

Abstract: Section 26(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769g(d)), which was added to the Act by section 123 of Public Law 103-448 on November 2, 1994, mandated that FNS enter into a four-year contract with a non-governmental organization to establish and maintain an information clearinghouse (named "USDA National Hunger Clearinghouse" or "Clearinghouse") for groups that assist low-income individuals or communities regarding nutrition assistance programs or other assistance. Section 26(d) was amended by section 112 of Public Law 105-336 on October 31, 1998 to extend funding for the Clearinghouse (now called "National Hunger Clearinghouse" or "Clearinghouse") through fiscal year 2003. This Act was amended by section 128 of Public Law 108-265 on June 30, 2004, and provided increased funding for the Clearinghouse. FNS awarded this contract to the national hunger advocacy organization World Hunger Year (WHY) of New York, NY.

The Clearinghouse includes a database of non-governmental, grassroots programs that work in the areas of hunger and nutrition, as well as a mailing list of relevant local governmental agencies. Under the original contract, Clearinghouse staff established the database by reviewing relevant programs of organizations contained in several existing mailing lists. Program and mailing information about organizations culled from these lists were collected and entered into the database once each contract year (years one through four of the original contract and year one and two of the existing contract) through a series of electronically-processed survey questionnaires sent through the United States Postal Service. Clearinghouse staff followed up by phone or facsimile to ensure the highest possible return rate on the questionnaires. Surveys could also be completed on the World Wide Web. Returned surveys were scanned and data entered into the database. Survey questionnaires will continue to be sent out in the current contract. For this information collection, the following information was determined:

Estimate of the Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average five minutes for the survey (the survey includes one two-page instrument).

Respondents: The respondents are non-governmental organizations that have grassroots food and nutrition programs.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,750.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One response per respondent.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 146 hours.

Dated: February 28, 2006.

Roberto Salazar,
Administrator.

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BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Maximum Dollar Amount on Awards Under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2006

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service hereby announces the maximum dollar amount on loan and grant awards under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program for fiscal year (FY) 2006. The maximum dollar award on zero-interest loans for FY 2006 is \$740,000. The maximum dollar award on grants for FY 2006 is \$300,000. The maximum loan and grant awards stated in this notice are effective for loans and grants made during the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2005, and ending September 30, 2006. REDLG loans and grants are available to any electric or telecommunications cooperative eligible to receive guaranteed or direct loans under the Rural Electrification Act, and does not have any delinquent debt with the Federal Government that has not been resolved pursuant to 31 CFR 285.13. REDLG loans and grants are to assist in developing rural areas from an economic standpoint.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Todd S. Hubbell, Loan Specialist, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, STOP 3225, Room 6866, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3225. Telephone: (202) 690-2516, Fax: (202) 720-2213.

ADDRESSES: For further information, entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact a Rural Development State Office to receive further information and copies of the application package. A list of Rural Development State Offices follows:

District of Columbia

Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Specialty Lenders Division, 1400

Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 3225, Room 6867, Washington, DC 20250-3225. (202) 720-1400.

Alabama

USDA Rural Development State Office, Sterling Centre, Suite 601, 4121 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL 36106-3683. (334) 279-3400/TTD (334) 279-3495.

Alaska

USDA Rural Development State Office, 800 West Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer, AK 99645-6539. (907) 761-7705/TDD (907) 761-8905.

Arizona

USDA Rural Development State Office, 230 N. First Avenue, Suite 206, Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706. (602) 280-8700/TTD (602) 280-8705.

Arkansas

USDA Rural Development State Office, 700 West Capitol Avenue, Room 3416, Little Rock, AR 72201-3225. (501) 301-3200/TTD (501) 301-3279.

California

USDA Rural Development State Office, 430 G Street, Agency 4169, Davis, CA 95616-4169. (530) 792-5800/TTD (530) 792-5848.

Colorado

USDA Rural Development State Office, 655 Parfet Street, Room E-100, Lakewood, CO 80215. (720) 544-2903/TDD (720) 544-2976.

Delaware-Maryland

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1221 College Park Drive, Suite 200, Dover, DE 19904. (302) 857-3580/TDD (302) 857-3585.

Florida/Virgin Islands

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4440 NW 25th Place, P.O. Box 147010, Gainesville, FL 32614-7010. (352) 338-3400/TDD (352) 338-3450.

Georgia

USDA Rural Development State Office, Stephens Federal Building, 355 E. Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601-2768. (706) 546-2162/TDD (706) 546-2034.

Hawaii

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 311, 154 Waiuanue Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720. (808) 933-8380/TDD (808) 933-8321.

Idaho

USDA Rural Development State Office, 9173 West Barnes Dr., Suite A1, Boise, ID 83709. (208) 378-5600/TDD (208) 378-5644.

Illinois

USDA Rural Development State Office, 2118 West Park Court, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821. (217) 403-6200/TDD (217) 403-6240.

Indiana

USDA Rural Development State Office, 5975 Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN

46278. (317) 290–3100/TDD (317) 290–3340.

Iowa

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 873, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309–2196. (515) 284–4663/TDD (515) 284–4858.

Kansas

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604–4040. (785) 271–2700/TDD (785) 271–2767.

Kentucky

USDA Rural Development State Office, 771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40503. (859) 224–7300/TDD (859) 224–7422.

Louisiana

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, LA 71302. (318) 473–7920/TDD (318) 473–7655.

Maine

USDA Rural Development State Office, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, P.O. Box 405, Bangor, ME 04402–0405. (207) 990–9160/TTD (207) 942–7331.

Massachusetts/Rhode Island/Connecticut

USDA Rural Development State Office, 451 West Street, Suite 2, Amherst, MA 01002–2999. (413) 253–4300/TDD (413) 253–4318.

Michigan

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200, East Lansing, MI 48823. (517) 324–5100/TDD (517) 337–6795.

Minnesota

USDA Rural Development State Office, 410 AgriBank Building, 375 Jackson Street, St. Paul, MN 55101–1853. (651) 602–7800/TDD (651) 602–3799.

Mississippi

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Suite 831, 100 West Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269. (601) 965–4316/TDD (601) 965–5850.

Missouri

USDA Rural Development State Office, 601 Business Loop 70 West, Parkade Center, Suite 235, Columbia, MO 65203. (573) 876–0976/TDD (573) 876–9480.

Montana

USDA Rural Development State Office, 900 Technology Blvd., Unit 1, Suite B, P. O. Box 850, Bozeman, MT 59771. (406) 585–2580/TDD (406) 585–2562.

Nebraska

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 152, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508. (402) 437–5551/TDD (402) 437–5093.

Nevada

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1390 South Curry Street, Carson City, NV 89703–9910. (775) 887–1222/TDD (775) 885–0633.

New Jersey

USDA Rural Development State Office, 5th Floor North, Suite 500, 8000 Midlantic Drive, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054. (856) 787–7700/TDD (856) 787–7784.

New Mexico

USDA Rural Development State Office, 6200 Jefferson Street NE, Room 255, Albuquerque, NM 87109. (505) 761–4950/TDD (505) 761–4938.

New York

USDA Rural Development State Office, The Galleries of Syracuse, 441 South Salina Street, Suite 357, Syracuse, NY 13202–2541. (315) 477–6400/TDD (315) 477–477–6447.

North Carolina

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4405 Bland Road, Suite 260, Raleigh, NC 27609. (919) 873–2000/TDD (919) 873–2003.

North Dakota

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 208, 220 East Rosser Avenue, P. O. Box 1737, Bismarck, ND 58502–1737. (701) 530–2037/TDD (701) 530–2113.

Ohio

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 507, 200 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215–2418. (614) 255–2500/TDD (614) 255–2554.

Oklahoma

USDA Rural Development State Office, 100 USDA, Suite 108, Stillwater, OK 74074–2654. (405) 742–1000/TDD (405) 742–1007.

Oregon

USDA Rural Development State Office, 101 SW Main Street, Suite 1410, Portland, OR 97204–3222. (503) 414–3300/TDD (503) 414–3387.

Pennsylvania

USDA Rural Development State Office, One Credit Union Place, Suite 330, Harrisburg, PA 17110–2996. (717) 237–2299/TDD (717) 237–2261.

Puerto Rico

USDA Rural Development State Office, 654 Munoz Rivera Avenue, IBM Building, Suite 601, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918–6106. (787) 766–5095/TDD (787) 766–5332.

South Carolina

USDA Rural Development State Office, Strom Thurmond Federal Building, 1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007, Columbia, SC 29201. (803) 765–5163/TDD (803) 765–5697.

South Dakota

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Room 210, 200 4th Street, SW., Huron, SD 57350. (605) 352–1100/TDD (605) 352–1147.

Tennessee

USDA Rural Development State Office, 3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37203–1084. (615) 783–1300.

Texas

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Suite 102, 101 South Main Street, Temple, TX 76501. (254) 742–9700/TDD (254) 742–9712.

Utah

USDA Rural Development State Office, Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4311, Salt Lake City, UT 84138. (801) 524–4320/TDD (801) 524–3309.

Vermont/New Hampshire

USDA Rural Development State Office, City Center, 3rd Floor, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602. (802) 828–6000/TDD (802) 223–6365.

Virginia

USDA Rural Development State Office, Culpeper Building, Suite 238, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Richmond, VA 23229. (804) 287–1550/TDD (804) 287–1753.

Washington

USDA Rural Development State Office, 1835 Black Lake Boulevard, SW., Suite B, Olympia, WA 98512–5715. (360) 704–7740.

West Virginia

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, 75 High Street, Room 320, Morgantown, WV 26505–7500. (304) 284–4860/TDD (304) 284–4836.

Wisconsin

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4949 Kirschling Court, Stevens Point, WI 54481. (715) 345–7600/TDD (715) 345–7614.

Wyoming

USDA Rural Development State Office, 100 East B Street, Federal Building, Room 1005, P.O. Box 11005, Casper, WY 82602–5006. (307) 261–6300/TDD (307) 233–6733.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The maximum loan and grant awards are determined in accordance with 7 CFR 1703.28. The maximum loan and grant awards are calculated as 3.0 percent of the projected program levels, rounded to the nearest \$10,000; however, as specified in 7 CFR 1703.28(b), regardless of the projected total amount that will be available, the maximum size may not be lower than \$200,000. The projected program level during FY 2006 for zero-interest loans is \$24,752,479, and the projected program level for grants is \$10,000,000. Applying the specified 3.0 percent to the program level for loans, rounded to the nearest \$10,000, results in the maximum loan award of \$740,000. Applying the specified 3.0 percent to the program level for grants results in an amount higher than \$200,000. Therefore, the maximum grant award for FY 2006 will be \$300,000. This notice will be amended should funding in excess of projected levels be received.

Nondiscrimination Statement

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Dated: February 23, 2006.

Jackie J. Gleason,

Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Announcement of Grant Application Deadlines and Funding Levels

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of funding availability and solicitation of applications.

SUMMARY: USDA Rural Development administers rural utilities programs through the Rural Utilities Service. USDA Rural Development announces additional Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 funding available through its Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program (TAT). An additional \$500,000 in emergency funding will be made available, pursuant to the Secretary's determination of extreme need, to conduct Water Resource Studies in the states affected by hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and/or Wilma (Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas).

DATES: You may submit completed applications for the Water Resource Studies grant(s) from the date of announcement to 30 days after this announcement appears in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain application guides and materials for the Water Resource Studies grants the following ways:

- The Internet at USDA Rural Development Web site: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/>.
- You may also request application guides and materials by contacting the USDA Rural Development, WEP at (202) 720-9586.

You may submit:

- Completed paper applications for Water Resource Studies grants to the USDA Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2233, STOP 1570, Washington, DC 20250-1570. Applications should be marked "Attention: Assistant Administrator, Water and Environmental Programs."

- Electronic grant applications at <http://www.grants.gov/> (Grants.gov), following the instructions you find on that Web site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anita O'Brien, Loan Specialist, Water Program Division, USDA Rural Development, telephone: (202) 690-3789, fax: (202) 690-0649.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Federal Agency: Rural Utilities Service.

Funding Opportunity Title: Water Resource Studies Grants.

Announcement Type: Funding Level Announcement and Solicitation of Applications.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(14); Pub.L. 109-97, 119 Stat. 2120.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 10.761.

Dates: You may submit completed application for a TAT grant from the date of announcement to 30 days after this announcement appears in the **Federal Register**.

Reminder of competitive grant application deadline: Applications must be mailed, shipped or submitted electronically through Grants.gov no later than 30 days after this announcement appears in the Federal Register to be eligible for funding.

Items in Supplementary Information

- I. Funding Opportunity: Brief introduction to the Water Resource Studies Grants;
- II. Award Information: Available funds, maximum amounts;
- III. Eligibility Information: Who is eligible, what kinds of projects are eligible, what criteria determine basic eligibility;
- IV. Application and Submission Information: Where to get application materials; what constitutes a completed application; how

and where to submit applications; deadlines; and, items that are eligible;

V. Application Review Information:

Considerations and preferences; scoring criteria; review standards; and selection information;

VI. Award Administration Information:

Award notice information and award recipient reporting requirements;

VII. Agency Contacts: Web, phone, fax, email, and contact name.

I. Funding Opportunity

Drinking water systems are basic and vital to both health and economic development. Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma severely damaged water systems in the states of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Without dependable water supply, rural communities in these states will not attract families and businesses to return and invest in the hurricane damaged communities.

USDA Rural Development supports the sound development of rural communities and the growth of our economy without endangering the environment. It provides financial and technical assistance to help communities bring safe drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound waste disposal facilities to rural Americans in greatest need. The additional funding for Water Resource Studies will allow rural communities to better plan and secure dependable water supplies for rebuilding their community's health and economic development. Qualified private non-profit organizations may apply to receive a grant to conduct Water Resource Studies to evaluate sources of dependable water supplies for communities in the hurricane affected states.

II. Award Information

Available funds: \$500,000 is available for Water Resource Study grants in FY 2006.

III. Eligibility Information

A. What are the basic eligibility requirements for applying?

The applying entity (Applicant) must:

1. Be a private, non-profit organization that has tax-exempt status from the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS);
2. Be legally established and located within one of the following:
 - a. A state within the United States.
 - b. The District of Columbia.
 - c. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
 - d. Insular possession of the United States.
3. Have the legal capacity and authority to carry out the grant purpose;