



National Congress of American Indians

ECONOMIC STIMULUS
INDIAN COUNTRY WORKS**ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Program Name: [Rural Business and Industry \(B&I\) Loan Guarantee and Rural Business Enterprise Grant Programs Account](#)

Department & Agency: [Department of Agriculture](#)

Administering Agency: [Rural Development, Business and Cooperative Programs](#)

Agency Contacts: Tedd Buelow, Native American Coordinator, Rural Development, 202-690-1681
<mailto:tedd.buelow@wdc.usda.gov>
[Rural Development State Agency contacts](#)

Stimulus Funding: \$150,000,000 appropriated, which will support \$2,990,000,000 in Business and Industry (B&I) Loan Guarantees and \$20,000,000 for Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG).

Eligibility and Type: For both programs, funded projects must be in rural areas with populations of 50,000 or less. Ineligible areas include cities or towns of more than 50,000, and the contiguous and adjacent urbanized area of such cities or towns.

For B&I loans, eligible applicants include an Indian tribe on a Federal or State reservation or other federally recognized tribal group, cooperative organization, corporation, partnership, or other legal entity organized and operated on a profit or nonprofit basis; a public body; or an individual.

For the grants, eligible applicants include Indian tribes, rural public entities, and rural private non-profit corporations.

Description of Programs:***Business and Industry Loan Guarantees***

To access these funds, a tribe, tribal enterprise or a tribally owned business in rural areas will work with an approved lender and Rural Development will guarantee a portion of the loan. A borrower must be engaged in or proposing to engage in a business that will:

- Provide employment;
- Improve the economic or environmental climate;
- Promote the conservation, development, and use of water for aquaculture; or
- Reduce reliance on nonrenewable energy resources by encouraging the development and construction of solar energy systems and other renewable energy systems.



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Loan purposes must be consistent with the general purpose contained in the regulations. They include but are not limited to the following:

- Business and industrial acquisitions when the loan will keep the business from closing, prevent the loss of employment opportunities, or provide expanded job opportunities.
- Business conversion, enlargement, repair, modernization, or development.
- Purchase and development of land, easements, rights-of-way, buildings, or facilities.
- Purchase of equipment, leasehold improvements, machinery, supplies, or inventory.

To apply for funding through the B&I program, please contact your Rural Development State Office at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html.

Program information at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/b&i_gar.htm

Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG)

The Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) program is a broad-based program that reaches to the core of rural development in a number of ways. Examples of eligible fund uses include: Acquisition or development of land; easements, or rights of way; construction, conversion and renovation of buildings, plants, machinery, equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas, and utilities; pollution control and abatement; capitalization of revolving loan funds including funds that will make loans for start ups and working capital; training and technical assistance; distance learning for adult job training and advancement; rural transportation improvement; and project planning. Any project funded under the RBEG program should benefit small and emerging private businesses in rural areas. Small and emerging private businesses are those that will employ 50 or fewer new employees and have less than \$1 million in projected gross revenues.

To apply for funding for the RBEG program, please contact your Rural Development State Office at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html

Program information at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbeg.htm>

General Provisions: Under the Stimulus, at least 10 percent of this program account shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties. Persistent poverty counties means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1980, 1990, and 2000 decennial censuses. Tribal eligibility for funding under this provision has not yet been determined.

Funding Notices: Notices under the Stimulus are unavailable at this time.



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Technical Assistance: [Contact your Rural Development State Office](#)