



## USDA Rural Development

441 S. Salina Street • 5th Floor • Suite 357  
Syracuse, NY 13202-2425

Voice 315.477.6422

Email: [Christopher.Stewart@usda.gov](mailto:Christopher.Stewart@usda.gov)

Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ny>

# News Release

Contact:

Christopher Stewart (315) 477-6436

## USDA Has Funding Available to Repair Homes in Rural New York

**NEW YORK**, July 25, 2013 – USDA Rural Development State Director Lee Telega today announced that funds are available to help repair homes in rural New York. The Rural Housing Service (RHS) Section 504 Loan and Grant Home Repair Program offers very-low income homeowners living in eligible rural areas, loans to make general home repairs or modifications, which may improve or modernize a home. A one percent interest rate for a maximum term of 20 years may allow eligible homeowners the opportunity to make the home improvements they have been planning. Applicants may obtain multiple loans, with a maximum outstanding loan balance at a given time of \$20,000.

“Improving the quality of life in rural areas is a primary goal of Rural Development”, said State Director, Lee Telega. “Our home repair program helps residents in rural NY improve the reliability, safety and energy efficiency of their homes”. Today’s announcement is one part of the Department’s efforts to strengthen the rural economy.

To be eligible for home repair loans, an applicant must have the ability to repay the loan, an acceptable credit history and an income that falls within the very-low income category for the size of their household.

Grants are available to senior rural home owners age 62 or older who cannot afford a loan. Grants are limited to a lifetime assistance of \$7,500 and must be used to remove health and safety hazards or make a home more handicap accessible. To see if you meet the income and property eligibility, please visit <http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do>.

For more information on the Home Repair Program and other USDA Rural Development programs, please contact the New York State Office by telephone at (315) 477-6416 or visit our website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/NYHome.html> to find a local USDA office.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, has a portfolio of programs designed to improve both the quality of life and the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers across America.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

# Section 504 Loan and Grant Program

Section 504 loans and grants are intended to assist *very low income* households in rural areas repair their homes.

## Loan:

- Applicants must be 18 or older and a US citizen or non-citizens who qualify as legal aliens.
- Loan funds may be used to make general repairs and improvements to properties or to remove health and safety hazards.
- Section 504 loans have a 1% interest rate and a maximum term of 20 years.
- Credit history that indicates a reasonable ability to meet debt obligations.

## Grant

- Applicant must be 62 or older a US citizen or non-citizens who qualify as legal aliens.
- Grant funds may be used *only* to pay the costs for repairs and improvements that will remove identified safety hazards or to repair or remodel dwellings to make them accessible for household members with disabilities.
- Life time total grant assistance must not exceed \$7500.00.
- Applicants must not have the ability to repay a loan.

With Section 504 assistance you can:

- Install a ramp for improved accessibility
- Replace your roof
- Make septic system improvements
- Replace your furnace
- Install hook ups to municipal water system
- Re-Insulate your home
- Drill a well
- Put handrails in your bathroom

Contact: Rural Development 415 West Morris St., Bath, NY 14810 / 607-776-7398 x 4