



Innovation Matters

- Funding Opportunities
- Publications
- Events and Learning

April 2020 | Issue 1

Bi-weekly list of funding and learning opportunities in rural America.

Spotlight: COVID-19 Resources

[New! USDA Launches COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#)

The COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide will help our rural leaders, whether they be in local government, education, health care, faith leadership, or any other capacity, understand what federal assistance is available to them during this unprecedented time.

[USDA Rural Development COVID-19 Resources Fact Sheet](#)

This resource provides a complete list of actions taken by USDA Rural Development to help rural residents, businesses, and communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit www.coronavirus.gov for the latest news from the CDC on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Visit www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus for the latest news from Rural Development on how we are helping our partners, customers, and stakeholders impacted by COVID-19.

In This Issue:

Spotlight: COVID-19 Resources

Quick Links to COVID-19 Resources

Funding Opportunities

- Rural Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Tribal-specific

Publications

Event Opportunities

Quick Links to COVID-19 Resources

USDA COVID-19 Relief Measures:

- [Secretary Perdue's Statement on Coronavirus Rescue Package](#)
- [SonnySide of the Farm Podcast: USDA's Work During COVID-19](#)
- [Radio News: Another Window Open for Telemedicine Grant Applications](#)
- [USDA FNS "Meals for Kids" Interactive Map](#)
- [USDA Food and Nutrition Service \(FNS\) Response to COVID-19](#)
- [USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture \(NIFA\) Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resources](#)

Additional Resources:

- [USDA Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Webpage](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions from the CDC](#)
- [CDC Situation Summary](#)
- [FEMA Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Response](#)
- [State Department Travel Information](#)
- [Homeland Security Resources](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [EPA Disinfectant List](#)

- [USDA Agricultural Marketing Service: FAQ's COVID-19 Impact on the Fruit & Vegetable Industry](#)
- [Government Response to Coronavirus, COVID-19](#)
- [Summary of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#)

Additional COVID-19 resources are featured in the categories below.

Funding Opportunities

Rural Infrastructure

[ReConnect Pilot Program](#)

USDA's ReConnect Pilot Program is accepting applications for loans and grants to provide funds to build, improve or acquire facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas. **Application Deadline: April 15, 2020**

[Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant](#)

USDA Rural Development grants to help rural communities expand their capacity to access financial resources for economic development. **Electronic Application Deadline: April 30, 2020 via [grants.gov](#). Paper Application Deadline: May 5, 2020**

[Rural Business Development Grant Program - Transportation Systems](#)

USDA Rural Development offers grants to improve rural transportation systems for intermediaries seeking to provide rural communities with training and technical assistance to improve transportation services and facilities. **Application Deadline: May 14, 2020**

[Revolving Funds for Financing Water and Wastewater Projects Program](#)

USDA Rural Development program supports predevelopment costs for water or wastewater projects to finance short-term and small capital projects that are not part of regular operation and maintenance costs for water and wastewater systems. **Application Deadline: June 12, 2020**

[HRSA Telehealth Network Grant Program](#)

United States Department of Health and Human Services provides grants to promote rural tele-emergency services with an emphasis on tele-stroke, tele-behavioral health, and Tele-Emergency Medical Services. **Application Deadline: June 15, 2020**

[Strategic Economic and Community Development \(SECD\)](#)

USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for projects that support regional economic and community development planning. Funding is authorized through a Farm Bill provision for applications submitted through [Community Facilities Loans, Grants and Loan Guarantees](#), [Water and Waste Disposal Program Loans, Grants and Loan Guarantees](#), and [Business & Industry Program Loan Guarantees](#). *Specific requirements and application deadlines apply. Note: Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) application deadline is April 15. Funds Must Be Obligated by June 30, 2020*

[Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program](#)

USDA Rural Development offers support to help rural communities use the unique capabilities of telecommunications to connect to each other and to the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density. [Application Guide](#). **Second Application Window Opens April 14, 2020. Additional information on how to apply will be available on [grants.gov](#) on April, 14.**

Economic Development

[Rural Energy Savings Program \(RESP\)](#)

USDA Rural Development loans help rural families and small businesses achieve cost savings by providing loans to qualified consumers to implement durable cost-effective energy efficiency measures. [Letter of Intent \(Required\)](#) **Deadline: Open**

[Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Loan Advance](#)

U.S. Small Business Administration provides low-interest disaster loans to help businesses and homeowners recover from declared disasters. [Other COVID-19 Resources](#). **Application Deadline: Open**

[Rural Community Development Initiative Program](#)

USDA Rural Development offers grants to qualified intermediary organizations to provide technical assistance and training to help nonprofit organizations and communities develop their capacity to undertake housing, community facility or economic development projects in rural areas. **Electronic Application Deadline: May 13, 2020 via grants.gov | Paper Application Deadline: May 18, 2020**

[Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program](#)

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture grants to plan or implement food projects designed to meet the needs of low-income individuals and increase community self-reliance concerning food and nutrition. **Application Deadline: June 3, 2020**

[Small Business Administration's Payment Protection Program](#)

The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. **Application Deadline: June 30, 2020**

Quick Links to COVID-19 Resources to Support Rural Economic Development:

- [Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System](#)
- [Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation](#)
- [National Credit Union Administration](#)
- [Office of the Comptroller of the Currency](#)
- [Farm Credit Administration](#)
- [Small Business Administration \(SBA\) Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resources](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor COVID-19 Resources](#)

Tribal-Specific

[CDFI Native Initiatives Program](#)

U.S. Department of Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Native Initiatives program creates jobs, builds business, and fosters economic self-determination in Native Communities Nationwide. **Application Deadline: April 21, 2020**

[Tribal Opioid Response Grant](#)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provides grants to address the opioid crisis in tribal communities by increasing access to culturally appropriate and evidence-based treatment, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT) using one of the three FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD). **Application Deadline: May 4, 2020**

[National Tribal Broadband Grant](#)

Bureau of Indian Affairs grant for Tribes to fund consultants to perform feasibility studies for deployment or expansion of high-speed internet (broadband) transmitted, variously, through digital subscriber line, cable modem, fiber, wireless, satellite and broadband over power lines. **Application Deadline: May 8, 2020**

[Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency offers funds for the development and implementation of hazardous waste programs and for building capacity to address hazardous waste management on Tribal lands. **Application Deadline: May 28, 2020**

Quick Links to COVID-19 Resources to Support Tribal Entities:

- [Bureau of Indian Affairs - Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Outbreak Webpage](#)
- [HUD Office of Native American Programs COVID-19 Recovery Programs](#)
- [Indian Health Service - COVID-19 Webpage](#)
- [CARES Act Summary: Tribal Resources](#)

Publications

[Protecting Your Finances During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

The Consumer Protection Financial Bureau and other Federal regulators ban together and offer critical resources to the public to protect and manage finances during this difficult time of COVID-19.


[Novel Coronavirus Resources](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services offers a collection of COVID-19-related websites and documents prepared by the Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE), including technical assistance responses, infectious disease resources, and topic collections.

[NIST Funding Manufacturing Institutes to Support Pandemic Response](#)

The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces they have opened a funding opportunity for rapid, high-impact projects that support the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will award these grants through the NIST Manufacturing USA National Emergency Assistance Program with no requirements for cost matching.

[Peer Grant Reviewer Opportunity](#)

USDA's Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement seeks panelists to review the [Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers \(2501\) Program](#) applications. For additional information contact: 2501grants@usda.gov or call 202-720-6350 

Event Opportunities

[Regional Food System Partnerships Program Webinar](#)

April 22 | Webinar

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service webinar to learn about this program to support partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local or regional food systems.

[Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program](#)

April 23 | Webinar

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service webinar to learn about the program and application process for funding to support the development, coordination and expansion of local and regional food markets, enterprises and producer-to-consumer marketing.

[Marketing Advice to Combat an Economic Downturn](#)

April 28 | Webinar

SCORE, supported by the U.S. Small Business Administration, offers marketing tips to re-generate businesses.

[Rural Energy Savings Program Webinar](#)

April 29 | Webinar

USDA Rural Development offers a webinar to support potential applicants for RESP Funding where qualified utilities and similar intermediaries can provide loans to rural families and small businesses to help them reduce energy costs and make energy efficiency improvements.

Newsletters, websites and emails from which we gather this information include:

- USDA Rural Development's full [Catalog of Programs](#)
- [Grants.gov](#)

- Foundation Center
- The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- e2 Entrepreneurial Ecosystems
- Pew Research Center
- Philanthropy News Digest
- Rural LISC e-newsletter
- National Association of Development Organizations

USDA Rural Development Innovation Center

Email: rd.innovation@usda.gov | Webpage: usda.gov/rdinnovation

www.rd.usda.gov

SUBSCRIBE



Questions?
[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Preferences](#) | [Delete Profile](#) | [Help](#)

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

This email was sent to krandrew@bbna.com by USDA Rural Development · 1400 Independence Ave SW · Washington DC 20250 · 800-670-6553

