



R.D.Connections

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July 2015

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Number of RD apartment sites hosting Summer Meal Program grows by 100% for summer 2015

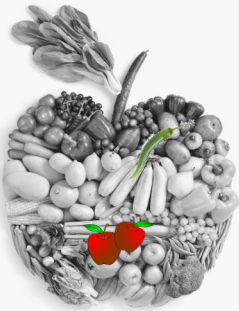
More than half of Arizona's school children receive free or discounted lunches during the school year. For some, it's the only nutritious meal they get in a day.

For those students, summer vacation can mean not only a break from school, but also a break from a consistent, nutritious meal.

USDA Rural Development's Multifamily Housing staff in Arizona committed to working this summer to identify RD apartment sites that would host a lunch

feed site. The AZ Department of Education connected interested sites with entities that prepare and provide the meal for the children.

"In 2014 we had two RD complexes that participated in the program," said MFH Coordinator Justin Hilary. "This year that number doubled to four. We are going to continue to promote the program all year to continue to grow the number of kids we can feed every summer," he added.



Served Clinton and Obama Administrations

State Director Alan Stephens retires

Alan Stephens, Arizona State Director for USDA Rural Development, retired from the position May 31 to concentrate on his health and his golf game.

Stephens served as State Director during the Clinton Administration and was appointed by President Obama in 2009. He also served in the Arizona Senate (including as Senate Minority and Senate Majority Leader) and as Co-Chief of Staff for Governor Janet Napolitano.



Under his direction, the agency in Arizona invested over \$3 billion into rural Arizona communities since 2009...a record investment!

His leadership and friendship will be missed.

Three U.S. Presidents, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe,



died on July 4th; Adams and Jefferson died within hours of each other in 1826 while Monroe died in 1831.



Ernie Wetherbee
Acting State Director

A publication of **USDA Rural Development/Arizona** Committed to the future of rural communities.

Two Rural Development Grant deadlines approaching this month

Deadline: July 14, 2015 – Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant

USDA Rural Development has three grants with deadlines coming up in July. RD's Rural Business-Cooperative Service has \$3,000,000 in competitive grant funds for the FY 2015 Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant (SDGG) program, formerly known as the Small Socially-Disadvantaged Producer Grant program. The SDGG is designed for applicants who will provide technical assistance to socially-disadvantaged groups in rural areas. The Agency is encouraging applications that direct grants to projects based in or serving census tracts with poverty rates greater than or equal to 20 percent of the state. Applications may be submitted to Grants.gov.

Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program

Electronic Submission Deadline: July 27, 2015

Paper Application Deadline: July 30, 2015

The primary objective of the Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program (RCDG) is to improve the economic condition of rural areas by assisting individuals and businesses in the startup, expansion or operational improvement of rural cooperatives and other mutually-owned businesses through Cooperative Development Centers. Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the Federal Register and through an announcement posted on grants.gov.

Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program soliciting applications for \$16 million in loans/grants

The Business and Cooperative program accepts applications year round for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP). Funding this year will support \$14.190 million in loans and \$2.086 million in grants.

RMAP provides the following types of support: loan only, combination loan and technical assistance grant, and subsequent technical assistance grants to Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDO).

Assistance provided to rural areas under this program may include the provision of loans and grants to rural MDOs for microloans to rural microenterprises and microentrepreneurs; provision of business-based training and technical assistance to rural microborrowers and potential microborrowers; and other such activities as deemed appropriate by the Secretary to ensure the development and ongoing success of rural microenterprises.

Applications for the program are accepted year round, although they are reviewed and submitted quarterly. For more information on the program, go to: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-microentrepreneur-assistance-program>.

Community Facilities Program offers much to rural communities

The Community Facilities Program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings. Eligible borrowers include:

public bodies, community-based non-profit corporations, and federally-recognized tribes

Rural areas, including cities, villages, townships and towns (including Federally Recognized Tribal Lands) with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest [U.S. Census Data](#) are eligible for this program. Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses.

Examples of essential community facilities include: health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes or assisted living facilities; public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars or street improvements; community support services such as child care centers, community centers, or transitional housing; public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment; educational services such as museums, libraries or private schools; utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment and local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs or greenhouses.

DIRECT LOANS: Low interest direct loans, grants or a combination of the two are available, as well as the loan guarantee program. These may be combined with commercial financing to finance one project if all eligibility and feasibility requirements are met. Loan repayment terms may not be longer than the useful life of the facility, state statutes, the applicants' authority, or a maximum of 40 years, whichever is less.

There is a funding priority point system based on population and median household income. Small communities with a population of 5,500 or less and low-income communities with a median household income (MHI) below 80% of the state non-metro MHI receive priority points in the competitive application process. Once the loan is approved, the interest rate is fixed by USDA Rural Development for the entire term of the loan, and is determined by the median household income of the service area and the population of the community. There are no pre-payment penalties.

GRANTS: Grant funds are provided on a graduated scale with those smaller communities with the lowest median household income being eligible for projects with a higher proportion of grant funds. Grant assistance is limited to a maximum of 75 % when the proposed project is in a community that has a population of 5,000 or fewer and has a median household income of the service area below 60% of the state non-metro MHI; 55% is the maximum grant amount for communities with 12,000 or fewer population and 70% of the state non-metro MHI; and 35% is the maximum for communities with 20,000 or fewer and 90% of the non-metro MHI. Funding is dependent on the availability of grant funds and the eligibility of the applicant.

Applicants must have the legal authority to borrow money, obtain security, repay loans, construct, operate and maintain the proposed facilities...and be unable to finance the project from their own resources or through commercial credit at reasonable rates and terms. Facilities must serve the rural area where they are or will be located and demonstrate substantial community support. The project must complete an acceptable environmental review and applicants must have or get a DUNS number and register for the System for Award Management (SAM).

Applications are accepted year round. For more information contact the Arizona CF program staff at 602-280-8745 or go to <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program> for our direct program or <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-guaranteed-loan-program> for our guarantee program.



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www.rurdev.usda.gov/azhome.html

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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Acting State Director Ernie Wetherbee snapped this shot of a memorial flag amidst saguaros and desert vegetation while returning from the swearing in ceremony for new Tohono O'odham chairman Edward Manuel and vice-chairman Verlon Jose.

It is estimated that more than 12,000 American Indians served in the U.S. military in World War I. During WWII more than 44,000 American Indians...out of a total Native American population of less than 350,000... served with distinction between 1941 and 1945. Native American men and women on the home front also were integral to the war effort. More than 40,000 Native Americans left their reservations to work in ordinance depots, factories and other war industries. American Indians also invested more than \$50 million in war bonds, and contributed generously to the Red Cross and the Army and Navy Relief societies.

Excerpted from Native Americans and the U.S. Military; <http://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/diversity/native-americans-in-the-navy/native-americans-in-the-us-military.html>