



## **STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **USDA Seeks Applications for New Rural Business Investment Companies**

(November 18, 2016) – United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Rural Development Under Secretary Lisa Mensah today announced that USDA is seeking applications for investment companies to become new Rural Business Investment Companies (RBIC) under the department’s non-leveraged Rural Business Investment Program (RBIP).

Under this program, USDA certifies venture capital funds, which provide an investment of equity capital that helps to promote economic development and job creation in rural areas.

There are several advantages to becoming a non-leveraged RBIC. For example, RBICs are the only method a Farm Credit System bank can be part of a venture capital fund. Also, RBIC funds are solely regulated through USDA. Another advantage is that RBICs are considered a public welfare investment, allowing banks to take advantage of Community Reinvestment Act Credits, which encourages investment in small rural companies seeking to expand.

USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for non-leveraged RBICs on an ongoing basis and until such time the agency determines otherwise.

For additional details about RBIC and how to apply for non-leveraged status, see Page 81724 of the November 18, 2016 [Federal Register](#).

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.*