



STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Seeks Applications for Loans to Electric Utilities

(June 14, 2016) – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA is seeking applications from non-profit financial institutions for loans to finance rural electric and/or telecommunications infrastructure. Projects must be eligible under the Guarantees for Bonds and Notes Issued for Electrification or Telephone Purposes Program (the 313A Program), which is authorized under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

Applications will be accepted only from lenders that serve rural areas and must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Friday, July 15, 2016. USDA is making available up to \$750 million in funding for Fiscal Year 2016.

Under the 313A Program, the Federal Financing Bank (FFB) will make loans to the selected applicant (s) and RUS will guarantee repayment of the loans to FFB. Selected applicants may use the funds to make loans to borrowers for electrification or telecommunications purposes, or to refinance bonds or notes previously issued by the guarantor.

Fees from the 313A Program are used to fund USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program, which finances projects that create jobs and increase economic development in rural areas.

For additional details on the program and how to apply, see page 38660 of the June 14, 2016 [Federal Register](#).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.