USDA-Rural Development Grant and Loan Resources

**Rural Business Development Grants**: Supports technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small private businesses in rural areas which will employ 50 or fewer new employees and have less than $1 million in gross revenue. Eligible applicants include entities such as nonprofits, local governments, and federally-recognized Tribes.

**Strategic Economic and Community Development**: USDA guidelines prioritize grant applicants who offer plans that will contribute to development across a rural region.

**Rural Business Investment Program**: USDA issues Rural Business Investment Company (RBIC) licenses to venture capital organizations that operate primarily in rural areas in order to ensure capital is accessible to businesses in such areas. Please contact USDA Rural Development’s New Mexico Office for further information.

**Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program**: Provides funding for rural projects through local utility organizations. USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which then provide funding to local businesses for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas.

**Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program**: USDA offers funding to Microentreprise Development Organizations to provide startup loan funding and technical assistance to rural businesses with 10 or fewer employees.

**Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant**: Provides technical assistance to socially-disadvantaged groups in rural areas through cooperatives and Cooperative Development Centers. Such assistance can include conducting a business feasibility study or helping to develop a business plan.

**Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program**: Provides a combination of low-interest loans and grants to develop essential community facilities, such as a town hall, hospital or food pantry, in rural areas. Federally-recognized tribes, local governments, and non-profits from communities with less than 20,000 residents may apply.

**Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program**: Provides a combination of low-interest loans and grants to develop clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage systems in rural communities. Federally-recognized tribes, local governments, and non-profits from communities with less than 10,000 residents may apply.

**Economic Impact Initiative Grant**: Provides funding to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural communities facing extreme unemployment and economic depression. Local governments and non-profits from communities with less than 10,000 residents and an unemployment rate greater than 19.5% may apply.