

# **RURAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM**

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG) are designed to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs. This is accomplished by making grants to organizations to provide for economic development planning, technical assistance or training.

## **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

Public bodies, Indian tribes, not-for-profit corporations and cooperatives.

## **TYPE OF ASSISTANCE**

Grants.

## **AVAILABLE FUNDING**

All funds are retained in the USDA national office. Funds are made available quarterly on a case-by-case basis based on national competition.

## **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**

Leveraging from other fund sources improves ability to compete for limited funds.

## **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 Opportunity Grant Program and explain how to prepare a written application. Florida has offices in:

State Office: (352) 338-3482  
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)