



April Grant Newsletter

April 25, 2014

Dear Fellow Hoosiers,

At long last, spring has arrived across Indiana. Soon, crops will be growing, children will be playing outside, and we will all be enjoying local parks and lakes.

Of course, spring rains often bring flooding and storm water issues. Spring is also the traditional time to fix and clean up our homes and communities. For rural communities, these perennial issues and annual tasks are often a financial burden.

There are many programs on the federal level that are designed to help keep our smaller communities economically sound, safe for all citizens, and pleasant places to live and work. I hope the suggestions below can help your community enhance the quality of life for everyone who lives there.

Please note that I will be welcoming a new Grants Director, Marianne Black, in mid-May when Beth Barrett retires. She can be contacted at Marianne_black@donnelly.senate.gov.

Sincerely,





Senator Joe Donnelly

HUD

Promise Zones - HUD

The Promise Zone Initiative is part of President Obama's plan to collaborate with and invest in communities—whether they are urban, rural or tribal—to create jobs, leverage private investment, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities, and improve public safety. For more information, click [here](#).

An interactive webinar on **Wednesday, April 30th** will give you the information you need to know about the **Promise Zone Initiative for Rural Communities**. Topics will include: eligibility criteria, best practices from the first round, and a timeline for the second round.

[Promise Zone Initiative Stakeholder Webinar \(RURAL\)](#)

April 30, 2014, Wednesday

3:00-4:00 p.m. EST (please adjust for your local time)

Please [RSVP here](#) to receive the RURAL webinar link.

RSVPs are due by 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2014.

Webinar links will be sent out on Monday, April 28, 2014.

The Rural Gateway

The Rural Gateway is a HUD information clearinghouse providing technical assistance, training workshops, and peer learning and resource sharing to support rural housing and economic development. For more information, click [here](#).

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 [here](#).

Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program

The purpose of RHSP is to re-house or improve the housing situations of persons who are homeless or in the worst housing situation; stabilize the housing of individuals and families who are at risk of becoming homeless; and improve the ability of the lowest-income residents of the county to afford stable housing. Find more information [here](#).

FEMA

Federal Disaster Aid Programs

The harsh winter storms hit many communities with damage and snow removal costs. Senator Donnelly was pleased that federal disaster aid programs were made available as needed and warranted under President Obama's disaster declaration recently

issued for the State of Indiana counties of Boone, Clay, Hendricks, Huntington, Jasper, Kosciusko, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Noble, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Tipton, Vigo, Wabash, White, and Whitley. For more information, click [here](#).

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

The FY 2014 Funding Opportunity Announcement is currently under development. Expect to see the announcements for the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants) and AFG Application period openings this summer. For information and guides, click [here](#).

USDA Rural Development

The first stop for information and assistance with issues affecting rural communities is Rural Development. For details about the many programs they have for Community Development, Business, and Utilities, click [here](#).

The folks at USDA Rural Development shared a wonderful tool for finding funding for water and waste projects. Created by the Environmental Infrastructure Working Group (EIWG), comprised of representatives from various state and federal government agencies and other organizations that meet with communities to discuss funding options for water and wastewater infrastructure projects, this matrix provides funding sources, eligibility and contacts that will guide you to the best funding source for your project. The group has also reviewed storm water and economic development project funding options. The document can be found [here](#).

The Intermediary Relending Program is USDA Rural Development's primary program for capitalizing revolving loan funds. USDA lends money to economic development intermediaries (nonprofits and public bodies) who in turn re-lend the funds as commercial loans to rural businesses (the ultimate recipients) that might not otherwise be able to obtain such financing. The repayment of the ultimate recipients' loans allows the intermediary to continue to make more loans to new recipients, supporting sustainable economic development.

Funds are used to assist with financing business and economic development activity to create or retain jobs in disadvantaged and remote communities. Intermediaries are encouraged to work with state and regional representatives and in partnership with other public and private organizations that can provide complimentary resources. For more information about the Intermediary Relending Program, and to learn about application deadlines, [visit their website](#).

Economic Development Administration

EDA Economic Development Assistance Programs

EDA will make construction, non-construction, and revolving loan fund investments under the Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs. Grants made under these programs will leverage regional assets to support the implementation of regional economic development strategies designed to create jobs, leverage private capital, encourage economic development, and strengthen America's ability to compete in the global marketplace.

Funding is released in several cycles. For more information, click [here](#).

Department of Justice

COPS Hiring Program

The COPS Hiring Program (CHP) is for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers in an effort to create and preserve jobs and increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. FY 2014 COPS Hiring Program (CHP) will be open and **accepting applications beginning in mid- to late May**. So that your agency can prepare for this upcoming solicitation, the 2014 CHP Application Guide can be found [here](#).

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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](#).

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