Administration championed the bill known as the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, that made this funding possible.

Additional resources to support rural communities seeking disaster assistance are available at https://www.rd.usda.gov/page/rural-development-disaster-assistance.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, Tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. To subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our GovDelivery subscriber page.