This application guide and the required attachments will serve as your Rural Business Development Grant application. Please complete all questions, attach requested forms and complete and attach the requested information in each of the appendices. If an area does not apply to your grant, please indicate (N/A).

It is highly recommended that you print this guide, read it through in its entirety (including the Q&A and Notes Sections) and then begin to build your RBDG application. A word version of this application guide is available upon request.

The required forms listed within the application are available on our website or from any USDA Rural Development employee.

|  |
| --- |
| **2019 Rural Business Development Grant Application****(Submit one Complete orginal and One Complete copy)** |
| **Submitted by:** **Applicant Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.**Address:** Click or tap here to enter text.**City:** Click or tap here to enter text.**State:** Click or tap here to enter text.**Zip Code:** Click or tap here to enter text.**Phone #:** Click or tap here to enter text.**Email:** Click or tap here to enter text.**Submitted to:****Mr. Dennis Rodin****Business and Cooperative Program Director****USDA Rural Development****PO Box 1737****Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-1737****The deadline for receipt of the application for Enterprise and Opportunity funds is 4:30 PM local time April 30, 2019. The deadline for receipt of the application for Rural Transportation Systems is 4:30 PM local time TBD. The application date and time are firm. The application must be postmarked and mailed, shipped or sent overnight by this date. You may also hand carry your application to one of our field offices, but it must be received by 4:30 PM on the deadline date. Late applications are not eligible for funding. Acceptance by the United States Postal Service or private mailer does not constitute delivery. Facsimile (FAX), electronic mail and postage due applications will not be accepted.** *The RBDG program operates under RD Instruction 4280-E located at:* [*http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/4280e.pdf*](http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/4280e.pdf)*This application template is a guide created to assist the applicant in submitting a complete RBDG application. The application guide does not replace the instruction.* ***Use of the application guide is not required (Optional)****. However, applicants must provide all required information as stated in the Instruction. The Agency may request additional information to assist in the application review process. Applicants are encouraged to read the Instruction and discuss the program requirements with USDA Rural Development staff.* |

# Background

The Congressional mandate established by Congress in the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) requires USDA Rural Development to establish a new program called the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) which combines the former Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) and Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG). The Agency has made no substantive changes to either program when combining the regulations into one RBDG program.

USDA Rural Development is charged with assisting, among other entities, the startup, expansion and continuation of small and emerging businesses and/or non-profits in rural communities. Rural Development supports this portion of the overall mission through two grant programs, the RBEG and RBOG programs.

*Rural Development ENTERPRISE GRANT (RBEG) funds are made to public bodies and non-profit corporations so that they may assist small and emerging businesses and/or non-profits in their communities to create and support jobs. RBEG funds may be used to: Acquire or develop land, buildings, plants, equipment; access streets and roads, parking areas, utility extensions, necessary water and supply and waste disposal facilities; provide technical assistance; establish revolving loan funds; and to create, expand, or operate rural distance learning programs that provide educational or job training instruction related to potential employment or job advancement to adult students.*

*Rural Development OPPORTUNITY GRANT (RBOG) funds are made to public bodies and non-profit corporations to assist businesses and/or non-profits in their communities. RBOG funds may be used to assist in the economic development of rural areas by providing technical assistance, training, and planning for business*

The Agency combined 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G and 7 CFR part 4284, subpart G into the RBDG rule at 7 CFR part 4280, subpart E. Rural Development has also integrated applicable general provisions of 7 CFR part 4284, subpart A into the RBDG rule. Essentially, the Agency did not change any of the requirements of either program but blended the two regulations into one and eliminated duplicative portions so that there is only one set of requirements. The Agency also combined definitions so that the public has one definition for both programs as well as blended the scoring requirements of both former regulations. Finally, the Agency blended the application processes into one streamlined set of procedures under the RBDG funding, incorporating the statutory language of the 2014 Farm Bill (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)) specifying how the funding would be split.

Grant funds may be used for projects identified as either business opportunity type grants or business enterprise type grants. The Agency will set aside 10 percent of its RBDG appropriation for business opportunity type grants. The Agency reserves the right to reallocate funds set aside for business opportunity type grants to business enterprise type grants if it becomes apparent to the Agency that there is insufficient demand for the funds set aside for the business opportunity type grants.

# CHECKLIST

***Before you submit your application, please be sure you have addressed all the following elements:***

**Required forms**

[x] Form SF-424, “[Application for Federal Assistance](https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424A-V1.0.pdf)”

[ ] Form SF-424A, “[Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs](https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/Individual_SF424B-V1.1.pdf)”

[ ] Form SF-424B, “[Assurances - Non-Construction Programs](https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424C_2_0-V2.0.pdf)”

[ ] Form SF-424C, “[Budget Information -Construction Programs](https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424C_2_0-V2.0.pdf)” *(for construction projects only)*

[ ] Form SF-424D, “[Assurances - Construction Programs](https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/Individual_SF424D-V1.1.pdf)” *(for construction projects only)*

[ ] Form RD 400-1, “[Equal Opportunity Agreement](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ND_FormRD400-1_EqualOpportunityAgreement.pdf)”

[ ] Form RD 400-4, “[Assurance Agreement](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ND_FormRD400-4_AssuranceAgreement.pdf)”

[ ] Form AD 1047, “[Certification Regarding Debarment](https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/AD-1047%20%28Dec%20%2715%29.pdf)”

[ ] Form AD 1048, “Certification Regarding Debarment” (**Note 1**)

[ ] Form AD 1049, “[Certification Regarding Drug Free Workplace](https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/AD-1049%20%28Dec%20%2715%29.pdf)”

[ ] RD Inst. 1940-Q, Exhibit A-1, “[Certification for Contracts, Grants, & Loans](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ND_RD-1940-Q_A-1_CertificationForContractsGrants%26Loans.doc)”

[ ] [North Dakota Applicant’s Guide to Providing Environmental Review Information](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ND_EnvironmentalReviewInformation.pdf) (**Note 2**)

[ ] Form AD-3030, “[Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquency Status for Corporate Applicants](https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/AD-3030%20REPRESENTATIONS%20REGARDING%20FELONY%20CONVICTION.pdf)” (Corporations only)

[ ]  [Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants](https://www.sba.gov/managing-business/forms/small-business-forms/miscellaneous-forms/survey-ensuring-equal-opportunity-applicants)

[ ]  [SF LLL “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities](https://www.bing.com/search?q=SF+LLL&form=PRUSEN&mkt=en-us&httpsmsn=1&refig=a03eb17531254db38f09d44569a1a5f9&sp=-1&pq=sf+lll&sc=8-6&qs=n&sk=&cvid=a03eb17531254db38f09d44569a1a5f9)” (**Note 3**)

[ ]  Compliance with [RD 1900-D](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ND_Compliance_RD1900-D%20Instruction.doc) Instruction

[ ]  Resolution passed by the board authorizing entity to apply and administer the RBDG including the name and title of the person authorized to sign grant agreements (Appendix B)

[ ]  [Applicant Certifications](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ND_RBDG_Certifications.pdf)

[ ]  Form 1980-88 “[Strategic Economic and Community Development (Section 6025) Pr](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/vtnh.RBDG_.RD1980-88.16.pdf)iority” (Only if Applicable) (**Note 4**)

**Section 1. Summary Information**

[ ] Legal name of applicant

[ ] Requested Grant Amount

[ ] DUNS Number (**Note 5**)

[ ] SAM Registration Cage Code and Expiration Date (**Note 6**)

[ ] NAICS Code Number (**Note 7**)

[ ] REAP Zone Benchmark Number (**Note 8**) (Southwest or CONAC REAP Zone Set Aside Applications only)

**Section 2. Applicant Eligibility**

[ ] Applicant Type

**Section 3. Project Eligibility**

[ ] Business Enterprise Grant Project

 [ ] Development or Financing of Small & Emerging Business

 **OR**

[ ] Business Opportunity Grant Project

 [ ] Economic Development Result

[ ] Local and Area-Wide Strategic Plans

 **OR**

[ ]  Rural Transportation Grant Project

**Section 4. Written Narrative (Please note if the sub-sections are needed for “All Applicants; Enterprise; Opportunity and/or Transportation.)**

[ ]  Project Need and Benefits (All Applicants)

[ ]  Eligible Grant Purpose (All Applicants)

[ ]  Area to be Served/Method and Rational to Select Service Area and Business Recipients (All Applicants)

[ ]  Coordination with Area Economic Development Activities (Opportunity and Transportation)

[ ]  Businesses to be Assisted and Economic Development to be Accomplished (Enterprise and Transportation)

[ ]  Jobs Created/Saved (Enterprise)

[ ]  Applicant Expertise & Work Performance (All Applicants)

[ ]  Suggested Performance Criteria (Enterprise and Opportunity)

 **Appendices**

[ ] Appendix A- Required Documents

[ ] Appendix B- Organizational Documents and Attorney Opinion

[ ] Appendix C- Proposed Scope of Work

[ ] Appendix D-Leveraged Funds Verification

[ ] Appendix E-Documentation of Experience

[ ] Appendix F-Letters from Businesses to be Assisted

[ ] Appendix G-Additional Supporting Documentation

[ ] Appendix H-Financial Documentation

[ ] Appendix I-Frequently Asked Questions

[ ] Appendix J-Notes

***APPLICATION TEMPLATE***

**SECTION 1: SUMMARY INFORMATION**

**Legal Name of Applicant:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Signing Official and Title (Mayor, President, Chair):** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Requested Grant Amount: $**Click or tap here to enter text.

**DUNS #** Click or tap here to enter text.

**SAM/CCR Registration Cage Code:** Click or tap here to enter text. **Expiration Date:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Applicant NAICS Code:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**CONAC or Southwest REAP Zone Benchmark #:**  Click or tap here to enter text. (REAP Zone Set-Aside Funding Requests Only)

**SECTION 2: APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

**Applicant Type– Please Check One and Provide Information as Described in Appendix A “Organizational Documents”:**

[ ] **Public Body/Government Entity**

[ ] **Indian Tribe (Note 9)**[ ] **Nonprofit entity**

[ ] **Other Qualified National Organizations** (Available to Transportation Applicants Only)

**SECTION 3: PROJECT ELIGIBILITY**

**Type of Project – Please Check One:**

[ ] **Business Enterprise Grant Project**  [ ] **Business Opportunity Grant Project**

 [ ]  **Rural Transportation Grant Project**

Rural Development makes Rural Business **Enterprise Grants** to public bodies and non-profit corporations so that they may assist small and emerging businesses and/or non-profits in their communities to create and support jobs. RBEG funds may be used to: Acquire or develop land, buildings, plants, equipment; access streets and roads, parking areas, utility extensions, necessary water and supply and waste disposal facilities; provide technical assistance; establish revolving loan funds; and to create, expand, or operate rural distance learning programs that provide educational or job training instruction related to potential employment or job advancement to adult students.

Rural Business **Opportunity** Grant funds are made to public bodies and non-profit corporations to assist businesses and/or non-profits in their communities. RBOG funds may be used to assist in the economic development of rural areas by providing technical assistance, training, and planning for business.

**(Respond to either Enterprise or Opportunity ONLY)**

**Business Enterprise Grant Projects:**

* **Development or Financing of Small & Emerging Private Businesses**

*A Small and Emerging Business**is defined as* ***“****Any private and/or Nonprofit business which will employ 50 or fewer new employees and has less than $1 million in gross revenue; for retail operations, total sales minus cost of goods sold minus returns; or for a service organization, gross revenue minus cost of providing service; or for a manufacturing operation it will be total sales minus cost of raw materials minus the cost of production.*

*For an Indian Tribal business to be considered small and emerging, its management and Board of Directors must operate independently of the Tribal Council. In order to be considered independent, the majority of the Board of Directors must come from areas other than the Tribal Council members or their families and they cannot be removed without cause****.***

***The small and emerging business must be a clearly separate entity from the applicant. The applicant will work with the small and emerging business. Example: Applicant purchases equipment and leases it to the business; Applicant rehabs a building and leases it to the business; Applicant provides technical assistance (training) to the business; Applicant creates a revolving loan fund and makes loans to the business.***

***[Insert description how grant funds will specifically result in the development of Small and Emerging Businesses in Rural Areas]***

**Business Opportunity Grant Projects:**

* **Economic Development Result**

***Opportunity Type Grants may be made only when there is reasonable prospect that the project will result in economic development of a rural area.***

***[Insert description how economic development will occur as a result of the proposed project. Include demonstration of project sustainability once the grant is complete. Supporting documentation may be inserted in Appendix G]***

* **Local and Area-Wide Strategic Plans**

***Grants may be made only when the proposed project is consistent with local and area-wide strategic plans for community and economic development, coordinated with other economic development activities in the project area and consistent with USDA Rural Development State Strategic Plan.***

***[Describe how the project coincides with local or regional strategic plans. Supporting documentation may be inserted in Appendix G******]***

**SECTION 4: WRITTEN NARRATIVE (All Applicants)**

**4.1 Project Need and Benefits**

***[Explain why the project is needed and the benefits of the proposed project. Supporting documentation may be inserted in Appendix G.]***

* 1. **Eligible Grant Purpose**

***[Explain how the proposed project meets the grant eligible purposes as listed in the Regulation*** [***http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/4280e.pdf***](http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/4280e.pdf) ***Section 4280.417 Project Eligibility]***

**4.3 Area to be Served/Method and Rationale to Select Service Area & Business Recipients**

***[Describe the area to be served, identifying each governmental unit (i.e. city, township, county, etc.) to be affected by the project. Example: If the project will mostly only benefit the residents of a specific city, state the city name; if the project service area will include several counties, list the counties.]***

***[Describe how the service area was selected and the businesses that will receive assistance. If the businesses haven’t been selected, describe how they will be selected. This could be based on the pre-defined service area of the applicant such as businesses located within the JDA service area.]***

* 1. **Coordination with Area Economic Development Activities**

***[Description of how the project will coordinate Economic Development activities with other Economic Development Activities within the project area. Is this part of a larger plan? Are there existing partnerships etc.?]***

* 1. **Businesses to be Assisted and Economic Development to be Accomplished**

***[Describe Businesses to be assisted (if appropriate) and Economic Development to be accomplished. Letters from the businesses may be placed in Appendix E]***

* 1. **Jobs Created/Saved**

***[Describe how the proposed project will create, increase or support jobs in the service area and provide an estimated number of direct jobs created and/or jobs saved within the next 3 years. Jobs are based on 35 hours as a Full -time Equivalent. If part-time or seasonal employees, please provide the hours per week and number of weeks per year. This is evidenced by letters from rural businesses that will be directly assisted in Appendix E.]***

* 1. **Applicant Expertise & Work Performance**

***[Describe how the work will be performed including whether organizational staff, consultants or contractors will be used. Provide the name of the consultant.]***

***[Insert description of Applicant’s demonstrated capability and expertise in providing the proposed project assistance or similar economic development activities, including experience of key staff members and persons who will be providing the proposed project activities and managing the project. If consulting with others on tasks, include their applicable experience. Attach resumes and other supporting documentation of experience in Appendix D]***

**5.0 Suggested Performance Criteria**

* ***[Insert a description of the basis for determining the success or failure of the project and individual major elements of the project. Outline procedures that will be taken to assess the project’s impact at its conclusion. Example: Suggest one or more relevant criterion to be used to evaluate the performance of the grant project during its operational phase and post-award, as quantitative benchmarks to assess whether or not the primary goals and objectives proposed in the scope of work are accomplished during the project period. These criteria should relate to the overall project goal of financing and/or assisting small and emerging businesses or conducting business opportunity projects, with a resulting creation or saving of jobs. Keeping in mind that the project performance criteria will be monitored after the grant is completed. ]***

#  NON DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

*“In accordance with Federal civil rights law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint deadlines vary by program or incident.*

*Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.*

*To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at* [*http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html*](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) *and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:*

1. *Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture*

*Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights*

*1400 Independence Avenue, SW*

*Washington, D.C. 20250-9410*

1. *Fax: (202) 690-7442; or*
2. *Email:* *program.intake@usda.gov*

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.Scoring Criteria for Information Purposes Only – To be completed by USDA Staff*

Applications for Rural Business Development Grants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

*Scoring Criteria: Leveraging - Applicant has evidence of commitment of funds from nonfederal sources for proposed project. Rural Development funds divided by total project costs $ X 100 = % which is Rural Developments portion of project funding*

*If Rural Development portion of project funding is:*

*1. Less than 20 percent 30 points*

*2. 20 but less than 50 percent 20 points*

*3. 50 but less than 75 percent 10 points*

*4. 75 percent or more 0 points*

*Scoring Criteria: Size of Grant Request*

*1. Less than $100,000 25 points*

*2. $100,000 to $200,000 15 points*

*3. More than $200,000 but not more than $500,000 10 points*

*Scoring Criteria: Indirect cost - Applicant is* ***not*** *requesting grant funds to cover their administrative or indirect costs. 5 points*

*Scoring Criteria: Population - Proposed project(s) will be located in a community of:*

*1. Under 5,000 15 points*

*2. Between 5,000 and less than 15,000 10 points*

*3. Between 15,000 and 25,000 5 points*

*Scoring Criteria: Unemployment - Proposed project(s) will be located in areas where the unemployment rate:*

*1. Exceeds the State rate by 25% or more 20 points*

*2. Exceeds the State rate by less than 25% 10 points*

*3. Is equal to or less than the State rate 0 points*

*Scoring Criteria: Median Household income - Proposed project(s) will be located in areas where the median household income (MHI) for the State is:*

*1. Less than poverty line 25 points*

*2. More than poverty line but less than 65% 15 points*

*3. Between 65% and 85% 10 points*

*4. Equal to or greater than 85% 0 points*

*Scoring Criteria: Economic Distress - Points will be awarded for each of the following criteria met by the community or communities to benefit from the grant (cannot exceed 40 points total):*

1. *Trauma 15 points*

*(Natural disaster occurred not more than 3 years prior to filing application) FEMA Designation *

1. *Economic distress 15 points*

*(Military Base/Employer 20% or more loss in total jobs)*  

1. *Long-Term Poverty 10 points*

*(Demonstrated by being a former EZ/EC, REAP, CC or a persistent poverty county) - indicate which *

1. *Long-term population decline 10 points*

 *(Demonstrated by latest 3 decennial Census) - Show amounts *

 *Subtotal = *

 *(Cannot Exceed 40 Points)*

*Scoring Criteria: Applicant has written evidence that small business development will be supported by startup or expansion as a result of the grant. 5 points for each letter for separate businesses up to 25 points*

*Scoring Criteria: Applicant has written evidence that the proposed project will create and/or support existing jobs. The number of jobs must be evidenced by a* ***written commitment from the business to be assisted****.*

*1. One job for less than $5,000 25 points*

*2. One job for 5,000 but less than $10,000 20 points*

*3. One job for $10,000 but less than $15,000 15 points*

*4. One job for $15,000 but less than $20,000 10 points*

*5. One job for $20,000 but less than $25,000 5 points*

 *Amount of Grant divided by number of jobs = $ /jobs*

*Scoring Criteria: Applicant has evidence of successful experience in type of activity.*

*1. 10 or more years 30 points*

*2. At least 5 but less than 10 years 20 points*

*3. At least 3 but less than 5 years 10 points*

*4. At least 1 but less than 3 years 5 points*

 *Number of years’ experience *

Additional Scoring Criteria

*Scoring Criteria: Discretionary points - Either the State Director or Administrator may assign up to 50 discretionary points to an application. Assignment of discretionary points must include a written justification. Permissible justifications are geographic distribution of funds, special Secretary of Agriculture initiatives such as Priority Communities, or a state’s strategic goals. Discretionary points may only be assigned to initial grants. However, in the case where two projects have the same score, the State Director may add one point to the project that best fits the State’s strategic plan regardless of whether the project is an initial or subsequent grant.*

**Additional information that may be provided to back-up the scoring above which has not already been made a part of this application may be attached in Appendix G.**

# APPENDICES

**APPENDIX A Required Forms**

[ ] Form SF-424, “[Application for Federal Assistance](https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424A-V1.0.pdf)”

[ ] Form SF-424A, “[Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs](https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/Individual_SF424B-V1.1.pdf)”

[ ] Form SF-424B, “[Assurances - Non-Construction Programs](https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424C_2_0-V2.0.pdf)”

[ ] Form SF-424C, “[Budget Information -Construction Programs](https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF424C_2_0-V2.0.pdf)” *(for construction projects only)*

[ ] Form SF-424D, “[Assurances - Construction Programs](https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/Individual_SF424D-V1.1.pdf)” *(for construction projects only)*

[ ] Form RD 400-1, “[Equal Opportunity Agreement](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ND_FormRD400-1_EqualOpportunityAgreement.pdf)”

[ ] Form RD 400-4, “[Assurance Agreement](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ND_FormRD400-4_AssuranceAgreement.pdf)”

[ ] Form AD 1047, “[Certification Regarding Debarment](https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/AD-1047%20%28Dec%20%2715%29.pdf)”

[ ] Form AD 1048, “Certification Regarding Debarment” (**Note 1**)

[ ] Form AD 1049, “[Certification Regarding Drug Free Workplace](https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/AD-1049%20%28Dec%20%2715%29.pdf)”

[ ] RD Inst. 1940-Q, Exhibit A-1, “[Certification for Contracts, Grants, & Loans](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ND_RD-1940-Q_A-1_CertificationForContractsGrants%26Loans.doc)”

[ ] [North Dakota Applicant’s Guide to Providing Environmental Review Information](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ND_EnvironmentalReviewInformation.pdf) (**Note 2**)

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[ ]  [Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants](https://www.sba.gov/managing-business/forms/small-business-forms/miscellaneous-forms/survey-ensuring-equal-opportunity-applicants)

[ ]  [SF LLL “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities](https://www.bing.com/search?q=SF+LLL&form=PRUSEN&mkt=en-us&httpsmsn=1&refig=a03eb17531254db38f09d44569a1a5f9&sp=-1&pq=sf+lll&sc=8-6&qs=n&sk=&cvid=a03eb17531254db38f09d44569a1a5f9)” (**Note 3**)

[ ]  Compliance with [RD 1900-D](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ND_Compliance_RD1900-D%20Instruction.doc) Instruction

[ ]  Resolution passed by the board authorizing entity to apply and administer the RBDG including the name and title of the person authorized to sign grant agreements (**APPENDIX B**)

[ ]  [Applicant Certifications](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ND_RBDG_Certifications.pdf)

[ ]  Form 1980-88 “[Strategic Economic and Community Development (Section 6025) Pr](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/vtnh.RBDG_.RD1980-88.16.pdf)iority” (Only if Applicable) (**Note 4**)

**APPENDIX B Organizational Documents and Attorney’s Opinion**

**Public Body:**

* Documentation of organization (Example: Provide a page from the most current North Dakota Blue Book or other proof of existence.)
* Attorney Opinion Letter
* Resolution passed by the board authorizing entity to apply and administer the RBDG including the name and title of the person authorized to sign grant documents.

**Native American Indian Tribe:**

* Documentation indicating the Tribe is listed on the Federally Recognized Native American Indian Tribes list as published annually in the Federal Register.
* Attorney Opinion Letter
* Resolution passed by the Tribal Council authorizing entity to apply and administer the RBDG including the name and title of the person authorized to sign grant documents.

**Non Profits:**

* Articles of Incorporation or Organization (including any amendments)
* By-Laws (Including any amendments)
* Copy of IRS Non-Profit Determination
* Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State. Certificate should be less than one-year-old.
* Attorney Opinion Letter
* Resolution passed by the board authorizing entity to apply and administer the RBDG including the name and title of the person authorized to sign grant documents.

**The attorney’s opinion letter should state the following:**

1. The applicant is duly organized, is in good standing, has the power to execute, deliver and perform its obligations under the grant documents and that there is no pending or threatened litigation that would adversely affect the applicant’s ability to perform its obligations to Rural Development.
2. All actions by the applicant meet statutory requirements, no litigation threatens the applicant and the project meets zoning laws.

**APPENDIX C Proposed Scope of Work**

Please attach your proposed scope of work (SOW) which will include a description of the proposed project, e.g., Revolving Loan Fund, Technical Assistance, Industrial Site, Business Opportunity and Other Business Development, details of the proposed activities to be accomplished, budget for the proposed activities to be accomplished, timeframes for completion of each task, the number of months duration of the project, and the estimated time it will take from grant approval to beginning of project implementation.

*The Scope of Work will be used to measure the performance of the grantee. It is important to provide specific information as to how the grant funds will be utilized and who is responsible for each task of the project. Please provide enough detail to the scope of work to thoroughly explain your project. RBDG grants must be utilized within twelve months. It is recommended to start the SOW as of October 1, 2019 and running it as late as September 30, 2020.*

*Revolving Loan Fund applicants may request an additional example of an RLF specific Scope of Work as well as lending policies. RLF’s must also plan to fully expend grant funds within twelve months.*

*If indirect (administration) is included within the budget, the grant applicant may use an approved federally negotiated indirect cost rate. A copy of the current rate agreement must be provided with the application. Otherwise, indirect costs are limited to 10% of the modified total direct costs as defined by the CFR 200 “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.”*

*The budget within the SOW should match the total line item budget submitted as SF424A (Non-construction budget) or SF424C (Construction budget) and the “Estimated Funding” (Item #18 of the SF424)*

***Please utilize the below tables within your Scope of Work. A separate Scope of Work excel spreadsheet is available on our website.***

1. **Project Scope of Work and Budget Summary**

*Summarize the total project budget by task. Insert additional rows as needed.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Task #** | **Task Name and Description** | **Person or Entity Responsible**  | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **RBDG Funds** | **Supplemental Funds** | **Total Project Costs** |
|  |  What will be accomplished and how?  | Who is responsible?  | 10/1/2018 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 9/30/2019 |  |  |  |
|  | **TOTAL PROJECT** |  |  |  | **$** | **$** Any supplemental funds listed must be verified in Appendix D | $Must match the SF424 Budget |

**[Insert full description of each task.]**

1. **Task Budget Format**

*Provide a budget table for* ***each task*** *that will be completed for* ***each main activity*** *listed above only if appropriate to further break down the item.*

 ***Add additional task tables as needed.***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Task #1****Budget Categories** | **RBDG Funds** | **Supplemental Funds** | **Total Project Costs** |
| Personnel |  |  |  |
| Fringe Benefits |  |  |  |
| Travel |  |  |  |
| Supplies |  |  |  |
| Contractual |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  **Total** | **$** | **$** | **$** |

Provide explanation/clarification of the basis for the above budget figures:

***[Insert task budget explanation]***

*The final page of the Scope of Work should include the below language and a signature by the Grantee.*

**This Scope of Work is submitted by the grantee. Upon approval by the grantor, the grantee agrees that no changes will be made to the Scope of Work without prior written approval by the grantor.**

**[APPLICANT NAME] (GRANTEE)**

**By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **(Signature) (Title) (Date)**

**This Scope of Work is hereby approved by USDA - Rural Development.**

**USDA - RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **(Signature) (Title) (Date)**

## APPENDIX D Leveraged Funds Verification

Documentation verifying the availability and amount of other funds to be used in conjunction with the RBDG. The documentation should evidence that the leveraged funds are available and have been committed to the project. The documentation must be included in your application to qualify for consideration under the applicable scoring criterion. (Note: Other Federal Funds and applicant contributed in-kind are not considered match for scoring purposes.)

### *Examples of acceptable documentation include: copy of a current bank statement or a copy of the confirmed funding commitment from the funding source.*

*Scoring Criteria: Leveraging - Applicant has evidence of commitment of funds from nonfederal sources for proposed project. Rural Development funds divided by total project costs $ X 100 = % which is Rural Developments portion of project funding*

*If Rural Development portion of project funding is:*

*1. Less than 20 percent 30 points*

*2. 20 but less than 50 percent 20 points*

*3. 50 but less than 75 percent 10 points*

*4. 75 percent or more 0 points*

### APPENDIX E Documentation of Experience

Please attach documentation of experience with proposed project activities (resumes, statement of qualifications, etc.) Experience should include specific descriptions (including years of the specific experience) and examples to match experience with the application proposal. Example: If the project is for a Revolving Loan Fund, please describe the applicant’s experience with revolving loan funds including the dates of experience. If the project involves providing technical assistance, please describe the applicant’s history in providing similar TA. If the project involves the purchase and subsequent lease of equipment or a building to a business, please provide the applicant’s experience in leasing equipment or a building.

Documentation must be provided to receive points.

*Scoring Criteria: Applicant has evidence of successful experience in type of activity.*

*1. 10 or more years 30 points*

*2. At least 5 but less than 10 years 20 points*

*3. At least 3 but less than 5 years 10 points*

*4. At least 1 but less than 3 years 5 points*

*Number of years’ experience *

### APPENDIX F Letters from Businesses to be Assisted

### Please attach letters of support for proposed project activities from the businesses to be assisted. This is the written evidence of commitment from small businesses that small business development will be supported by startup or expansion as a direct result of the RBS program assistance.

*Scoring Criteria: Applicant has written evidence that small business development will be supported by startup or expansion as a result of the grant. 5 points for each letter for separate businesses up to 25 points*

### Letters may also address jobs created/saved if the applicant wishes to receive consideration in the scoring of the application for the jobs. Part-time jobs MUST indicate the number of hours per week so that a full-time equivalent may be determined. Full-time equivalent positions are based on a 35 hour workweek. Generic or duplicated letters are not acceptable; letters must be on the business’ letterhead and address the specific business preparing the letter, the connection to the project activities and further provide information relative to jobs to meet the criteria.

*Scoring Criteria: Applicant has written evidence that the proposed project will create and/or support existing jobs. The number of jobs must be evidenced by a* ***written commitment from the business to be assisted****.*

*1. One job for less than $5,000 25 points*

*2. One job for 5,000 but less than $10,000 20 points*

*3. One job for $10,000 but less than $15,000 15 points*

*4. One job for $15,000 but less than $20,000 10 points*

*5. One job for $20,000 but less than $25,000 5 points*

*Amount of Grant divided by number of jobs = $/jobs*

### APPENDIX G– Additional Supporting Documentation

* **Attach any additional documentation to back up scoring information.**
* **Population, Unemployment and Median Household Income will be determined by RD staff utilizing weighted averages based on the project area provided in 4.3. These numbers will be obtained by RD staff and not required to be submitted with the application.**
* **If the area provided in 4.3 has had a FEMA designation within the past three years, please include the FEMA designation number.**
* **Economic Distress must be documented by data and/or facts showing the documented job loss within the previous three years.**

## APPENDIX H Applicant’s Financial Documentation

Attach your latest 3 years of financial information to evidence your financial capacity to carry out the proposed work. If your entity is less than 3 years old, the information should include all balance sheet(s), income statement(s) and cash flow statement(s) available. Audited financial statements are preferred, if available. Please attach complete copies. Emailed versions are not acceptable.

**APPENDIX I -Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: What is the CFDA (Code of Federal Domestic Assistance) Number?

A: The CFDA for the Rural Business Development Grant program is 10.351.

Q: What is the Funding Opportunity Number?

A: The RBDG does not have a funding opportunity number. You may leave this field blank on the SF424.

Q: Do you accept emailed applications?

A: Emailed applications will not be accepted for consideration.

Q: Is the deadline in your office or postmarked?

A: The application deadline is the date and time that the application must be received by Rural Development if hand delivered. If mailing the postmark must be March 29, 2019 or before.

Q: How do I address the application package?

A: Please address to:

Dennis Rodin

USDA Rural Development

PO Box 1737

Bismarck, ND 58502-1737

Q: I’ve heard that we need to lease out the property purchased with these funds. I thought this was a grant program.

A: The RBDG is a grant to the applicant. The applicant must purchase the property or otherwise complete the Scope of Work (purchase a building etc.) and then leases the property to a small and emerging business at a fair market rate (IRS depreciation rate at a minimum). If the applicant were to lease the property for a minimum amount (such as a $1/year) it is considered a “pass through grant” which is an ineligible use of funds. The applicant can then continue to use those funds for other eligible RBDG type projects or if sitting idle, returned to the Federal government at the Federal Government’s participation percentage of the project.

Q: Should the environmental review document be completed for all projects?

A: Only technical assistance or planning projects are excluded from the environmental review process. All other projects must complete the environmental review form). The responses to the questions in Exhibit I may be brief or NA in the case of an equipment purchase, but please do take the time to respond.

Q: Who should sign the SF424 as the “Authorized Official”?

A: Please have the Chairperson/President/Mayor sign the SF 424 with the appropriate title. This person should have the authority to commit the organization to the requirements of the grant. Looking ahead, this is the person that will receive the correspondence from USDA including the documents accepting the grant if awarded.

Q: Can someone else be the “Contact” for the grant?

A: Yes, please place this information in Section “F” of the SF424 “Name and Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application.”

Q: What are the administration requirements of the RBDG?

A: The administration of the RBDG does require some time for quarterly reports and proper documentation of expenditures. There are other on-going reports which may be annual or tri-annual once the project is completed dependent upon the nature of the project (technical assistance, equipment purchase, building construction or RLF). RBDG grant administration is a separate training provided to all grant recipients once the grant is awarded. USDA staff works closely with the awardees so that they become comfortable with the reporting and process. If you would like to receive the administration training material prior to application, please make a request to Denise.Sundeen@nd.usda.gov .

Q: Can we include administration costs in the budget?

A: Yes – applicants may utilize a previously negotiated (and approved) Federal indirect cost rate. Otherwise, indirect costs are limited to 10% of the modified total direct costs as defined by the CFR 200 “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.” The CFR 200 may be located at: <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=e399902ddf78b795f75a66f7b5cf08fd&mc=true&n=pt2.1.200&r=PART&ty=HTML> *Please remember that the scoring process awards 5 points if the applicant DOES NOT include administration in the budget.*

Q: What areas must meet accessibility compliance?

A: All projects funded with Federal funds are required to be ADA accessible or a transition plan created to become accessible. This includes the applicant’s place of business as well as the assisted project.

Q: Why do I need to submit one original and one copy of the application?

A: The RBDG applications are reviewed by a team of reviewers. Each person on this team requires a complete application.

Q: Do I need to include two copies of our audits?

A: Yes

Q: Why is it so important to have the Federal Tax ID and SAM registration match the applicant?

A: Previous applicants have had issues with submitting a general SAM registration number. Example: a county utilizes one SAM registration for itself and its political subs. However, since the RBDG grant applicant was a political sub, the actual applicant (i.e. political sub) was required to either have its own Federal tax ID and SAM registration or the actual grant applicant should be the actual holder of the Federal tax ID and SAM registration.

Q: My project could fall under the state funds, REAP Zone set-aside funds and the Native American set-aside funds. Which should I apply under?

A: We recommend that since the benchmark process is time-sensitive, to go ahead and have your project benchmarked by the respective zone. Projects that fit within the Native American Set-Aside are first reviewed under that set-aside at the national level. If not funded, they can compete under the REAP Zone Set-Aside within the state and finally under the state regular allocation.

Q: What is the funding allocation for the various funds?

A: The final numbers have not been determined as of this writing. We recommend being prepared in anticipation of Section 6025 Priority, REAP Zone set-aside, Native American set-aside and the regular RBDG funding being allocated.

**APPENDIX J– Notes**

**Note 1 –Form AD 1048, “Certification Regarding Debarment”**

The AD1048 should be signed by any contractor or technical assistance recipient if known at the time of the application. This form may also be submitted later as additional contractors or TA recipients are known.

**Note 2- North Dakota Request for Environmental Information.** [**https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ND\_EnvironmentalReviewInformation.pdf**](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ND_EnvironmentalReviewInformation.pdf)

Applications for Technical Assistance or Planning Projects are generally excluded from the environmental review process by 7 CFR 1970.53 provided the assistance is not related to the development of a specific site. However, as further specified in 7 CFR 1970.53, the grantee for a Technical Assistance grant, in the process of providing Technical Assistance, must consider the potential environmental impacts of the recommendations provided to the recipient of the Technical Assistance as requested by the Agency and in accordance with 7 CFR part 1970.

**Note 3- Disclosure of Lobbying Activity.**

This form serves as a notice that the applicant has a professional lobbyist. If you DO NOT have a lobbyist, please X or NA the form and sign.

**Note 4- 1980-88 Section 6025 Priority**

[**https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/vt.nh\_.RBDG\_.6025factsheet.16.pdf**](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/vt.nh_.RBDG_.6025factsheet.16.pdf)

The Section 6025 Priority application has the potential to place your application in a special pool of funds which may limit competition. *Please check with Rural Development on the amount of funds available under this special priority for the fiscal year.*

**Note 5-DUNS Number**

To conduct business electronically with the Federal Government, some organizations are required to obtain a DUNS number. A DUNS number is a unique nine-character identification number provided by the commercial company Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). Your application indicates that your organization fits this requirement in order for us to continue assisting you.

To register and obtain a DUNS number by phone you can contact Dun & Bradstreet at 1-866-705-5711. Requesting a DUNS number is free of charge and takes about 10 minutes. Please follow the instructions below to navigate through the voice prompts:

1. Dial 1-866-705-5711
2. Enter “2” to register as a government loan/grant applicant and obtain a DUNS number.
3. A service representative will answer your call and suggest that you buy the Credit Builder Service. It is not necessary to purchase this service to do business with the Federal Government. If you want to do business with other vendors outside the Federal Government, this is an optional service that allows you to do business using a line of credit.
4. Provide answers to the following question:
* Name of business
* Business address
* Local business telephone number
* Name of CEO/business owner
* Legal structure of the business (corporation, partnership, proprietorship)
* Year business started
* Primary line of business
* Total number of employees (full and part time)

To register and obtain a DUNS number via the web - visit Dun & Bradstreet’s official website at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/> and follow the instructions listed below:  **\*\*please note registration via the web may take up to 14 business days to complete**

1. Click on “Get a D&B DUNS number
2. Input the business name. Click “Next”
3. Click on “Get Started” under the section “Get a DUNS Number Price NO CHARGE”
4. Fill in the information; The information completed of the primary owner of the business, then click submit
5. Complete the fields and click “Next”
6. Complete the information on the following screen. You will need to scroll down the page to complete the page as soon on the next screen print
7. Continue to complete information and then click “Next”
8. Fill out the information for each officer and click “Next”
9. Complete the following two screens and click “Next”

You can choose to expedite getting a DUNS number or wait 30 business days. Click on the appropriate next button. This will complete the process for requesting a DUNS number. Additional information on the DUNS number process may be located at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-1-obtain-duns-number.html>

**Q & A:**

**Who needs a DUNS number?**

Any institution that wants to submit a grant application to the federal government. Individual researchers do not need a DUNS number if they are submitting their application through a research organization.

**Why does my institution need a DUNS number?**

New regulations that took affect September 26, 2006 mandate that a DUNS number be provided on all federal grant and cooperative agreement applications. The DUNS number will offer a way for the Federal Government to better match information across all agencies.

**Are there any exceptions to the new DUNS number requirements?**

Individuals who would personally receive a grant or cooperative agreement award from the Federal Government apart from any business or non-profit organization they may operate are exempt from this requirement.

**We are an organization new to Federal Grant Funding, so we obviously need a DUNS number. But we don’t want to be included in any marketing lists. What can we do?**

Inclusion on a D&B marketing list is optional. If you do not want your name/organization included on this marketing list, request to be de-listed from the D&B’s marketing file when you are speaking with a representative during your telephone registration process.

**Note 6-SAM Number**

All applicants for Federal grant funding must register in the System for Award Management (SAM), at <https://www.sam.gov>, whether applying electronically or by paper, and at no cost. Registration may take 1-1.5 hours to complete and requires a DUNS #, tax ID and business name, statistical and financial information about the business (including number of employees and annual receipts for each of previous 3 years), and Electronic Funds Transfer information for payment of grant disbursements to grantee (Routing #, Account #, ACH contact).  Registration activation will take 1-5 days with an established tax ID; OR 2-5 weeks if a new Employer Identification Number is used.  A CAGE code number and expiration date will be provided when the registration is activated and **must** be included in your RBDG application information. For technical assistance, call the toll-free assistance line at 1-866-606-8220 and press “1.” Enter the registration cage code and expiration date in field 5(a), “Federal Entity Identifier,” on Form SF-424.

This registration must remain active, with current information, always during which an entity has an application under consideration by an Agency or has an active Federal Award. To remain registered in the database after the initial registration, the applicant is required to review and annually update its information in the database to ensure it is current, accurate and complete.

Be sure that the Federal Tax ID and SAM registration match the applicant.

**Note 7 – NAICS Code**

<https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/>

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy.

NAICS was developed under the auspices of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and adopted in 1997 to replace the [Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system](http://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/sic_manual.html).

**Please provide the NAICS code for the applicant organization.**

**Note 8 – REAP Zone Benchmark**

<https://reapmatters.org/>

In 1995, two United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) revitalization Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zones were created in southwestern and north-central North Dakota. They were created to address critical issues related to out-migration, constraints in economic activity and growth, low density settlement patterns, stagnant or declining employment and isolation that led to disconnection from markets, suppliers and centers of information and finance.

The two North Dakota REAP Zones were called the Southwest REAP Zone and CONAC (Center of North America Coalition for Rural Development) and implemented through a Memoranda of Agreement signed between the Zones, U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan and USDA Rural Development. The pilot project established a collaborative and citizen-led effort to enhance economic development in the two REAP Zones. The final MOA expired in September of 2012. However, set-asides in certain USDA Rural Development programs (i.e., RBEG, housing, etc.) may still be offered.

CONAC counties include: Benson, Bottineau, McHenry, Pierce, Rolette, Towner and the Spirit Lake Nation and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

Southwest counties include: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope and Stark.

Applicants wishing to apply under a REAP Zone set-aside must have the project benchmarked by the respective REAP Zone prior to the application submission.

Rural Economic Area Partnership funds will be used for projects identified in the Rural Economic Area Partnership Strategic Plan and Benchmark Management System documents, provided more than 75 percent of the benefits of the project will be received by residents within the Rural Economic Area Partnership census tract boundaries.

**Note 9- Native American Set Aside**

Native American funds will be used for projects where more than 75 percent of the benefits of the project will be received by members of a federally-recognized Native American Tribe.