

UNNUMBERED LETTERS ISSUED FOR THE JULY OF 2012

Dated	Subject	Distribution
07-05-12	Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program Technical Assistance for Rural Transportation Systems Fiscal Year 2012	S/D
07-05-12	Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program Native American Set-Aside Selections FY 2012	S/D
07-05-12	Intermediary Relending Program Mississippi Delta Region Counties Set-Aside	S/D
07-23-12	Interest Rate Changes for Business and Industry Loans	S/D, AD & RDM
07-26-12	Guidance on Approval of Plans and Specifications using Alternative Building Materials and Methods	S/D
07-27-12	Interest Rate Changes for Housing Programs and Credit Sales (Nonprogram)	S/D, AD & RDM

July 5, 2012

TO: State Directors, Rural Development

ATTENTION: Business Programs Directors

SUBJECT: Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program
Technical Assistance for Rural Transportation Systems
Fiscal Year 2012

We have recently completed the Technical Assistance for Rural Transportation Systems funding cycle. A notice was published in the Federal Register on February 1, 2012, announcing that a single grant would be available from the funds appropriated under the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program and another single grant from the Federally Recognized Native American Tribes set-aside for improving passenger transportation services or facilities. One application competed for the \$500,000 set-aside and one application competed for the \$250,000 Native American set-aside. The Community Transportation Association of America was selected for both grant awards.

Rural Transportation projects include:

AZ	Economic Collaborative of Northern Arizona
WI	Brown Cab, Inc.
WY	Prairie Hills Transit
MI	United Way of Clare County, Inc.

Native American Tribes set-aside projects include:

MI	Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
NV	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
WA	Nooksack Indian Tribe

EXPIRATION DATE:
September 30, 2012

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:
Community/Business Programs

In addition to the three projects listed above, the Native American set-aside will also assist five short-term projects which include:

AK	Chickaloon Village Traditional Council
WY	Northern Arapahoe Tribe
AL	Poarch Band of Creek Indians
OR	The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
WA	Squaxin Island Tribe

(Signed by John Broussard) for

PANDOR H. HADJY
Deputy Administrator
Business Program

July 5, 2012

TO: State Directors, Rural Development
ATTN: Business Programs Directors
SUBJECT: Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program
Native American Set-Aside Selections
Fiscal Year 2012

We have recently completed the fiscal year 2012 Native American set-aside funding cycle. The National Office received 35 requests for funds totaling \$4,346,747. We are pleased to announce that 27 projects were selected for \$3,230,955. Attached is the list of awardees.

This completes the Native American funding cycle established in RD Instruction 1940-L. Projects selected under the Native American set-aside must use the type of assistance code "310" when obligating. All set-aside funds allocated must have an obligation date of no later than September 30, 2012. Any funds not obligated by that date will be carried over to the next fiscal year.

(Signed by John Broussard) for

PANDOR H. HADJY
Deputy Administrator
Business Programs

Attachment

EXPIRATION DATE:
May 31, 2012

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:
Community/Business Programs

**Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program Native American
Fiscal Year 2012**

<u>State</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Amount</u>
NM	Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc.	\$50,000
ND	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	\$50,000
WA	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	\$37,329
AZ	Red Feather Development Group	\$33,520
MT	Northern Cheyenne Tribal Housing Authority	\$500,000
SD	Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate	\$300,000
NE	Little Priest Tribal College	\$40,000
NV	Wells Band of the TeMoak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians	\$52,800
OR	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon	\$30,000
CA	Yurok Economic Development Corporation	\$99,000
SC	Catawba Cultural Preservation Project	\$99,000
WI	Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.	\$99,999
OK	Cherokee Nation	\$252,185
AK	University of Alaska Anchorage, Small Business Development Center	\$250,000
WA	Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development	\$78,250
SD	Four Bands Community Funds, Inc.	\$99,000
OR	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	\$30,000
MT	Native American Development Corporation	\$194,235
NE	Ho-Chunk Community Development Corporation	\$54,541
AZ	Northern Arizona Technology & Business Incubator, Inc., dba Northern Arizona Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology	\$96,594
ND	Coalition of Indian Housing Authorities of North Dakota	\$160,000
WI	NiiJii Capital Partners, Inc.	\$85,770
NV	Moapa Band of Paiutes	\$65,000
CA	California Indian Manpower Consortium	\$114,143
SD	Lakota Funds, Inc.	\$99,900
AZ	Sipaulovi Community Development Corporation	\$199,500
NE	First Ponca Financial, Inc.	\$60,189
Total	27	\$3,230,955

July 5, 2012

TO: State Directors, Rural Development
ATTN: Business Programs Directors
SUBJECT: Intermediary Relending Program
Mississippi Delta Region Counties Set-Aside

This is the fiscal year 2012 funding cycle allocation for the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) Mississippi Delta Region Counties Set-Aside. The priority points for this project is inclusive of any Administrator points that were awarded. The allocation is as follows:

<u>State</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Priority Points</u>
AR	Community Resource Group, Inc.	\$ 400,000	138
Total		\$ 400,000	

IRP Mississippi Delta Region Counties set-aside funds should be obligated through the Guaranteed Loan System. Please ensure that **type of assistance code 317** is used for this set-aside to keep track of the use of these funds.

All requests received for this set-aside were funded. This is the only round of funding for this set-aside. Unused funds totaling \$4,765,289 will revert to the regular reserve on June 29, 2012.

(Signed by John Broussard) for

PANDOR H. HADJY
Deputy Administrator
Business Programs

EXPIRATION DATE:
September 30, 2012

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:
Community/Business Programs

July 23, 2012

TO: State Directors
Area Directors
Rural Development Managers

ATTN: Business Program Directors

FROM: John C. Padalino *(signed by John C. Padalino)*
Administrator
Rural Business-Cooperative Service

SUBJECT: Interest Rate Changes for Business and Industry Loans

The following interest rate is in effect July 1, 2012, through September 30, 2012.

<u>Loan Type</u>	<u>Existing Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
Direct Business and Industry	3.250%	3.250%

Please notify appropriate personnel of this rate.

EXPIRATION DATE:
September 30, 2012

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:
Administrative/Other Programs

Sent by Electronic Mail on July 23, 2012, at 2:30 pm by Program Analysis Branch. State Directors should advise other personnel as appropriate.

July 26, 2012

TO: State Directors
Rural Development

ATTN: Single-Family Housing (SFH) Program Directors, Multi-Family Housing (MFH) Program Directors, Community Facilities (CF) Program Directors, Loan Specialists, Public Information Coordinators (PICs)

FROM: Tammye Treviño *(Signed by Tammye Treviño)*
Administrator
Rural Housing Service

SUBJECT: Guidance on Approval of Plans and Specifications using Alternative Building Materials and Methods

Introduction

This unnumbered letter provides guidance to the Program Directors and Loan Specialists on the approval of building plans and specifications using alternative building materials and methods.

In recent years, there have been improvements in building technologies that are designed to address issues related to energy efficiency and healthier homes and buildings. While some of these products and systems, meet building code requirements and have been in use for many years, they may not be as readily available as standard products and methods because they have not yet become familiar to the mainstream building industry. They may also be less likely to have become popular yet in rural areas.

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service supports the use of building materials and methods that will improve the energy-efficiency and health of homes and buildings provided that these methods and products meet the code requirements of the jurisdiction in which the project will be constructed, and can be utilized within the project's scope and budget.

EXPIRATION DATE:
September 30, 2012

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:
Housing Programs

An example of a building method that is becoming more common is construction of single family homes and low-rise multifamily housing with Structural Insulated Panel Systems. These are pre-assembled walls that are designed to be more energy-efficient and require less labor than standard frame construction.

Single Family Housing Plan Certification

Section §1924.5 (f)(1) requires certification of building plans for all single family housing. If the project has indeed been certified as meeting building codes and our regulations, then the project is eligible to be funded. If there are questions or concerns regarding any material, method or procedure for design or construction, consult the state architect for assistance.

Conclusion

It is important for loan specialists to work closely with state architects when there are any questions about alternative building materials and methods.

Any suggestions, comments or suggestions on this Unnumbered Letter should be directed to Meghan Walsh, Architect, Program Support Staff, (202) – 205-9590, [Meghan.Walsh@wdc.usda.gov](mailto: Meghan.Walsh@wdc.usda.gov) or William Downs, Chief Architect, Program Support Staff, (202) 720-1499, [William.Downs@wdc.usda.gov](mailto: William.Downs@wdc.usda.gov).

July 27, 2012

TO: State Directors
Area Directors
Rural Development Managers

ATTN: Rural Housing Program Directors

FROM: Tammye Treviño (Signed by Cristina Chiappe) for
Administrator
Housing and Community Facilities Programs

SUBJECT: Interest Rate Changes for Housing Programs
and Credit Sales (Nonprogram)

The following interest rates, effective September 1, 2012, are reported as follows:

<u>Loan Type</u>	<u>Existing Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
ALL LOAN TYPES		
Treasury Judgment Rate	0.210%	0.170%

The new rate shown above is as of the week ending July 27, 2012. The actual judgment rate that will be used will be the rate for the calendar week preceding the date the defendant becomes liable for interest. This rate may be found by going to the Federal Reserve website for the weekly average 1-year Constant Maturity Treasury Yield (http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h15/data/Weekly_Friday_H15_TCMNOM_Y1.txt).

RURAL HOUSING LOANS

Rural Housing (RH) 502 Very-Low or Low	3.125	3.125
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EXPIRATION DATE:
August 31, 2012

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:
Administrative/Other Programs

Single Family Housing (SFH) Nonprogram	3.625	3.625
Rural Housing Site (RH-524), Non-Self-Help	3.125	3.125
Rural Rental Housing and Rural Cooperative Housing	3.125	3.125

Please notify appropriate personnel of these rates.

Sent by Electronic Mail on 8/23/12, at 3:00 pm by Policy Analysis Branch. State Directors should advise other personnel as appropriate.