

North Dakota

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, Room 208, 220 East
Rosser, P. O. Box 1737, Bismarck, ND
58502-1737. (701) 530-2037/TDD (701)
530-2113.

Ohio

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, Room 507, 200 North
High Street, Columbus, OH 43215-2418.
(614) 255-2400/TDD (614) 255-2554.

Oklahoma

USDA Rural Development State Office, 100
USDA, Suite 108, Stillwater, OK 74074-
2654. (405) 742-1000/TDD (405) 742-1007.

Oregon

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1229
SE Third Street, Suite A, Pendleton, OR
97801-4198. (503) 414-3300/TDD (503)
414-3387.

Pennsylvania

USDA Rural Development State Office, One
Credit Union Place, Suite 330, Harrisburg,
PA 17110-2996. (717) 237-2299/TDD (717)
237-2261.

Puerto Rico

USDA Rural Development State Office, 654
Munoz Rivera Avenue, IBM Building, Suite
601, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-6106.
(787) 766-5095/TDD (787) 766-5332.

South Carolina

USDA Rural Development State Office, Strom
Thurmond Federal Building, 1835
Assembly Street, Room 1007, Columbia, SC
29201. (803) 765-5163/TDD (803) 765-
5697.

South Dakota

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, Room 210, 200 4th
Street, SW., Huron, SD 57350. (605) 352-
1100/TDD (605) 352-1147.

Tennessee

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3322
West End Avenue, Suite 300, Nashville,
TN 37203-1084. (615) 783-1300.

Texas

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, Suite 102, 101 South
Main Street, Temple, TX 76501. (254) 742-
9700/TDD (254) 742-9712.

Utah

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building, 125
South State Street, Room 4311, Salt Lake
City, UT 84138. (801) 524-4320/TDD (801)
524-3309.

Vermont/New Hampshire

USDA Rural Development State Office, City
Center, 3rd Floor, 89 Main Street,
Montpelier, VT 05602. (802) 828-6000/
TDD (802) 223-6365.

Virginia

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Culpeper Building, Suite 238, 1606 Santa
Rosa Road, Richmond, VA 23229-5014.
(804) 287-1550/ TDD (804) 287-1753.

Washington

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1835
Black Lake Boulevard, SW., Suite B,
Olympia, WA 98512-5715. (360) 704-
7740.

West Virginia

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, 75 High Street, Room
320, Morgantown, WV 26505-7500. (304)
284-4860/TDD (304) 284-4836.

Wisconsin

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4949
Kirschling Court, Stevens Point, WI 54481.
(715) 345-7600/TDD (715) 345-7614.

Wyoming

USDA Rural Development State Office, 100
East B Street, Federal Building, Room
1005, P.O. Box 11005, Casper, WY 82602-
5006. (307) 261-6300/TDD (307) 233-6733.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RBOG program is authorized under section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT) (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(11)). The Rural Development State Offices administer the RBOG program on behalf of RBS at the State level. The primary objective of the program is to improve the economic conditions of rural areas. Assistance provided to rural areas under this program may include technical assistance for business development and economic development planning. A total of \$990,000 of non-earmarked funds is available for the RBOG program for FY 2006. To ensure that a broad range of communities have the opportunity to benefit from the available funds, no grant will exceed \$50,000, unless it is a multi-State project where funds may not exceed \$150,000. Pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2006 (Public Law 108-447), a total of \$990,000 has been earmarked for Native Americans and a total of \$990,000 for Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Rural Economic Area Partnerships. There is no project dollar amount limitation on applications for earmarked funds. Awards are made on a competitive basis using specific selection criteria contained in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart G. Information required to be in the application package are contained in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart G. The State Director may assign up to 15 discretionary points to an application, and the Agency Administrator may assign up to 20 additional discretionary points based on geographic distribution of funds, special importance for implementation of a strategic plan in partnership with other organizations, or extraordinary potential for success due to superior project plans or qualifications of the grantee. To

ensure the equitable distribution of funds, two projects from each State that score the greatest number of points based on the selection criteria and discretionary points will be considered for funding. Applications will be tentatively scored by the State Offices and submitted to the National Office for final review and selection.

The National Office will review the scores based on the grant selection criteria and weights contained in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart G. All applicants will be notified by RBS of the Agency's decision on the awards.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the information collection requirement contained in this Notice is approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0570-0024.

Nondiscrimination Statement

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). "USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender."

Dated: February 23, 2006.

Jackie J. Gleason,

Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. E6-3762 Filed 3-14-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Business-Cooperative Service**

**Inviting Rural Business Enterprise
Grant Program Preapplications for
Technical Assistance for Rural
Transportation Systems**

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an Agency within the Rural Development mission area, announces the availability of two individual grants: one single \$495,000 grant from the passenger transportation funds appropriated for the RBS Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program and another single \$247,500 grant from the Federally Recognized Native American Tribes' (FRNAT) funds appropriated for RBS under the RBEG program for fiscal year (FY) 2006. Each grant is to be competitively awarded to a qualified national organization. These grants are to provide technical assistance for rural transportation.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of preapplications in the Rural Development State Office is April 14, 2006. Preapplications received at a Rural Development State Office after that date would not be considered for FY 2006 funding.

ADDRESSES: For further information, entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact a Rural Development State Office to obtain copies of the pre-application package. A list of Rural Development State Offices follows:

District of Columbia

Rural Development Business Programs,
USDA, Specialty Lenders Division, 1400
Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 3225,
Room 6867, Washington, DC 20250-3225,
(202) 720-1400.

Alabama

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Sterling Centre, Suite 601, 4121
Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL 36106-
3683, (334) 279-3400.

Alaska

USDA Rural Development State Office, 800
West Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer, AK
99645-6539, (907) 761-7705.

Arizona

USDA Rural Development State Office, 230
N. First Avenue, Suite 206, Phoenix, AZ
85003-1706, (602) 280-8700.

Arkansas

USDA Rural Development State Office, 700
West Capitol Avenue, Room 3416, Little
Rock, AR 72201-3225, (501) 301-3200.

California

USDA Rural Development State Office, 430 G
Street, Agency 4169, Davis, CA 95616-
4169, (530) 792-5800/TDD (530) 792-5848.

Colorado

USDA Rural Development State Office, 655
Parfet Street, Room E-100, Lakewood, CO
80215, (720) 544-2903/TDD (720) 544-
2976.

Delaware-Maryland

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1221
College Park Drive, Suite 200, Dover, DE

19904, (302) 857-3580/TDD (302) 857-
3585.

Florida/Virgin Islands

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4440
NW 25th Place, P.O. Box 147010,
Gainesville, FL 32614-7010, (352) 338-
3400/TDD (352) 338-3450.

Georgia

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Stephens Federal Building, 355 E. Hancock
Avenue, Athens, GA 30601-2768, (706)
546-2162.

Hawaii

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, Room 311, 154
Waiianuenue Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720, (808)
933-8380/(808) 933-8321.

Idaho

USDA Rural Development State Office, 9173
West Barnes Drive, Suite A1, Boise, ID
83709, (208) 378-5600/TDD (208) 378-
5644.

Illinois

USDA Rural Development State Office, 2118
West Park Court, Suite A, Champaign, IL
61821, (217) 403-6200/TDD (217) 403-
6240.

Indiana

USDA Rural Development State Office, 5975
Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN
46278, (317) 290-3100/TDD (317) 290-
3340.

Iowa

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, Room 873, 210 Walnut
Street, Des Moines, IA 50309 (515) 284-
4663/TDD (515) 284-4858

Kansas

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1303
SW First American Place, Suite 100,
Topeka, KS 66604-4040, (785) 271-2700/
TDD (785) 271-2767.

Kentucky

USDA Rural Development State Office, 771
Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Lexington, KY
40503, (859) 224-7300/TDD (859) 224-
7422.

Louisiana

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3727
Government Street, Alexandria, LA 71302,
(318) 473-7920/TDD (318) 473-7655.

Maine

USDA Rural Development State Office, 967
Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, P.O. Box 405,
Bangor, ME 04402-0405, (207) 990-9160/
TDD (207) 942-7331.

Massachusetts/Rhode Island/Connecticut

USDA Rural Development State Office, 451
West Street, Suite 2, Amherst, MA 01002-
2999, (413) 253-4300/TDD (413) 253-4318.

Michigan

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3001
Coolidge Road, Suite 200, East Lansing, MI
48823, (517) 324-5100/TDD (517) 337-
6795.

Minnesota

USDA Rural Development State Office, 410
AgriBank Building, 375 Jackson Street, St.
Paul, MN 55101-1853, (651) 602-7800/
TDD (651) 602-3799.

Mississippi

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, Suite 831, 100 West
Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269, (601)
965-4316/TDD (601) 965-5850.

Missouri

USDA Rural Development State Office, 601
Business Loop 70 West, Parkade Center,
Suite 235, Columbia, MO 65203, (573)
876-0976/TDD (573) 876-9480.

Montana

USDA Rural Development State Office, 900
Technology Blvd., Unit 1, Suite B, P.O. Box
850, Bozeman, MT 59771, (406) 585-2580/
TDD (406) 585-2562.

Nebraska

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, Room 152, 100
Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508,
(402) 437-5551/TDD (402) 437-5093.

Nevada

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1390
South Curry Street, Carson City, NV
89703-9910, (775) 887-1222/TDD (775)
885-0841.

New Jersey

USDA Rural Development State Office, 5th
Floor North, Suite 500, 8000 Midlantic
Drive, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054, (856) 787-
7700/TDD (856) 787-7784.

New Mexico

USDA Rural Development State Office, 6200
Jefferson Street NE, Room 255,
Albuquerque, NM 87109, (505) 761-4950/
TDD (505) 761-4976.

New York

USDA Rural Development State Office, The
Galleries of Syracuse, 441 South Salina
Street, Suite 357, Syracuse, NY 13202-
2541, (315) 477-6400/TDD (315) 477-6447.

North Carolina

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4405
Bland Road, Suite 260, Raleigh, NC 27609,
(919) 873-2000/TDD (919) 873-2003.

North Dakota

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, Room 208, 220 East
Rosser, P.O. Box 1737, Bismarck, ND
58502-1737, (701) 530-2037/TDD (701)
530-2113.

Ohio

USDA Rural Development State Office,
Federal Building, Room 507, 200 North
High Street, Columbus, OH 43215-2418,
(614) 255-2400/TDD (614) 255-2554.

Oklahoma

USDA Rural Development State Office, 100
USDA, Suite 108, Stillwater, OK 74074-
2654, (405) 742-1000/TDD (405) 742-1007.

Oregon

USDA Rural Development State Office, 101 SW Main Street, Suite 1410, Portland, OR 97204-3222, (503) 414-3300/TDD (503) 414-3387.

Pennsylvania

USDA Rural Development State Office, One Credit Union Place, Suite 330, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996, (717) 237-2299/TDD (717) 237-2261.

Puerto Rico

USDA Rural Development State Office, IBM Building, 654 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 601, San Juan, PR 00918-6106, (787) 766-5095/TDD (787) 766-5332.

South Carolina

USDA Rural Development State Office, Strom Thurmond Federal Building, 1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007, Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 765-5163/TDD (803) 765-5697.

South Dakota

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 210, 200 4th Street, SW., Huron, SD 57350, (605) 352-1100/TDD (605) 352-1147.

Tennessee

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37203-1084, (615) 783-1300.

Texas

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Suite 102, 101 South Main Street, Temple, TX 76501, (254) 742-9700/TDD (254) 742-9712.

Utah

USDA Rural Development State Office, Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4311, Salt Lake City, UT 84138, (801) 524-4320/TDD (801) 524-3309.

Vermont/New Hampshire

USDA Rural Development State Office, City Center, 3rd Floor, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-6000/TDD (802) 223-6365.

Virginia

USDA Rural Development State Office, Culpeper Building, Suite 238, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Richmond, VA 23229, (804) 287-1550/TDD (804) 287-1753.

Washington

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1835 Black Lake Boulevard, SW., Suite B, Olympia, WA 98512-5715, (360) 704-7740.

West Virginia

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, 75 High Street, Room 320, Morgantown, WV 26505-7500, (304) 284-4860/TDD (304) 284-4836.

Wisconsin

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4949 Kirschling Court, Stevens Point, WI 54481, (715) 345-7600/TDD (715) 345-7614.

Wyoming

USDA Rural Development State Office, 100 East B, Federal Building, Room 1005, P.O. Box 11005, Casper, WY 82602-5006, (307) 261-6300/TDD (307) 233-6733.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The passenger transportation portion of the RBEG program is authorized by section 310B(c)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT) (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(2)). The RBEG program is administered on behalf of RBS at the State level by the Rural Development State Offices. The primary objective of the program is to improve the economic conditions of rural areas. Assistance provided to rural areas under this program may include on-site technical assistance to local and regional governments, public transit agencies, and related nonprofit and for-profit organizations in rural areas; the development of training materials; and the provision of necessary training assistance to local officials and agencies in rural areas.

Awards under the RBEG passenger transportation program are made on a competitive basis using specific selection criteria contained in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G, and in accordance with section 310B(c)(2) of the CONACT. That subpart also contains the information required to be in the application package. For the FRNAT grant, at least 75 percent of the benefits of the project must be received by members of Federally Recognized Tribes. The project that scores the greatest number of points based on the selection criteria and Administrator's points will be selected for each grant. Preapplications will be tentatively scored by the State Offices and submitted to the National Office for review, final scoring, and selection.

To be considered "national," a qualified organization is required to provide evidence that it operates in multi-State areas. There is not a requirement to use the grant funds in a multi-State area. Under this notice, grants will be made to qualified, private, non-profit organizations for the provision of technical assistance and training to rural communities for the purpose of improving passenger transportation services or facilities. Public bodies are not eligible for passenger transportation RBEG grants.

The information collection requirements contained within this Notice have received approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0570-0022 (7 CFR part 1942, subpart G).

Fiscal Year 2006 Preapplications Submission

Each application received in a Rural Development State Office will be reviewed to determine if this application is consistent with the eligible purposes contained in section 310B(c)(2) of the CONACT. Each selection priority criterion outlined in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G, section 1942.305(b)(3), must be addressed in the application. Failure to address any of the criteria will result in a zero-point score for that criterion and impact the overall evaluation of the application. Copies of 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G, will be provided to any interested applicant making a request to a Rural Development State Office listed in this notice. All projects to receive technical assistance through these passenger transportation grant funds are to be identified when the preapplications are submitted to the Rural Development State Office. Multiple project preapplications must identify each individual project, indicate the amount of funding requested for each individual project, and address the criteria as stated above for each individual project. For multiple-project preapplications, the average of the individual project scores will be the score for that application.

All eligible preapplications, along with tentative scoring sheets and the Rural Development State Director's recommendation, will be referred to the National Office no later than May 25, 2006, for final scoring and selection for an award.

The National Office will score preapplications based on the grant selection criteria and weights contained in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G and will select a grantee subject to the grantee's satisfactory submission of a formal application and related materials in the manner and timeframe established by RBS in accordance with 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G. It is anticipated that the grantees will be selected by July 7, 2006. All applicants will be notified by RBS of the Agency's decision on the awards.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all

prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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Dated: February 23, 2006.

Jackie J. Gleason,

Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. E6-3761 Filed 3-14-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Household Water Well System Grant Program Announcement of Application Deadlines and Funding

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of funding availability and solicitation of applications.

SUMMARY: USDA Rural Development administers rural utilities programs through the Rural Utilities Service. USDA Rural Development announces its fiscal year (FY) 2006 funding and application window for the Household Water Well System (HWWS) Grant Program. The HWWS Grant Program is authorized under Section 6012 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (The Act), Public Law 107-171. The Act authorizes USDA Rural Development to make grants to qualified private non-profit organizations to establish lending programs for household water wells. For FY 2006, the HWWS grant funding available is \$990,000. The non-profit organizations will use the grants to make loans to individuals to construct or upgrade a household water well system for an existing home. The organizations must contribute an amount equal to at least 10 percent of the grant request to capitalize the loan fund. Applications may be submitted in paper or electronic format. The HWWS Grant Program regulations are contained in 7 CFR part 1776.

DATES: The deadline for completed applications for a HWWS grant is May 31, 2006. Applications in either paper or electronic format must be postmarked or time-stamped electronically on or before

the deadline. Late applications will be ineligible for grant consideration.

ADDRESSES: Submit electronic grant applications through <http://www.grants.gov> (Grants.gov), following the instructions on that Web site. Submit completed paper applications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA Rural Development Utilities Programs, Mail Stop #1570, Room 2233-S, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1570. Applications should be marked "Attention: Water and Environmental Programs."

Application guides and materials for the HWWS Grant Program may be obtained electronically through <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/well.htm>. Call (202) 720-9589 to request paper copies of application guides and materials from the Water and Environmental Programs staff.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cheryl Francis, Loan Specialist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Programs, Water and Environmental Programs, telephone: (202) 720-1937, fax: (202) 690-0649, e-mail: cheryl.francis@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Federal Agency: Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

Funding Opportunity Title: Household Water Well System Grant Program.

Announcement Type: Grant—Initial.
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 10.862.

Due Date for Applications: May 31, 2006.

Items in Supplementary Information

- I. Funding Opportunity: Description of the Household Water Well System Grant Program.
- II. Award Information: Available funds.
- III. Eligibility Information: Who is eligible, what kinds of projects are eligible, what criteria determine basic eligibility.
- IV. Application and Submission Information: Where to get application materials, what constitutes a completed application, how and where to submit applications, deadlines, items that are eligible.
- V. Application Review Information: Considerations and preferences, scoring criteria, review standards, selection information.
- VI. Award Administration Information: Award notice information, award recipient reporting requirements.
- VII. Agency Contacts: Web, phone, fax, email, contact name.

I. Funding Opportunity

A. Program Description

The Household Water Well System (HWWS) Grant Program has been

established to help individuals with low to moderate incomes finance the costs of household water wells that they own or will own. The HWWS Grant Program is authorized under section 6012 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (The Act), Public Law 107-171. The Act authorizes the USDA Rural Development through the Rural Utilities Service to make grants to qualified private non-profit organizations to establish lending programs for household water wells.

As the grant recipients, non-profit organizations will receive HWWS grants to establish lending programs that will provide water well loans to individuals. The individuals, as loan recipients, may use the loans to construct, refurbish, and service their household well systems. A loan may not exceed \$8,000 and will have a term up to 20 years at a one percent annual interest rate.

B. Background

The USDA Rural Development supports the sound development of rural communities and the growth of our economy without endangering the environment. The USDA Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance to help communities bring safe drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound waste disposal facilities to rural Americans in greatest need.

A central water system may not be the only or best solution to drinking water problems. Distance or physical barriers make public central water systems expensive in remote areas. A significant number of geographically isolated households without water service might require individual wells rather than connections to new or existing community systems. The goal of the USDA Rural Development is not only to make funds available to those communities most in need of potable water but also to ensure that facilities used to deliver drinking water are safe and affordable. There is a role for private wells in reaching this goal.

C. Purpose

The purpose of the HWWS Grant Program is to provide funds to non-profit organizations to assist them in establishing loan programs from which individuals may borrow money for household water well systems. Applicants must show that the project will provide technical and financial assistance to eligible individuals to remedy household well problems. Priority will be given to the non-profit organizations that:

1. Demonstrate experience in promoting safe, productive uses of