



Rural Development Funding Opportunities
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Specialty Crop Block Grant Program - Farm Bill

Funding Source: Agricultural Marketing Service

Funds Available: \$10 million (\$100,000 award ceiling)

Deadline: September 8, 2008

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announces the availability of approximately \$10 million in grant funds, less USDA administrative costs, to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture). The funds announced under the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB) are authorized by the recently enacted Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). The application process to apply for the SCBGP-FB funds will parallel those currently found in 7 CFR part 1290. State departments of agriculture are encouraged to develop their grant applications promptly. The Farm Bill requires USDA to obligate the grant funds under this program by the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2008, which necessitates a short application period. State departments of agriculture interested in obtaining grant program funds are invited to submit applications to USDA. State departments of agriculture, meaning agencies, commissions, or departments of a State government responsible for agriculture within the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are eligible to apply. State departments of agriculture are encouraged to involve industry groups, academia, and community-based organizations in the development of applications and the administration of projects.

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

Technology Grants for Rural Schools

Funding Source: Foundation for Rural Education and Development

Funds Available: \$10,000 award ceiling

Deadline: September 13, 2008

Technology Grants for Rural Schools program was created to help meet the growing need for innovative technology in the classroom. The grants are funded by a donation from Rural Telephone Finance Cooperative (RTFC) and strive to help public schools in rural areas served by OPASTCO members bring modern computers to every classroom, connect schools to the information superhighway and make sure that effective and engaging software and online resources are an integral part of the school curriculum. Eligibility Requirements: (1) Must be a public k-12 school and (2) Must be in the service area of an OPASTCO telephone company

For More Info: <http://www.fred.org/tech.html>

Research on the Economic Impacts of Cooperatives

Funding Source: Business and Cooperative Programs

Funds Available: \$491,535

Deadline: September 19, 2008

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is encouraging research on the issue of determining the economic impact of cooperative organizations. Approximately \$500,000 will be made available in competitive cooperative agreement funds for fiscal year (FY) 2008 to be expended over a two year period to conduct research on the national economic impact of all types of cooperatives. Institutions of higher education interested in applying for a competitively awarded cooperative research agreement are encouraged to apply. The primary objective of this cooperative research agreement program is to facilitate university research on the national economic impact of cooperatives. The research program will need to develop a methodology for collecting and assembling basic impact data on a periodic basis; apply the methodology to collect data and estimate economic impact of cooperatives; estimate cooperative specific community impact multipliers; and conduct other appropriate studies to examine the socio-economic impact of cooperatives on their local communities.

For More Info: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/reic.htm>

Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Programs

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Funds Available: \$6 Million award ceiling

Deadline: September 26, 2008

Overview: The purpose of the CoC Homeless Assistance Program is to reduce the incidence of homelessness in CoC communities by assisting homeless individuals and families to move to self sufficiency and permanent housing. CoCs that sustain current successful interventions and advance the goal of ending chronic homelessness will receive higher scores. Eligible Applicants include state governments, county governments, city or township governments, and nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.

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

Sustainable Community Innovation Grants Program

Funding Source: Southern Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) and Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC)

Funds Available: \$10,000 award ceiling

Deadline: October 1, 2008

Overview: The Southern SARE Program and the Southern Rural Development Center are interested in investing in *Sustainable Community Innovation Grants* -- projects that work to strengthen both agriculture and Southern communities by building explicit linkages between sustainable agriculture and community development. Such efforts help improve and advance an understanding of the mutual benefits that accrue to both agriculture and community when such key linkages are established and maintained. The *Sustainable Community Innovation Grants* program is seeking to invest in projects that embrace and invest in local strategies that are intended to link sound farm and nonfarm economic development with agricultural and natural resource management. Applications are encouraged that seek to increase knowledge, build capacity, and make connections among on- and off-farm sustainable agriculture activities, economic and community development efforts, value-added activities, civic engagement, and local government policy.

For More Info: http://srdc.msstate.edu/economic/sustainable_communities.htm

Conservation Project Support

Funding Source: Institute of Museum and Library Services

Funds Available: \$150,000 award ceiling

Deadline: October 1, 2008

Overview: The Conservation Project Support program awards grants to help museums identify conservation needs and priorities, and perform activities to ensure the safekeeping of their collections. Conservation Project Support grants help museums develop and implement a logical, institution-wide approach to caring for their living and material collections. All types of museums, large and small, are eligible for funding. Eligible museums include aquariums, arboretums and botanical gardens, art museums, youth museums, general museums, historic houses and sites, history museums, nature centers, natural history and anthropology museums, planetariums, science and technology centers, specialized museums, and zoological parks. Federally operated and for-profit museums may not apply for IMLS funds. An eligible applicant must be: either a unit of state or local government or a private not-for-profit organization that has tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code; located in one of the fifty states of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated states of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau; and a museum that, using a professional staff, (1) is organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational or aesthetic purposes; (2) owns or uses tangible objects, either animate or inanimate; (3) cares for these objects; and (4) exhibits these objects to the general public on a regular basis through facilities which it owns or operates.

For More Info: <http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/conservProject.shtml>

Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants

Funding Source: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Funds Available: \$5,000 to \$50,000 per grant

Deadline: October 8, 2008

Overview: By awarding relatively low-dollar grants to support the planning stages, NEH aims to encourage the development of projects that are particularly innovative and have the potential to make a positive impact on the humanities. In an effort to foster new collaborations and advance the role of cultural repositories in online teaching, learning, and research, this program is co-sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). NEH and IMLS encourage library and museum officials as well as scholars, scientists, educational institutions, and other non-profit organizations to apply for these grants and to collaborate when appropriate. Proposals should be for the planning or initial stages of digital initiatives in any area of the humanities. Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants may involve: research that brings new approaches or documents best practices in the study of the digital humanities; planning and prototyping new digital tools for preserving, analyzing, and making accessible digital resources, including libraries' and museums' digital assets; scholarship that

examines the philosophical implications and impact of the use of emerging technologies; innovative uses of technology for public programming and education utilizing both traditional and new media; and new digital modes of publication facilitating the dissemination of humanities scholarship in advanced academic as well as informal or formal educational settings at all academic levels. Eligible applicants: Any U.S. nonprofit organization or institution with IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt status; State and local governmental agencies and Native American tribal organizations; U.S. citizens, whether they reside in or outside the United States; and Foreign nationals who have been living in the United States or its jurisdictions for at least the three years immediately preceding the application deadline. Individuals affiliated with an eligible institution must apply through an institution, ordinarily their own institution. Adjunct faculty may apply as individuals.

For More Info: <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/>

Community Development Financial Institution Program 2009

Funding Source: United States Department of the Treasury

Funds Available: \$54 million (\$2 million award ceiling)

Deadline: October 29, 2008

Overview: Through the CDFI Program, the Fund provides: (i) Financial Assistance (FA) awards to CDFIs that have Comprehensive Business Plans for creating demonstrable community development impact through the deployment of credit, capital, and financial services within their respective Target Markets or the expansion into new Investment Areas, Low-Income Targeted Populations, or Other Targeted Populations, and (ii) Technical Assistance (TA) grants to CDFIs and entities proposing to become CDFIs in order to build their capacity to better address the community development and capital access needs of their particular Target Markets, to expand into new Investment Areas, Low-Income Targeted Populations, or Other Targeted Populations, and/or to become certified CDFIs. Applicants must be certified as a Community Development Financial Institution (or CDFI) by the CDFI Fund, or be certifiable as a CDFI by the CDFI Fund. Please see the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) on the CDFI Fund's Web site for more detailed information.

For More Info: http://www.cdfifund.gov/what_we_do/programs_id.asp

2009 Family Planning Services

Funding Source: Department of Health and Human Services and Office of Public Health and Science

Funds Available: \$1.1 million award ceiling

Deadline: December 1, 2008

Overview: This announcement seeks applications from public and nonprofit private entities to establish and operate voluntary family planning services projects, which shall provide family planning services to all persons desiring such services, with priority for services to persons from low-income families. Family planning services include clinical family planning and related preventive health services; information, education, and counseling related to family planning; and, referral services as indicated. Applicants should use the Title X legislation, applicable regulations, Program Guidelines, Legislative mandates, Program Priorities, and other Key Issues included in this announcement and in the application kit, to guide them in developing their applications.

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

Preserve America

Funding Source: Institute of Museum and Library Services

Funds Available: \$7.5 million (\$150,000 award ceiling)

Deadline: December 1, 2008

Overview: Community leaders across the United States are invited to apply for the Preserve America community designation, which recognizes a community's efforts to care for and share its cultural and natural heritage. The designation also makes the community eligible for special federal funding. Preserve America is a White House initiative conducted in cooperation with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and other federal agencies. Once a community receives the Preserve America designation, it is eligible to apply for Preserve America grants, which may be used for research and documentation, education and interpretation, planning, marketing, or training. These grants, which must be matched by the community, cannot be used for construction or repair projects. Applicants must be municipalities or counties with an elected governing official, or unincorporated communities within their jurisdiction; distinct neighborhoods within large cities or city-counties with a population of 200,000 or greater; or tribal communities (federally recognized) with an elected governing official or subdivisions of such tribes.

For More Info: <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/communities.html>