

Housing Program Updates

Rural Housing Programs in Washington state are thriving, despite what you may be hearing in news reports about the Housing market. In Fiscal Year 2011, Rural Development Housing programs invested \$738.8 million dollars toward affordable Housing in Rural Washington.

From Rental Assistance for Multi Family Housing tenants, to the construction of Apartment units and purchase/construction of single family dwellings; Rural Development programs financed a broad spectrum of housing options for 9,020 applicants, tenants, and households.

With funding levels for Fiscal Year 2012 at similar (or in some cases increased levels), this FY looks to be just as promising and we anticipate another year of significant affordable housing assistance to very low, low, and moderate income households.

Knowing that each investment represents job retention/creation, and continued economic stability/growth in rural areas, we are excited to provide these affordable housing options to Washington's rural residents and look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

For more information about Housing Programs, go to the web at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa/Housing.htm>

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2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

Washington State



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Rural Developments



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Introducing Rural Developments



By Mario Villanueva,
Washington State
Director

I would like to introduce you to our new external newsletter; "Washington State—Rural Developments". This newsletter is a new way for us to

keep you informed on current and new items in our state.

In the months to come, we will update you on the many funding opportunities involving our over 40 programs in business, housing, and critical infrastructure. We also encourage you to visit our website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa>.

I welcome you to contact me at (360) 704-7700 if you have any questions. We are committed to working with our rural partners to help improve the economic opportunities and quality of life for all rural residents in Washington State.

Rural Community Programs Update

USDA Rural Development, Community Programs offers loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, and community facilities – such as health care clinics, police and fire stations, food markets/banks, child care centers and more.

These loans and grants help rural communities remain economically viable, vibrant, and safe.

We are pleased to announce

that funding is now available in both Water/Waste Water and Community Programs for Rural Communities in the State of Washington.

The FY 2012 funding amounts available to eligible applicants through our Programs:

Water & Environmental Programs

- \$12,762,000 Loan
- \$5,487,000 Grant
- \$984,000 Guarantee

Community Facilities

- \$22,028,124 Loan
- \$160,000 Grant
- \$1,872,000 Guarantee

USDA Rural Development looks forward to working together with you to help communities create wealth so they are self-sustaining, repopulating and thriving economically.

For more information, go to: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/Utilities_Assistance.html

Rural Business & Cooperative Programs

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

USDA Rural Development is seeking applications to provide assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to complete a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Funding is available from USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill).

REAP is designed to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and help

meet the Nation's critical energy needs.

For 2012, USDA has approximately \$25.4 million budget authority available to fund REAP activities, which will support at least \$12.5 million in grant and approximately \$48.5 million in guaranteed loan program level awards.

USDA is accepting the following applications:

- Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grant applications and combination grant and guaranteed loan applications until March 30, 2012

- Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement guaranteed loan only applications on a continuous basis up to June 29, 2012
- Renewable energy system feasibility study applications through March 30, 2012
- Energy audits and renewable energy development assistance applications through Feb. 21, 2012.

More information is available at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa/BUSREAP.htm>