



# Rural Development Business & Cooperatives Program

# RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT

RBDG is a competitive grant designed to support targeted technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and private emerging businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 Million in gross revenues. Programmatic activities are separated into Enterprise or Opportunity type grant activities.

# ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- The applicant must be one of the following:
  - Public Body- Government entity
  - Tribal Entity or Tribe
  - Nonprofit Entity
  - Institutions of Higher Learning
  - Rural Cooperatives (as long as a nonprofit)
- These entities must serve rural areas

# ELIGIBLE USES OF GRANT FUNDS

- Grants must be used to benefit small and emerging businesses in rural areas. Uses may include:
- assistance such as project planning, training and technical business counseling/training
- Distance adult learning for job training and advancement
- Community Economic Development
- Rural Business Incubators
- Feasibility study and business plans

# RBDG

- Application Deadline typically is the end of January or February
- WA state has two persistent poverty areas, Okanogan and Whitman County. Applications will compete in set aside funding if project is located either county.
- Tribal Applicants may compete in Native American Set aside funding.
- No grant maximum however smaller grant requests will be given priority typical awards \$20,000 - \$50,000 maximum. WA state typical allocation of grant funds is \$538,000

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- Applicants must be registered in the System for Awards Management (SAM) prior to application submission and maintain the registration through the entire grant process if awarded a grant. This is free to applicants be aware of sites that provide services to register if you are googling the website <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>

# RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT

- Applications compete at the state level and are dependent on the allocation received, unless the applicant meets the qualifications for set aside, Persistent Poverty and Native American
- Applications are evaluated on
- Evidence showing job creation to occur with local businesses
- Percent of nonfederal funding committed to the project
- Economic need in the area to be served
- Experience of the grantee
- Consistency with local area Economic Development Activities



# City of Pullman Lighting Project FY2020

- Rural Development investment funded the purchase and installation of new lights on 3 bridges for pedestrian walkways located in the City of Pullman, Whitman County. The new lighting on the three bridges that cross the river is essentially the historical corridor for the city. This investment will establish a safe trail that will connect the WSU and they downtown businesses.



A photograph of a port facility. In the foreground, a large stack of black tires is visible, supported by a metal structure. To the right, a metal float dock with railings is on the water. The background shows a calm body of water and a distant shoreline. The image is overlaid with a dark semi-transparent rectangle containing text.

# PORT OF CLARKSTON

- Rural Development investment paid for the purchase and installation of an auxiliary float dock, that will assist in transfer of passengers on and off the cruise boats via the boats' bow ramps to jet boats. The auxiliary float will be removed from its station and stored out of the water when it is not needed.



# LACROSSE COMMUNITY PRIDE

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- Rural Development investment funded the renovation of an empty and once bedraggled building into a remarkable community center with a branch library, a medical office, grocery store and a public meeting room.



# WALTER CLORE WINE & CULINARY CENTER

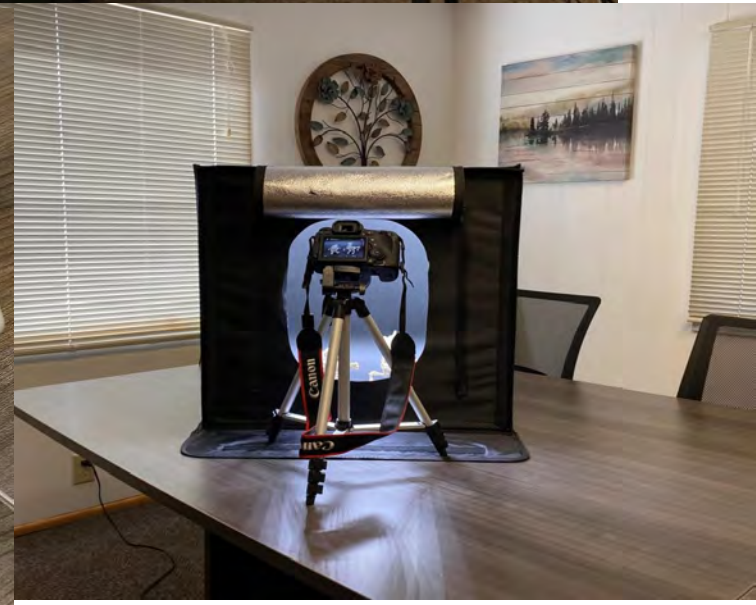
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- Rural Development investment funded the IT equipment necessary for the center to conduct training sessions and classes for agriculture businesses and food manufacturers throughout Washington State.

Okanogan Highland Alliance  
Rural Development investment funded  
murals to increase tourism for the town of  
Tonasket



The Economic Alliance funded The Small Business Resource & Technology Center to give free access to technology like computers, quality photography equipment, drones, and more, that are available for use in office or for checkout.



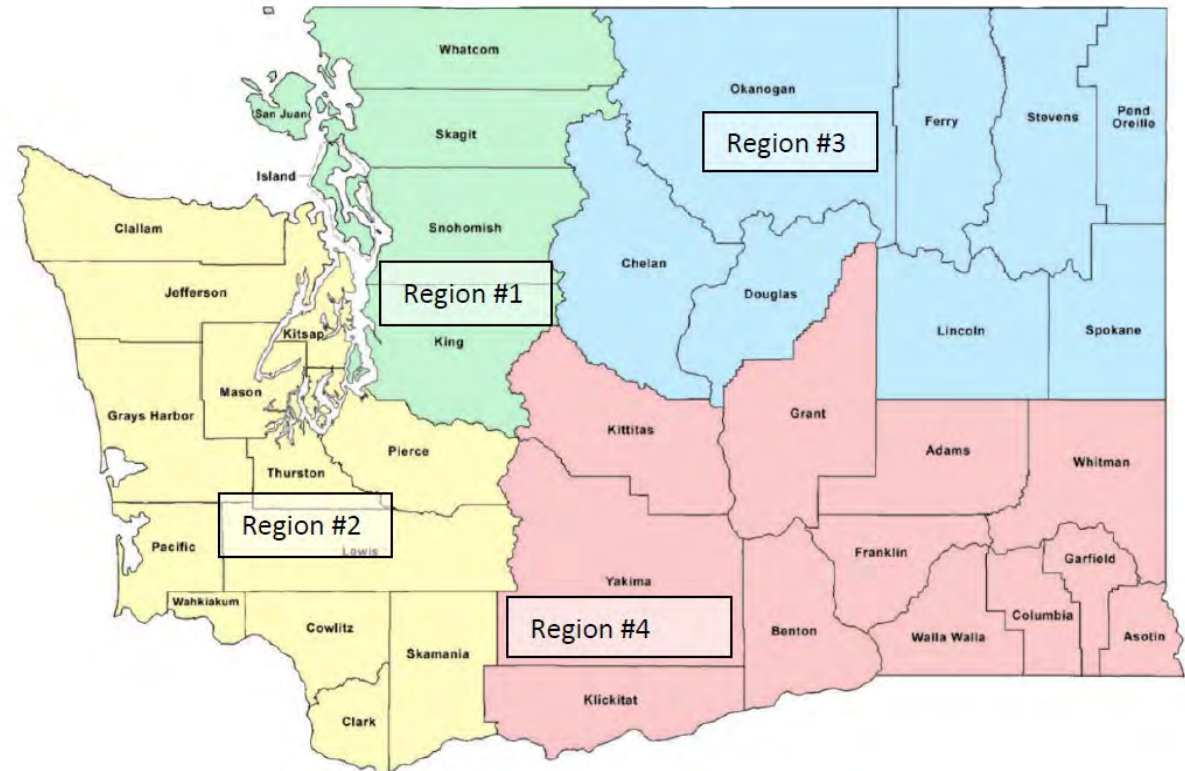
Northwest  
Agriculture  
Business Center  
funded technical  
assistance for  
Latino Farmers for  
computer classes  
and assistance  
with website  
development



Free website-building platform Wix workshop held at Skagit Valley College.

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT WASHINGTON

- Region 1
- Meyett Lavalais, 360-488-4842
- Region 2
- Carlotta Donisi, 360-704-7724
- Lucas Moser, 360-704-7757
- Region 3
- Mika McLean 509-415-3825
- Hannah Fletcher 509-415-3819
- Region 4
- Roni Baer, 509-367-8565



# APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- Application templates are available and can be requested by any BCP Specialist
- Register early in the System for Awards Management
- Submit a draft proposal by early February for review by BCP Specialist
- Reach out to discuss your project prior to submission
- Application deadline has not been set, anticipate either the end of January or February



# RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA

- Provides financial assistance of grants or guaranteed loans to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for the purpose of purchasing and installing renewable energy systems or energy efficiency improvements in rural areas.

Applicants must be an agricultural producer more than 51% revenue from Agriculture Production or a rural small business, as defined by SBA standards.

# RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM (REAP)

- Biomass and Bioenergy Projects
- Anaerobic Digester Projects
- Geothermal, Electric Generation
- Geothermal, direct use
- Solar, small and large; Electric and Thermal
- Wind, small and large
- Energy Efficiency Improvement

# • REAP INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

- INCREASED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT
- REAP grants can now fund up to 25 or 50 percent of total eligible project costs, with awards between \$1,500 to \$500,000 for EEI projects and awards between \$2,500 to \$1,000,000 for RES projects.
- Next Application Deadline 12/31/2023
- Application packages can be received from any BCP Specialist

## APPLICATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Zero Emissions Northwest
- <https://zeroemissionsnorthwest.com/contact>
- Sustainable Connections
- <https://sustainableconnections.org/contact/>
- Spark Northwest
- <https://sparknorthwest.org/about/contact-us/>
- Snohomish Conservation District
- contact Carrie Brausieck at  
[cbrausieck@snohomishcd.org](mailto:cbrausieck@snohomishcd.org)

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REAP  
TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE  
UPCOMING  
WORKSHOP  
<https://links.automate.solar/widget/form/Hwha0iYr7K7UD99uDFv3>

## RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS & EFFICIENCY  
IMPROVEMENTS EXCLUSIVELY FOR BUSINESSES

Washington State Virtual Workshop

### SPEAKER PANEL :

- TAYLOR DISCH
- SPARK NORTHWEST
- PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

⚡ **AMPED UP! FOR A LIMITED TIME, 50% GRANT FUNDING HAS IGNITED!**

⚡ **BUSINESSES GET UP TO 50% REIMBURSEMENT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS, AND ELIGIBLE COSTS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES.**

⚡ **OUR Q&A WORKSHOP ILLUMINATES YOUR PATH TO SAVINGS AND HOW BUSINESSES: QUALIFY, APPLY, AND GET AWARDED FUNDS.**



Questions?

**Together America Prospers**

# WASHINGTON STATE BCP CONTACTS

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- Meyett Lavalais BCP Specialist – [Meyett.Lavalais@usda.gov](mailto:Meyett.Lavalais@usda.gov)

# RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA

- [Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)
- Website provides detailed information about application process
- Applicants must be registered in SAM (System for Award Management) Prior to application submission





Questions?

**Together America Prospers**

