

From: [Oliver Orjiako](#)
To: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
Subject: FW: USDA Offers Grants for Programs to Create High-Wage Jobs and New Businesses in Underserved Rural Communities
Date: Monday, September 23, 2024 8:26:27 AM

Hi Jeff,

For the comp plan index of record. Thanks.

From: Clark County Citizens United, Inc. <cccuinc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 6:03 PM
To: Gary Medvigy <Gary.Medvigy@clark.wa.gov>; Karen Bowerman <Karen.Bowerman@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>; Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Jose Alvarez <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>; Brent Davis <Brent.Davis@clark.wa.gov>; CommDev OA Land Use <CommDevOALandUse@clark.wa.gov>; Eric Golemo <egolemo@sgaengineering.com>; Tyler Castle <wfivancouver@gmail.com>; Summer Steenbarger <summer@preservingtheharvest.net>
Subject: USDA Offers Grants for Programs to Create High-Wage Jobs and New Businesses in Underserved Rural Communities

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Clark County Council
PUBLIC RECORD AND THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

September 20, 2024

FOR THE

Re: USDA Offers Grants for Programs to Create High-Wage Jobs and New Businesses in Underserved Rural Communities

Dear Councilors,

Clark County Citizens United, Inc. believes there are great job opportunities waiting, not only for rural people, but for all of Clark County citizens, with the advent of the Clelatchie Prairie Railroad 33 mile improvement. The possibility of citizens commuting to jobs, right here in our communities, would fit the climate bill agenda to a "T". Just think.....no more driving 25 to 45 minutes to Vancouver or Portland to work. Driving 10 minutes or hopping on a train for 15 minutes, to get to work, would be optimal. There are many wonderful opportunities waiting to make that happen, by improving and using the existing railroad tracks, but it takes courage and foresight to do that. Let's make it happen.

Sincerely,

Carol Levanen, Exec. Secretary,

USDA Offers Grants for Programs to Create High-Wage Jobs and New Businesses in Underserved Rural Communities

Name

Ernie Watson

Email

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505-761-4951

City

Albuquerque, N.M.

Release Date

Jan 03, 2024

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2, 2024 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that USDA is accepting grant applications for community-driven programs that will help create high-wage jobs and new businesses in underserved rural communities.

The Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) program encourages regional, innovation-driven approaches to economic development by funding job accelerator partnerships in low-income and underserved rural communities.

For fiscal year 2024, the program is making approximately \$2 million available to partnerships of local governments, investors, industry, institutions of higher education, and other public and private entities in rural areas. The funding may be used to support innovation centers and job accelerator programs that improve the ability of distressed rural communities to create high-

wage jobs, form new businesses, and identify and maximize local assets.

USDA encourages applications that serve the smallest communities with the lowest incomes. USDA is particularly interested in applications that will advance Biden-Harris Administration priorities to:

- Reduce climate pollution and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.
- Ensure all rural residents have equitable access to Rural Development (RD) programs and benefits from RD-funded projects; and
- Help rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure.

The deadline to submit applications is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, April 1, 2024. Applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Potential applicants may submit a concept proposal for review by the agency to Grants.gov no later than 4:30 p.m. local time Feb. 1, 2024.

The minimum award amount per grant is \$500,000. The maximum award amount per grant is \$2 million.

For additional information, see page 43 of the Jan. 2, 2024, [Federal Register](#).

Applicants are encouraged to contact their nearest USDA [Rural Development State Office](#) ahead of the application deadline for more information about the program or the application process.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in

rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our [GovDelivery subscriber page](#).

USDA Rural Development

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