

## STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

### USDA Invites Applications for Funding to Help Support Commercial Scale Biorefineries

WASHINGTON, August 3, 2018 – Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett today announced that USDA is accepting applications for funding under the [Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program](#).

The purpose of this program is to provide guaranteed loans to fund the development, construction, and retrofitting of commercial scale biorefineries using eligible technology and of Biobased product manufacturing facilities that convert renewable chemicals and other biobased outputs of biorefineries into end-user products, on a commercial scale. The program's objectives and outcomes are to:

- (1) create jobs and enhance the economic development of the rural economy;
- (2) diversify markets for agricultural and forestry products and agriculture waste material;
- (3) increase the energy independence of the United States; and
- (4) promote resource conservation, public health, and the environment.

For FY 2018, USDA is announcing two separate application cycles with the following due dates and times:

- October 1, 2018 (Due by 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time)
- April 1, 2019 (Due by 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time)

Applications received after the first deadline will be considered for the subsequent application cycle, provided that funding is still available. For more information on how to apply, see page 38119 of the August 3 [Federal Register](#).

USDA encourages applications that will support recommendations made in the report to the President from the [Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#) to help improve life in rural America. Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic investments in infrastructure, partnerships and innovation. Key strategies include:

- Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America
- Developing the Rural Economy
- Harnessing Technological Innovation
- Supporting a Rural Workforce
- Improving Quality of Life

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