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News Release

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US Department of Agriculture Rural Development Invest \$166,668 to University of Louisiana at Lafayette through Rural Energy of America Program – Technical Assistance Grant to assist small businesses in surrounding areas.

LOUISIANA, MARCH. 1, 2024 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Louisiana State Director, Deidre Deculus Robert, will announce that USDA will invest \$166,668 to University of Louisiana at Lafayette through the Rural Energy of America Program – Technical Assistance Grant (REAP TAG).

These funds will provide hands-on support to farmers, ranchers and rural small business owners seeking federal funds for renewable energy systems, like solar and energy efficiency measures. This investment not only helps producers and small businesses lower energy costs, but also access new markets and strengthen their operations.

This grant will greatly benefit small businesses in the surrounding areas by assisting them in implementing sustainable energy practices and improving their overall efficiency. Through this program, University of Louisiana at Lafayette will be able to provide valuable resources and technical assistance to help these businesses thrive in the rural economy.

USDA's investment in this initiative demonstrates their commitment to supporting rural communities and promoting economic development. This funding will not only create opportunities for growth and innovation in the region, but also contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally conscious future.

“We are excited to see the positive impact that this grant will have on the local economy and look forward to witnessing the success of the businesses that will benefit from this program,” said Louisiana Rural Development State Director, Deidre Deculus Robert. “USDA Rural Development strives to be a continued partner for growth in our rural communities.”

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