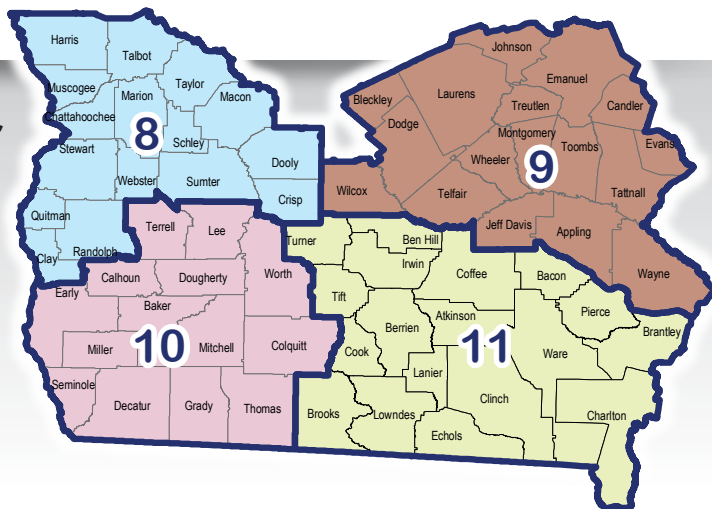


Applications are available for the  
**“STRONGER ECONOMIES TOGETHER”**  
I N I T I A T I V E

**Provides Technical Assistance for Rural Regional Development in Regions 8, 9, 10 and 11. ▶**

**Application period opens Monday, March 19, 2012.**

**Applications are due Friday, May 4, 2012**



USDA Rural Development, in conjunction with the Fort Valley State University Cooperative Extension Program is accepting applications from a current or newly formed multi-county team seeking specialized technical assistance to accomplish their goals of moving their region forward through the Stronger Economies Together (SET) initiative. The SET initiative is designed to help regional teams develop and implement an economic development blueprint to strengthen and enhance regional economic development activities in rural Georgia's Regions 8, 9, 10 and 11. **USDA Rural Development and Fort Valley State University Cooperative Extension strongly encourage USDA StrikeForce counties to apply.**

**Application Criteria:**

- Proposed region must encompass three or more contiguous counties, and **MUST** be located within Regions 8, 9, 10 or 11.
- The population and/or geographic area of the region **MUST** either be  
(1) at least 51% rural in population or  
(2) 75% of the region's land area must be located in rural areas of that region.
- 50% of the proposed region **MUST** be comprised of USDA StrikeForce counties.
- Application **MUST** be received electronically no later than Friday, May 4, 2012 by 11:59 p.m.

**To receive an application or for more information please contact:**

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