

USDA Rural Development Funding

By Doug Buresh, ARRA Circuit Rider

USDA Rural Development has stimulus funding available to eligible Nebraska water and wastewater systems through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These may take the form of loan or loan and grant funding. Time is of the essence. Stimulus funds, while they last, are available through September 30, 2010. Water and waste disposal systems, including solid waste disposal and storm drainage in rural areas and towns with a population of 10,000 or less are included in this program through Rural Development's Rural Utilities Programs. Funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, and Indian tribes. In addition, funds may be made available to corporations operated on a not-for-profit basis.

Applicants must:

1. Be unable to obtain needed funds from other sources at reasonable rates and terms.
2. Have legal capacity to borrow and repay loans, to pledge security for loans, and to operate and maintain the facilities or services.
3. Be financially sound and able to manage the facility effectively.
4. Have a financially sound facility based on taxes, assessments, revenues, fees, or other satisfactory sources of income to pay all facility costs including operation and maintenance, and to retire the indebtedness and maintain a reserve.

Systems must go through Rural Development's normal application process for this funding. Contact your USDA-RD Area office to get started. Or visit their web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne. Or you may contact me at (402) 480-3596 or e-mail at doug@nerwa.org.

