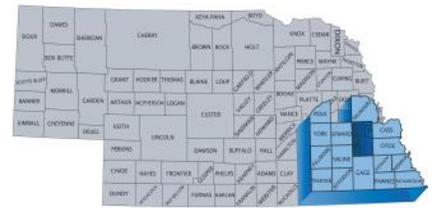


SEND D

Southeast Nebraska Development District



NEWS FROM THE SENDD HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The SENDD Housing Department has been hard at work scheduling owner-occupied rehabilitation projects throughout the southeast Nebraska region. The housing specialists are currently managing seven owner-occupied rehabilitation programs and two down payment assistance programs. Applications for assistance and guidelines are available on the SENDD website.

Each owner-occupied program is typically designed to assist approximately eight to nine low-to-moderate income clients to repair their home. Most types of home repairs are eligible through the program, including roof replacement, furnace replacement, plumbing and electrical upgrades, handicap accessibility needs, and other minor repairs.

Funding for these programs is provided by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Applications for funding for fiscal year 2016 will be available soon. Application deadline dates are not yet finalized, however are anticipated to be around May 13, 2016 for Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Funds and August 15, 2016 for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) pre-applications and October 14, 2016 for CDBG full applications. If your community is interested in starting a housing rehabilitation program, please contact Judi Meyer at 402-475-2560.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently added a new requirement that all contractors and subcontractors receiving federal funds must now register for the SAM Award System. The requirement includes communities and counties that are recipients of

federal grants as well as contractors and subcontractors hired to make home repairs. Information about assistance with completing the SAM registration process is included on page two of this newsletter.



Before and after photos of home rehabilitated in Falls City, Nebraska.



FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

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Free Assistance for SAM Registration

All CDBG and HOME contractors and subcontractors must register within the System for Award Management (SAM) system before receiving these federal resources. Registering under the SAM system can be a difficult task at times, especially for those registering for the first time.

There is help available to assist those seeking to register for SAM in order to receive federal funds. The Nebraska Business Development Center's procurement technical assistance program offers consulting services to Nebraska business owners on a number of topics related to government contract opportunities, including SAM registration, **at no cost.**

This link will take you to a brochure that fully lays out the services offered by NBDC's procurement and technical assistance program: http://nbdc.unomaha.edu/government-contracting/pubs/ptac_brochure.pdf.

This link will take you to a list of government contracting consultants across the state: <http://nbdc.unomaha.edu/government-contracting/consultants.cfm>.

These free services are a great opportunity for those contractors and subcontractors looking to work on CDBG and HOME projects. There are also numerous trainings and workshops through NBDC that might be beneficial as well. I encourage you to investigate these resources and share them with others that may find them useful.

USDA RUS Grant Applications Available

USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is soliciting applications for Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grants for FY 2016. The Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) outlines that applications are due March 14, 2016.

There is a minimum grant amount of \$50,000 and a maximum grant amount of \$500,000 for eligible applicants. The grants, which are awarded through a competitive process, may be used to fund telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies which extend educational and medical applications into rural areas.

Details on how to apply can be found online at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants> and on page 1388 of the January 12, 2016 *Federal Register*. USDA will publish on its website the total amount of DLT funding available for FY 2016.

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SERN QUARTERLY MEETING

RSVP and SAVE the DATE for the next Quarterly SERN Meeting to be held on **Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Plattsmouth State Bank – Main Location**. Lunch will be available at the cost of the attendee (*Must register in advance, cancellations at least 2 days prior to meeting. No shows will be billed*).

Please RSVP for attendance by Friday, February 12 to the SERN host, Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce at: ccruse@plattsmouthchamber.com

Include RSVP for attendance at each: 1. Meeting 2. Lunch and 3. Presentation/Tour

SouthEast Nebraska Resource Network (SERN) members share information about successes, initiatives, resources, and programs for the region and connect with Federal, State, and Local resource providers. The SERN Region includes: Polk, Butler, Saunders, York, Seward, Lancaster, Cass, Otoe, Fillmore, Saline, Gage, Johnson, Nemaha, Thayer, Jefferson, Pawnee, and Richardson.

Please contact Craig Eberle to be added to the SERN Email Distribution list or for more information about SERN.

USDA AWARDS FUNDS

USDA Rural Development announces that the Village of Hubbell, Nebraska is the recipient of a Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH) grant of \$30,000.

"Rural Development funds will be used for construction of a test well to ensure an adequate source of clean water is available for a second well," said USDA Rural Development Community Programs Specialist, Cherry Neverve.

The SEARCH program helps very small, financially distressed rural communities with predevelopment feasibility studies, design assistance, and technical assistance on proposed water and waste disposal projects.

For more information on the SEARCH program, contact Cherry Neverve at 308-237-3118 ext. 124 or Cheryl.neverve@ne.usda.gov.

Visit <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/search-special-evaluation-assistance-rural-communities-and-households/ne>.

USDA Rural Development also awarded \$458,000 to the Village of Lewiston, Nebraska. The funds will be used to upgrade the existing wastewater facilities and to construct new facilities.

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