Innovation Matters

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July 2020 | Issue 1

Weekly list of funding and learning opportunities in rural America.

Spotlight: Rural Community Toolbox

Rural Community Toolbox The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Agriculture and local officials are working together to launch the Rural Community Toolbox (RCTB). The RCTB is an online clearing house created by the Trump Administration to connect rural leaders with funding, data and information to combat drug addiction in rural America.

Quick Links to COVID-19 Resources

USDA COVID-19 Relief Measures:

- USDA COVID-19 Resources Webpage
- USDA Business & Industry CARES Act Video
- USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program
- USDA Programs in the Local Food Supply Chain
- USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Overview of Local & Regional Food Funding

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Additional Resources:

- COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide
- Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (H.R. 266)
- Summary of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service Response to COVID-19
- USDA Food and Nutrition Service: Feeding Kids When Schools are Closed Due to COVID-19
- USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture COVID-19 Resources

- FEMA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response
- U.S. Department of Labor COVID-19 Resources
- Federal Office of Rural Health Policy FAQs for COVID-19
- OSHA's Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19
- US Health & Human Services COVID-19 Workforce Toolkit

Visit *www.coronavirus.gov* for the latest news from the CDC on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Visit *www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus* for the latest news from Rural Development on how we are helping our partners, customers, and stakeholders impacted by COVID-19.

Additional COVID-19 resources are featured in the categories below.

Funding Opportunities

Rural Infrastructure

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program USDA Rural Development is making grants available to help rural communities use the unique capabilities of telecommunications to connect to each other and to the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density. **Application Deadline: July 13, 2020, via** Grants.gov

Business and Industry (B&I) CARES Act Program USDA is making available up to $1 billion in loan guarantees to help rural businesses meet their working capital needs during the coronavirus pandemic. Additionally, agricultural producers that are not eligible for USDA Farm Service Agency loans may receive funding under USDA B&I CARES Act Program provisions included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. **Application Deadline: September 15, 2021, or until funds are expended**

Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements (Rural Energy for America Program) The REAP program will provide funds to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to install renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. **Application Deadline: Open Rural Digital Opportunity Fund** The Federal Communications Commission is providing funding to bring high-speed, fixed broadband service to rural homes and small businesses that lack access. **Application Deadline: October 22, 2020 Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program** USDA Rural Development is making funding available to build, expand and improve essential community facilities, which includes qualified equipment. Guidebook. **Application Deadline: Ongoing**

Quick Links to COVID-19 Resources Related to Rural Infrastructure:

- COVID-19 Rural Telehealth Factsheet

- Federal Communications Commission COVID-19 Telehealth Program
- Economic Development Administration CARES Act Recovery Assistance
- Department of Transportation Coronavirus COVID-19 Response
- National Institute of Standards and Technology COVID-19 Resources
- CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers Responding to COVID-19

Economic Development

Capacity Building Developmental & Capacity Building Grant This U.S. Department of Labor grant is intended to develop and conduct training and educational programs for small businesses on occupational safety. **Application Deadline: July 20, 2020**

Mobility on Demand Projects Community Transportation Association of America is providing competitive grants to weave together inclusive transportation planning, development and implementation with grassroots-driven mobility on demand solutions. **Application Deadline: July 31, 2020 Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant Program** USDA Rural Development is making $3 million in grants available to help socially disadvantaged groups develop business and strategic plans in rural areas. **Application Deadline: August 10, 2020**

Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP) This USDA Rural Development program is intended to increase significantly the sale and use of higher blends of ethanol and biodiesel by expanding the infrastructure for renewable fuels derived from U.S. agricultural products. **Application Deadline: August 13, 2020**

Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program USDA Rural Development is making grants available to help start, expand or improve rural cooperatives and other mutually-owned businesses in rural America. **Application Deadline: August 3, 2020**

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative – Education and Workforce Development This USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture program is making grants available to support professional development for agricultural literacy, training for research and extension undergraduate students, fellowships for predoctoral candidates, fellowships for postdoctoral scholars, and training for the agricultural workforce. **Application Deadline: September 25, 2020 FY 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs** The Economic Development Administration is providing economically distressed communities and regions with comprehensive and flexible resources to address a wide variety of economic needs, including construction, non-construction, planning, technical assistance and revolving loan fund projects. **Application Deadline: Ongoing**

Quick Links to COVID-19 Resources to Support Rural Economic Development:

- USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program
- Appalachian Regional Commission Coronavirus Resources
- Small Business Administration Coronavirus COVID-19 Resources
- SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Advance: Ag Businesses
- SBA's Paycheck Protection Program
- SCORE's Small Business Resilience Hub
- Minority Business Development Centers and Chambers of Commerce COVID-19 Support
- FEMA Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program

Tribal-Specific

Social and Economic Development Strategies - Growing Organizations The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families is making funding available to build the capacity of health and human service organizations to serve Native American communities effectively. **Application Deadline: July 13, 2020**

Energy Technology Deployment on Tribal Lands The U.S. Department of Energy is providing this program to support technology on tribal lands. View the webinar and presentation slides and FOA. **Application Deadline: July 30, 2020**

Public Transportation on Indian Reservations: Tribal Transit Program The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration is making funds available to support planning, capital and operating assistance for tribal public transit services to help expand access to health, medical and social service providers. **Application Deadline: August 24, 2020 Native American Business Development Institute Grant** The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs is making grants available for feasibility studies of economic development opportunities located in designated Opportunity Zones. **Application Deadline: September 15, 2020**

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) USDA's Food and Nutrition Service provides USDA foods to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations and to Native American households residing in designated areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. **Application Deadline: September 30, 2020**

Quick Links to COVID-19 Resources to Support Tribal Entities:

- The USDA Office of Tribal Relations New Website
- Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG-CARES)
- State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program
- Coronavirus Pandemic: FEMA Assistance for Tribal Governments
- Indian Health Service: COVID-19 Information
- CDC Foundation: COVID-19 Corps Jobs
- CDC: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Tribal Communities-Plan, Prepare & Respond

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Publications

COVID-19 Demographic and Economic Resources Using Census Data The Census Bureau launched an interactive data hub featuring COVID-19 data to assist federal agencies, businesses and communities better plan with current information. **The Appalachian Region: A Data Overview from the 2014-2018 American Community Survey** This resource created by the Appalachian Regional Commission provides data on population, age, race and ethnicity, housing occupancy, education, labor force, employment, income, disability, and veteran status for the 13 Appalachian states. **How Digital Training Can Help States and Cities Build their Public Health Workforce** This Aspen Institute provides ideas for training public health workers and how digital education may support this effort.

Observations on Past and Ongoing Efforts to Expand Access and Improve Mapping Data The Government Accountability Office published information on previous and ongoing industry and

federal government investments in the deployment of broadband. It compares the availability of fixed broadband services in urban, rural and tribal areas.

Event Opportunities

Business & Industry CARES Act Program Webinars Pre-recorded | Webinar for Lenders **Pre-recorded |** Webinar For Businesses and Producers USDA held two webinars for external stakeholders to provide an overview of the Business and Industry Loan Guarantee CARES Act Program requirements. Recordings are now available to watch at your convenience.

Workforce Central Podcasts The National Association of Workforce Boards offers informative podcast recordings sharing the latest tips, trends and resources around workforce development. **CDFA-ARI Rural Finance Webinar Series: Building the Road to Recovery July 8 | Webinar** CDFA-ARI is partnering with the Alliance for Rural Impact to offer this series to discuss financial tools that can help rural communities implement successful economic development strategies.

Annual Building Resilience Through Private-Public Partnerships Conference July 14 - 16 | Virtual The U.S. Chamber Foundation is hosting its annual conference virtually to discuss building resilience while looking ahead and collaborating across sectors.

CDFA Food Systems Finance Webinar Series July 30 | Neighborhood Revitalization Through Food Systems Finance Sept 29 | Financing Food Systems Entrepreneurs The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is providing a free online series to advance opportunities and leverage capital financing that scale local and regional food systems, increase access to better food, and create new living-wage jobs in communities across the country.

Newsletters, websites and emails from which we gather this information include:

- USDA Rural Development's full Catalog of Programs
- Grants.gov
- The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- The Aspen Institute
- e2 Entrepreneurial Ecosystems
- Pew Research Center
- Philanthropy News Digest
- Rural LISC e-newsletter
- National Association of Development Organizations

USDA Rural Development Innovation Center

Email: rd.innovation@usda.gov | Webpage: usda.gov/rdinnovation

www.rd.usda.gov

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