

## STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

### **USDA Invites Organizations to Apply for Grants to Repair Affordable Housing in Rural Communities**

**WASHINGTON, June 14, 2024** – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Under Secretary Dr. Basil Gooden today announced that USDA is seeking applications for grants to repair or rehabilitate homes, rental properties or cooperatives for people in rural areas with low or very low incomes. USDA is providing the funding through the [Housing Preservation Grant](#) program.

The announcement was made as USDA celebrates [Homeownership Month](#) and the importance of expanding access to safe and affordable homes in rural America and on Tribal lands. Approximately \$12.2 million is being made available to eligible participants. Eligible applicants include most state or local governmental entities, federally recognized Indian Tribes, nonprofit groups and faith-based organizations.

For example, funds may be used to:

- Repair or replace electrical wiring, foundations, roofs, insulation, heating systems and water/waste disposal systems.
- Support accessibility features.
- Purchase construction materials.
- Finance administrative expenses up to 20%.

USDA continues to invest in programs specifically designed to bring federal funding and resources to people and communities in underserved rural areas. The Department is particularly interested in applications that will advance Biden-Harris Administration priorities to:

- Reduce climate pollution and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.
- Ensure all rural residents have equitable access to Rural Development (RD) programs and benefits from RD-funded projects.
- Help rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure.

In 2023, Western Maine Community Action and Penquis successfully secured Housing Preservation Grants [to help eligible local residents repair and rehabilitate their homes](#). Maine organizations interested in applying this year may contact Bonnie Hayes at the USDA Rural Development State Office in Bangor (207-990-9164 or [bonnie.hayes@usda.gov](mailto:bonnie.hayes@usda.gov)) for more information.

**Pre-applications for grants must be submitted by paper or electronically by 4:30 p.m. local time July 29, 2024.** For additional information, see page 50554 of the June 14, 2024, [Federal Register](#).

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