



June Grant Newsletter

June 19, 2014

Dear Fellow Hoosiers,

Thriving, active communities are the backbone of every state. In Indiana we have a host of mid- to smaller sized communities that greatly contribute to our prosperity. There are many programs on the federal level designed to help support and grow these communities so that they can continue to attract fresh investment and active citizens. This year, the new five-year Farm Bill is taking effect, and there are some different, as well as revised, programs in it of which you should be aware. In addition, many federal agencies offer programs to help with community planning. Information is listed at the end of this newsletter.

Should you have any questions about the information provided, please contact Marianne Black in my office at Marianne_black@donnelly.senate.gov. If you would like to request a letter of support from me, please visit www.donnelly.senate.gov/help/grants.

Sincerely,

Senator Joe Donnelly



GRANTS & RESOURCES

USDA Rural Development

Your local Rural Development office is your best source for information and assistance with issues affecting rural communities. They have a range of programs geared for low populations – typically 20,000 people and under. For information about the many programs they have for Community Development, Business, and Utilities go to <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/IN-Home.html>.

USDA has revised some programs and added new ones through the 2014 Farm Bill. Many of these programs are rolling out now:

Community Connect Grant Program - Through the Community Connect Grant Program, USDA plans to provide up to \$13 million to fund broadband in unserved areas to support economic growth and deliver enhanced educational, health care and public safety services. Grants will be prioritized based on areas where broadband service does not exist, provide a community center with broadband access, and offer broadband service to all residential and business customers. Information on eligibility and requirements can be found [here](#).

Rural Utility Service (RUS) will host a public webinars on the Community Connect program on July 2, 2014 from 1-3 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Registration is required for these sessions. [Please see this flyer](#) for details on how to register.

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.

This new program combines the authorities of four former conservation programs – the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative and the Great Lakes Basin Program.

RCPP encourages partners to join in efforts with producers to increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife and related natural resources on regional or watershed scales. Through RCPP, NRCS and its partners help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas.

Eligible partners include agricultural or silvicultural producer associations, farmer cooperatives or other groups of producers, state or local governments, American Indian tribes, municipal water treatment entities, water and irrigation districts, conservation-driven nongovernmental organizations and institutions of higher education.

For more information, go to the [NRCS web site](#).

Rural Housing Preservation Grants

The Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program provides grants to low-income homeowners for the repair or rehabilitation of low- and very low-income housing. The program is competitive and is available in areas where there is a concentration of need. Those assisted must own the housing either as homeowners, landlords, or members of a cooperative. Very low income is defined as below 50 percent of the area median income (AMI); low income is between 50 and 80 percent of AMI. Funds must be used within a two-year period. Financial assistance may be awarded in the form of a grant, loan, or other comparable assistance.

Pre-Application packets are being taken until 5:00 p.m. EST on July 28, 2014. The Pre-Application packet can be found [here](#).

For more information about this program, or to file an application, contact the local [Rural Development](#) office in your area.

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

The REAP program offers grants and/or loan guarantees for the purchase and installation of renewable energy generating systems. Assistance is limited to small businesses, farmers and ranchers. Projects must be located in a rural area. Remember, complete grant applications must be filed by July 7th and guaranteed loan applications are due July 31, 2014. You can find more information [here](#).

You can find a good summary of the highlights of the 2014 Farm Bill [here](#).

Useful Information:

Housing and Urban Development offers information resources that can be helpful when planning community improvement projects:

Sustainable Communities

Are you interested in creating a sustainable community? Several federal agencies including HUD, DOT, and EPA have produced a document that shares success stories and valuable links to funding information which can be found at www.sustainablecommunities.gov/pdf/federal_resources_rural.pdf.

[Click here to view this message in your browser.](#)

Please do not reply to this email. To contact my office, [please click here](#).

Senator Joe Donnelly
Office Locations



Washington, D.C.

720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4814
Fax: (202) 224-5011

Indianapolis, IN

10 West Market Street Suite 1180
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (317) 226-5555
Fax: (855) 772-7518

For a full list of office locations, please [click here](#).

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Click Here](#) to be removed from this list