

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Seeks Applications to Develop Biorefineries and Increase Availability of Biobased Products

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18, 2020 – United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Bette Brand today announced that the department is accepting applications for funding to develop, construct or retrofit commercial-scale biorefineries.

USDA is making the funding available through the [Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Products Manufacturing Assistance Program](#). The funding also may be used to convert renewable chemicals and other biobased outputs of biorefineries into end-user products on a commercial scale.

These loan guarantees are intended to create jobs and diversify markets for agricultural and forestry products and agricultural waste material. They also increase the energy independence of the United States; and promote resource conservation, public health and the environment.

The Department is announcing two separate application cycles. Applications must be submitted to the USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Program Processing Division by 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), October 1, and by 4:30 p.m. EDT April 1, 2021. Application materials can be obtained from the Department's [website](#).

USDA encourages applications that will support recommendations made in the [Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#) (PDF, 5.4 MB) 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

For additional information, please see page 59281 of the September 21 [Federal Register](#).

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