



RURAL DEVELOPMENT COVID-19 Measures for Rural Communities

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Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The ABC's of Rural Development



**Affordable Housing, Business & Economic Development,
and Community Infrastructure**

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program

Great News!

USDA RD is accepting applications for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program.

Applications due July 13th



Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program

Program Purpose

- To provide financial assistance to enable and improve Distance Learning and Telemedicine Services in Rural America
- To support the use of telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents
- To increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources that are otherwise unavailable or limited in scope

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program

Round Two – 2020 Applications due July 13th

- The maximum grant size has been increased to \$1,000,000!
- Minimum 15% Match still required
- Changes to Special Consideration scoring category
 - Opioid Treatment has been broadened to encompass other Substance Use Disorder Treatment as well.
 - Opportunity Zones are a new Special Consideration category
 - STEM Education
- Applications must be submitted electronically, no paper applications accepted

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program - Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility

- The following entity types are eligible to apply:
 - Incorporated organization;
 - Indian tribe or tribal organization, as defined in 25 U.S.C. 5304*;
 - State or local unit of government;
 - Consortium as defined in 1734.3; or
 - Other legal entity, including a private corporation organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis.

**formerly 25 U.S.C. 450b(b)*

For more information

More information on Colorado Applications

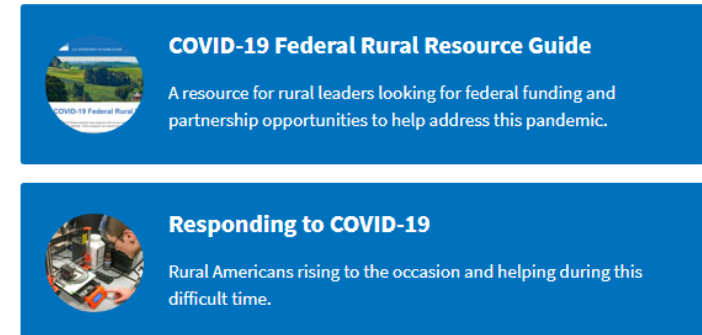
- Contact Brian Smith
Telecom General Field Representative
brian.smith1@usda.gov
- Join us for a webinar on May 7th at 9 AM
 - Sign up at
https://globalmeetwebinar.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1306946&tp_key=722cb9931c

Online COVID-19 Resources

- New COVID-19 Website
- Daily updates with stakeholder announcements and resources for rural lenders
- FAQs for borrowers
- Links to USDA COVID-19 website



Updated April 14, 2020 — USDA Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses, and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep our customers, partners, and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America. Please bookmark this page and check back regularly as circumstances are changing daily and the width and depth of our responses to your questions and concerns will certainly increase. A PDF of all Immediate Actions to date is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



Online COVID-19 Resources (cont.)



COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

USDA and its Federal partners have programs that can be used to provide immediate and long-term assistance to rural communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. These programs can support recovery efforts for rural residents, businesses and communities through:

- technical, training, and management assistance;
- financial assistance; and
- state and local assistance.

This resource matrix organizes funding opportunities identified in the CARES Act and other federal resources that can help support rural America. Opportunities are categorized by customer and assistance type.

For more information on the immediate actions USDA is taking to respond to COVID-19, visit usda.gov/coronavirus.

For the latest news from the CDC on COVID-19, visit coronavirus.gov.

- Developed Federal Rural Resource Guide to serve as a one-stop shop of federal programs that can be used by rural communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

RD Programs: COVID-19 Immediate Actions

Rural Housing Service

Single-Family Housing Direct and Guaranteed Programs

- Issued 60 day moratorium on foreclosure and evictions
- Payment Moratoriums and Assistance
- Relaxed appraisal reporting, repair inspections, and employment verification

Multi-Family Housing Programs

- Increased amount for tenant vouchers
- Eviction and penalty protection due to non-payment of rent
- Forbearance extension for property owner borrowers

Community Facilities Direct and Guaranteed Loan Program

- Direct loans may receive up to one year of payment deferrals
- Guaranteed Lenders may offer 180-day loan payment deferrals

RD Programs: COVID-19 Immediate Actions

Rural Utilities Service

Water and Waste Disposal Loan Guarantee Program

- Lenders may offer 180-day loan payment deferrals

Telecom

- Extended the ReConnect Application deadline to April 15th
- Extended deadline for borrower audit submissions for 60 days

Electric

- Extended deadline for borrower audit submissions for 60 days; historically due April 30th

Other Actions

- RUS Administrator to consider requests to waive certain site inspection requirements during COVID-19 emergency to prevent project delays.
- Allowing applicant to utilize alternative methods to notify the public such videoconferences, teleconferences, and public notices on websites.

RD Programs: COVID-19 Immediate Actions

Rural Business Cooperative Service

- Lenders may offer 180-day loan payment deferrals on Business and Industry Loan Guarantees and Rural Energy for America Program Loan Guarantees.
- Intermediary borrowers participating in the following programs may approve loan payment deferrals for their borrowers without RD approval.
 - Intermediary Relending Program
 - Rural Business Development Grant
 - Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant
 - Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program
- Extended application deadline for the Rural Business Development Grant to April 15th.

CARES Act Implementation

Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program

- Appropriated \$20.5M in program level; supporting up to \$1B in lending authority
- Program would provide:
 - Increased maximum allowable repayment terms to 10 years. Loan repayment may be deferred on principal or principal and interest payments for a period up to 12 months from the loan closing and may extend for a period up to 3 years.
 - Eligible loan purposes include payroll costs, healthcare benefits, salaries, principal and interest payments, rent/leases, utilities, inventory and supplies.
- Notice of Funding Availability at OMB clearance, target release late April.

CARES Act Implementation (cont.)

ReConnect

- Appropriated \$100M for grants; priority for grant applicants unfunded in Round 1.
- Round 1 applicants who were denied funding due to limited broadband access in their proposed service area may reapply in Round 2 and receive priority scoring for this funding. Implemented via Federal Register Notice.
- ReConnect application window closes April 15th.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine

- Appropriated \$25M to support DLT grants
- Implemented via Federal Register Notice; application window opens April 14th and closes July 13th

Single Family Housing and Multi-Family Housing Assistance

- Lenders must provide immediate forbearance when requested on guaranteed loans for up to 180 days. Penalties and fees may not be charged during the forbearance period.
- Multi-family borrowers may not evict tenants for non-payment of rent for the next 120 days.
- Implemented via Stakeholder Notice



rd.usda.gov/co



rd.usda.gov/coronavirus



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