



**USDA Rural Development**

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# News Release

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## **USDA RD State Director Waring, NH Congressman Pappas Host Entrepreneurship Panel to Benefit Regional Small Business Owners**

*Virtual Dialogue with Area Businesses to Focus on Funding Support, Pandemic Navigation and Workforce Development*

CONWAY, N.H., March 9, 2022 – Today, [USDA Rural Development \(RD\)](#) State Director Sarah Waring and New Hampshire Congressman Chris Pappas will co-host a virtual panel to discuss the achievements, challenges and outlook of small businesses in the Granite State. To kick off [National Entrepreneurship Week](#) during the third week in February, RD released its [Entrepreneurship Resource Guide](#), providing insights, success stories and tools for small-business owners to secure funding through various federal sources and non-profit agencies. The panel will include five area small businesses from New Hampshire's 1<sup>st</sup> District that have received USDA funding in recent years.

“We are thrilled to join Congressman Pappas and these innovative entrepreneurs to discuss the small-business landscape in our region,” said Sarah Waring, State Director of USDA Rural Development in New Hampshire and Vermont. “We need to know how folks are sustaining, expanding and evolving their operations in a very challenging climate. The Congressman is a proven champion of the independent businessperson, and USDA Business Programs leverage significant economic development throughout the State with funding for diverse, exciting projects and initiatives. With today's important discussion and the recent release of the USDA Entrepreneurship Resource Guide, we hope to further support and strengthen the small businesses that are so vitally important to our rural communities.”

Entrepreneurs invited to participate are Chef Danny Rassi - Fire by Wicked Fresh in North Conway; John Moulton - [Moulton Farm](#) in Meredith; Daryl Dawson - The Kellerhaus in Laconia; Kendra Veno - Veno's Specialty Food & Meats in Conway; and Jack Clarke - Clarke Farm in Epping.

The dialogue will cover workforce development, adapting to the pandemic, and funding sources for clean energy and general business development, among other topics. RD Business Programs under discussion will include the [Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#), [Rural Business Development Grants \(RBDG\)](#), [Intermediary Relending Program \(IRP\)](#), [Business & Industry Loan Guarantees \(B&I\)](#), [Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program \(RMAP\)](#), and [Value Added Producer Grants \(VAPG\)](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the leadership of the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate-smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

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