



Rural Economic Development Innovation (REDI) Initiative

Background

USDA and four of its partners, known as cooperators, are accepting applications from rural communities and regions for technical assistance to implement economic development planning projects. Through the Rural Economic Development Innovation (REDI) initiative, USDA and the cooperators will score, review and select applications on a competitive basis.

Who are the Cooperators?

USDA has cooperative agreements with [National Association of Counties](#); [Rural Community Assistance Partnership](#); [McClure Engineering Company](#); and [Purdue University Extension/Community & Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky](#). Each is experienced in building capacity and maximizing access to planning resources for rural communities.

On what topics can the Cooperator assist?

- Convening partners
- Identifying community challenges and opportunities
- Creating and implementing actionable economic development plans

What is an actionable economic development plan?

An actionable economic development plan includes:

- Evidence-based assessments;
- Quantifiable goals;
- Plans to improve the local and regional economy; and
- Metrics to track implementation and progress.

Who may apply for this program?

Rural communities with 50,000 or fewer people are eligible to apply.

How to apply

1. Contact RD.Innovation@osec.usda.gov to request an application.
2. Submit an optional one-page letter of interest to the Rural Development Innovation Center, RD.Innovation@osec.usda.gov, by March 8, 2019.
3. Submit a completed application, using subject line "REDI Application" to RD.Innovation@osec.usda.gov by April 5, 2019.

For questions

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