



Rural Development Funding Opportunities
Brought to you by the SRDC

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Special Item of Interest

SRDC Announces the 2008 RIDGE Program Call for Proposals

The SRDC, in partnership with the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is pleased to announce its continued support for food and nutrition-related research focusing on the South under the new banner of the RIDGE (Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics) Program. As in past years, the program is designed to support innovative research that advances our knowledge and understanding of food assistance and nutrition issues impacting vulnerable populations in the South. The Economic Research Service remains a valuable partner with the SRDC in supporting this important work. This year's research themes/topics are:

- 1) High poverty areas
- 2) Impact of immigrants on nutrition programs,
- 3) Obesity and nutrition issues,
- 4) Use of food/nutrition assistance programs,
- 5) Factors affecting food choices and their consequences,
- 6) Community-based food procurement options, and
- 7) Policy choices.

The deadline is June 20, 2008.

To access the full announcement, visit

http://srdc.msstate.edu/files/ridge_grant_announcements.pdf

Food Stamp Program Participation Program

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture; Food and Nutrition Service

Funds Available: \$5 million

Deadline: May 15, 2008

The purpose of this grant competition is to support efforts by state agencies and their community-based and faith-based partners to develop and implement:

1. Simple food stamp application and eligibility determination systems or
2. Measures to improve access to food stamp benefits by eligible applicants.

Overview:

This proposal seeks diverse proposals that would make the entire process, from certification to recertification, easier and more efficient for applicants and participants. The proposals should include innovative development of new or revised State or County food stamp systems that do not rely solely on outreach. While this innovation does not have to be a completely new idea or concept, the proposal needs to demonstrate that the idea is new and innovative to that specific State or County office.

For More Info: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/government/grants/2008-RFA.pdf>

Research and Education Grants

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture; Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (S-SARE)

Funds Available: Not specified

Deadline: June 1, 2008

The objective of the SARE program is to enable the full spectrum of farmers and ranchers to move profitably toward production systems compatible with the concept of sustainable agriculture. Priority areas for 2009 Southern SARE Program funding include:

- Overview:
- Limited resource farmers
 - Organic farming systems
 - Environmentally sound practices/agricultural ecosystems
 - Marketing/economic development
 - Policy, program evaluation and quality of life
 - Women in sustainable agriculture

For More Info: <http://www.southernsare.uga.edu/callpage.htm>

Graduate Student Research Projects

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture; Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (S-SARE)

Funds Available: \$10,000 per project

Deadline: June 1, 2008

The Southern Region USDA Program on Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) is requesting proposals for graduate student research projects that address issues of sustainable agriculture of current and potential importance to the Southern Region and the nation. Projects may last up to three years. A candidate may receive only one Southern SARE Graduate Student Grant during her or his graduate student career. The Southern SARE program will only consider proposals submitted, and to be conducted, by graduate students (master's and Ph.D.) enrolled at an accredited college or university in the Southern Region.

Overview:

For More Info: <http://www.southernsare.uga.edu/callpage.htm>

Professional Development Program

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture; Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (S-SARE)

Funds Available: Not specified, but there is no funding cap for projects

Deadline: June 4, 2008

Overview: The Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Professional Development Program is requesting pre-proposals for projects of one to two years duration that provide training on sustainable agriculture for agricultural professionals and educators who serve farmers and other interested people in USDA's southern region.

For More Info: <http://www.southernsare.uga.edu/callpage.htm>

Economic Development Assistance Programs

Funding Source: Economic Development Administration

Funds Available: \$249 million

Deadline: Continuous

Overview: EDA's mission is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. As such, EDA announces general policies and application procedures for grant-based investments under the Public Works, Planning, Local Technical Assistance, and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs that will promote comprehensive, entrepreneurial and innovation-based economic development efforts to enhance the competitiveness of regions, resulting in increased private investment and higher-skill, higher-wage jobs in regions experiencing substantial and persistent economic distress.

For More Info: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/>