

## **RURAL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE GRANTS PROGRAM**

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business Enterprise Grants are designed to promote and facilitate the development of small and emerging private business enterprises in rural areas within municipalities of less than 50,000 population and immediately adjacent urbanized and urbanizing areas.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

Public bodies and private not-for-profit corporations.

### **TYPE OF ASSISTANCE**

Grant.

### **AVAILABLE FUNDING**

FY 2007 Florida allocation was \$660,000; FY 2007 Virgin Islands allocation was \$50,000. Call the numbers below for up-to-date information.

### **SOURCE OF FUNDS**

Annual appropriation by Congress.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS/DEADLINES**

Preapplications may be filed with the respective federal Rural Development office serving your area; applications may be filed year-round.

### **MATCHING/OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

No match is required; joint funding of projects with state, local and/or private funding is encouraged and increases priority.

### **CONTACT**

USDA, Florida Rural Development area offices (see Appendix VI to determine which office serves your area).

Application should be made at the Rural Development area office. The area office staff is available to discuss the Rural Business Enterprise Grants Program and explain how to prepare a written application. Florida has offices in:

Crestview: (850) 682-2416  
Marianna: (850) 526-2610  
Ocala: (352) 732-7534  
Tavares: (352) 742-7005  
West Palm Beach: (561) 683-2285  
Gainesville: (352) 338-3482  
[www.rurdev.usda.gov/fl](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/fl)