

# **DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM**

- **The RUS Telecommunications Program also administers the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program (DLT), which is designed specifically to meet the educational and health care needs of rural America. Through loans, grants, and loan and grant combinations, advanced telecommunications technologies provide enhanced learning and health care opportunities for rural residents.**

# DISTANCE LEARNING AND

## TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM

- **Who:** Incorporated entities, including municipal corporations, on a for profit or not-for-profit basis, that operate rural schools, libraries, health care clinic, and other organizations that operate educational or health care facilities.
- **What:** Equipment for classrooms: cameras, video monitors, computers, and LAN. Also physician consultation, radiology, ex-ray scanners, and digital microscopes.
- **Where:** Rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less
- **Why:** Development and deployment of advanced telecommunication services throughout rural America to improve education and health care.

# Business & Industry (B&I)



# Business & Cooperative Programs

- Promoting a dynamic business environment in rural America is the goal of business and cooperative programs.
- The business programs work in partnership with the private sector and the community-based organizations to provide financial assistance and business planning.
- The programs also help fund projects that create or preserve quality jobs and/or promote a clean rural environment.
- Financial resources are often leveraged with those of other public and private credit needs in underserved areas.
- Recipients of these programs may include individuals, corporations, partnerships, cooperatives, public bodies, nonprofit corporations, Indian tribes, and private companies.

# B&I PROGRAMS

- Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency (REAP)
- Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG)
- Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG)
- Value Added Producer Grants

# Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

- **Who**: Rural small businesses and farms
  - **What**: Grants and Loan Guarantees to buy renewable energy systems (wind, solar, bio, etc.) & make energy efficiency improvements
  - **Where**: Eligible rural areas, must refer to web site:  
<http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do>
- Why**: Reduce energy costs/consumption and help meet the nation's critical energy needs

# Section 9007

## Rural Energy for America Program

- Created 2002 Farm Bill and amended by section 9001 of the 2008 Farm Bill.
- Expands and renames the program formerly called the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program.
- Hydroelectric Source Technologies will be added as eligible.
- Feasibility Studies have been added as an eligible purpose.
- USDA / RD has published 4280-B program Regulation.
- Designed to help farmers & small businesses with energy needs & projects.
- To date, the program has provided \$4,016,946 in grants and loans to 36 applicants in CT/MA/RI jurisdiction.
- Amends current Section 9006 Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Program
- Micro-hydro is now eligible
- Adds expected energy efficiency of the renewable energy system as an award consideration



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# Purpose

Purchase renewable energy systems

*(A process that  
produces energy)*

Make improvements that reduce energy consumption

## New Component

- **Guaranteed loan limit increased to \$25 MM.**
- **Federal share including loan increased to 75%. Maximum grant remains at 25%**
- **Grants to complete energy audits and renewable energy development assistance**
- **Eligible applicants**
  - **governmental**
  - **educational**
  - **electrical cooperative & public power entities**
  - **other similar organizations**



# Basic Technical Eligibility

Proposal must be for an eligible technology

## Renewable Energy

- Wind
- Solar
- Geothermal
- Biomass
- Hydrogen
- Hydroelectric

# Rural Energy for America Program

## Section 9007

- Cost share grants for feasibility studies
  - rural small businesses
  - agricultural producers
- Loan Guarantee Limits:
  - \$25 million Cap
  - Cap Federal share at 75% of project costs

# Biomass Research and Development Initiative

- **Who**: Institutions of higher education, National laboratories, Federal or State research agencies, private sector entities, and non-profit organizations.
  - **What**: Research and development of biomass based products, bioenergy, biofuels, and related processes.
  - **Where**: No population restrictions.
- Why**: Finance the research and development of biomass based products, bioenergy, biofuels, related processes.

# Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG)

- **Who**: Public bodies, Nonprofit Organizations
- **What**: Ex: Revolving Loan Fund, Technical Assistance, Job Training, Land Acquisition, Feasibility Studies (Typically \$25M - \$100M)
- **Where**: Eligible rural areas, < 50,000 population

**Why**: Grants to help finance & support community development initiatives to assist rural businesses, improve quality of life, create & save jobs

# Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG)

- **Who**: Public bodies, Nonprofit Organizations
- **What**: Used to provide economic planning for rural communities, technical assistance for rural businesses, or training for rural entrepreneurs or economic development officials (Max \$50,000)
- **Where**: Eligible rural areas, must refer to web site:

<http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do>

**Why**: Promote sustainable economic development in rural communities, create & save jobs



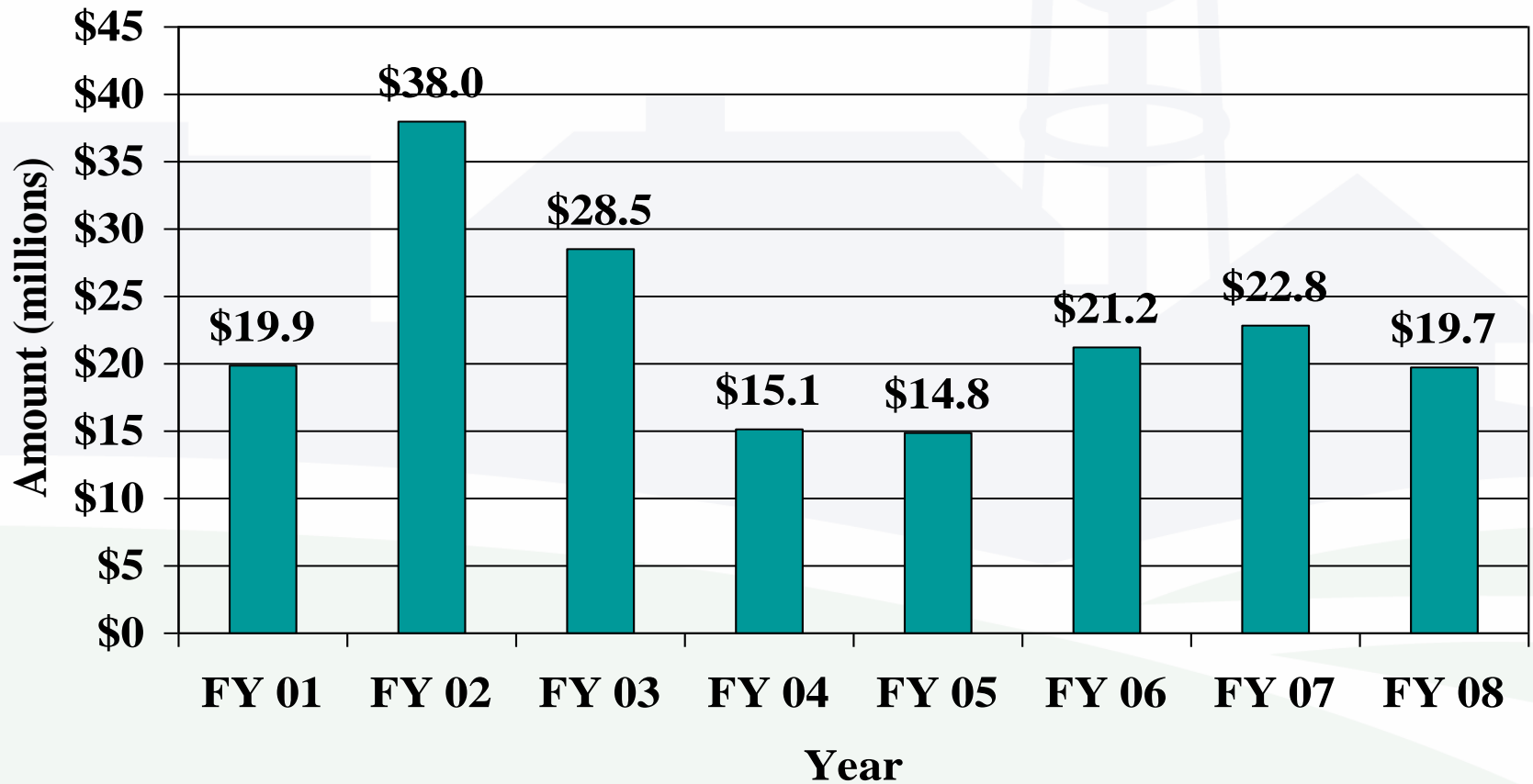
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# Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG)

- **Who**: Independent producers, Farmers, Agricultural producer groups, Majority-controlled producer-based business ventures
  - **What**: Used for planning activities (feasibility study, business plans, marketing), Working capital expenses for processing and marketing value-added agricultural products.
  - **Where**: All areas of Massachusetts are eligible.
- Why**: Develop businesses that produce and market value-added agricultural products.

# Funds Awarded





# Product Eligibility

- Change in physical state
- Produced in a manner that enhances value - must reference a business plan
- Physical segregation
- Ag commodity that is a source of renewable energy
- Locally-produced agricultural food product

# Product Eligibility (cont.)

- Customer base must be expanded
- Greater portion of the revenue must be available to the producer

# Purpose Eligibility

- Planning Activities (e.g. feasibility study, business plan, marketing plan)
- Working Capital (e.g. labor, inventory, advertising)

# Matching Eligibility

- Matching funds of at least 50% of total project costs are required
- Match must be spent at a rate equal to or greater than grant funds
- Match must be provided by the applicant or a third-party in the form of cash or in-kind funds
- Match must be spent on eligible purposes and must be from eligible sources

# Other Eligibility

- Grant period eligibility
- Completeness eligibility
- Multiple grant eligibility
- Current grant eligibility

# Grant Period Eligibility

- Applications cannot have a timeframe of more than 365 days.
- The NOSA will restrict the starting and ending dates of the project. Make sure the proposed work plan takes those restrictions into account.

# Completeness Eligibility

- Applications must contain all requested information to be considered for funding



# Multiple Grant Eligibility

- Only one application per applicant may be submitted in a funding cycle.
- Applicants who have already received a planning grant for a project cannot receive another planning grant for the same project.
- Applicants who have already received a working capital grant for a project cannot receive another grant for the same project.

# Current Grant Eligibility

- If the applicant currently has a VAPG, the grant period for that grant must be scheduled to expire by November 30, 2009.

# Required Elements

- SF-424
- SF-424A
- SF-424B
- Title Page
- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary
- Eligibility Discussion
- Goals of the Project
- Performance Evaluation Criteria
- Proposal Evaluation Criteria
- Certification of Matching Funds
- Verification of Matching Funds

# Thank You



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

