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CHANGE IN CDBG PROGRAM INCOME GUIDELINES FOR ED GRANTS

Effective July 1, 2007, there will be significant changes in the Community Development Block Grant Economic Development program income provisions.

Beginning with the 2008 Program Year, the state is implementing policies that allow local governments that actively use program income from the Economic Development category to retain those funds. The state will require local governments that have been inactive in using their program income from the Economic Development category to **return their program income to the state** for redistribution as set forth in the Annual Action Plan.

The state will use Program Income reports submitted by local governments and/or other information obtained from local governments to determine if they have been active or inactive in using their program income from the Economic Development (ED) category. Local governments that have used their ED program income to fund at least one project since June 30, 2006 will be considered active, if no projects have been funded since June 30, 2006, they will be considered inactive. The state will allow local governments with inactive program income accounts to retain \$25,000. Amounts in excess of \$25,000 shall be returned to the state. Also, any funds in excess of \$750,000 shall be returned to the state.

Grantees may seek to form sub-grantee relationships with local nonprofit organizations to administer Revolving Loan Funds. The local government grantee funded by the State would provide the CDBG funds to a Community Based Development Organization (CBDO). The CBDO must be recognized by the State according to the requirements of 24CFR 570.204.

The report generated by the Department of Economic Development last June indicated \$9,443,324 in ED program income across the state with many of the community accounts considered inactive.

For more information on the changes, consult the Department of Economic Development's Proposed 2007 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development Programs. You will find it prominently listed on the right side of the DED homepage www.neded.org

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

As the year winds down, it is time to reflect on the Commission and the impact it has had, especially on rural Nebraska, this past year.

Rolling out the Building Entrepreneurial Communities and the Value-Added Agriculture grant programs has required considerable staff time. We are beginning to process the early reimbursement requests so we know projects are underway and anticipate exciting results and new opportunities for Nebraskans. Watch the newsletter in 2007 for periodic updates on projects.

We continue to partner with other entities in the state, region, and on the national level who are working on issues and challenges facing rural Nebraska and rural America. There is considerable work to be done and everyone involved has limited staff and resources so sharing the work benefits everyone.

We will start 2007 with a briefing for the Senators on January 18—we have lots of good news to share with them.

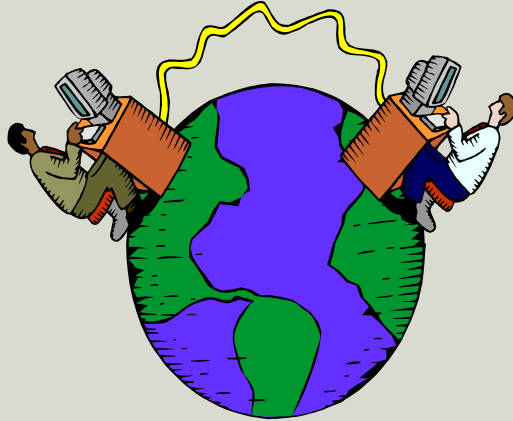
Happy Holidays!

Linda

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MEET THE RESOURCES



Check out the Nebraska State government website for links to all state agencies, current news releases, the public meeting calendar, and some new resources such as a 360 virtual tour of the Capitol. With the reconvening of the Unicameral, the bill tracker service is another great feature. All this and more at www.nebraska.gov.

Rural Nebraska funding opportunities will be explored at January workshop.

People interested in learning about ways in which to fund projects may want to register for the free January 9 workshop that will be telecast to sites statewide. The workshop will feature information on the Building Entrepreneurial Communities grant (the next application deadline is February 9), Nebraska Advantage program information as it relates to rural and micro-enterprise businesses, and information about the Nebraska Community Capital Fund, New Market Tax Credits and New Market Tax Credit Business Loans.

For more information on the workshop and scheduled sites, or to register, contact Sandra.Kaskie@ded.ne.gov. Pre-registrations are requested to receive handout information.

PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS

On behalf of the Rural Development Commission, Linda is involved in the Nebraska Economic Developers Association (NEDA), Mid-Plains Community College Center for Enterprise advisory board, Partnership for Rural America (PRA) board (representing a six-state region), National Rural Development Partners (NRDP), GROW Nebraska advisory board, Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) community committee, Partnership for Rural Nebraska (PRN), Nebraska Value-Added Partnership (NEVAP), and the UNL advisory committee to the Textiles Department.



LESSONS LEARNED (or to be learned)

At a recent seminar, I had the opportunity to hear former astronaut Rick Searfoss speak on leadership. Here are some highlights from his presentation.

Rick says “Leadership is influencing good for others”. He introduces his leadership concepts with the acronym “PAPA” which stands for Preparation, Awareness, Persistence, and Accountability.

Rick then added his 5 “P’s” of leadership:

PURPOSE—choose to do the hard things. Pick a mission that matters and is a service to others. Always keep your purpose in mind.

PROGRAM—no mission is over until the debriefing has been completed. It is imperative to have honest, frank feedback so real lessons can be learned. He suggests something he calls the “murder board” to find all the flaws in the program so they can be remedied.

PEOPLE—Rick stressed the need for team building. He suggested a matrix of all the skills needed to meet the purpose and accomplish the project. The team

members need to be “trust-worthy” - that means being committed to the purpose and “worthy of trust”. He also emphasized helping people overcome challenges—both professional and personal.

PERSPECTIVE—opportunities might be fleeting. Dare to be a “penguin” leader (one willing to be first so others can follow safely).

Rick says to challenge timing questions with three thoughts: Should we do it NOW? If not, WHEN? Should we EVER do it?

His parting words were: “YOUR efforts can have global impacts!”



COMMISSION CORNER



CONGRATULATIONS to Commissioner Christine Peterson on her recent promotion to CEO of the Health and Human Services System.



Remember if you have represented the RDC or have been highlighted at some public function, please share the information with the commission.

RDC VISION

The Nebraska Rural Development Commission seeks, through advocacy and action, to improve the quality of life in rural Nebraska.

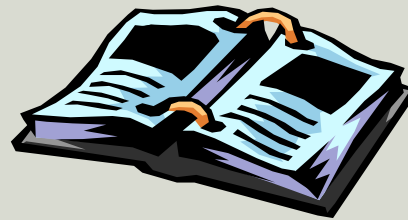
RDC MISSION

The Nebraska Rural Development Commission is a voice for rural Nebraska communities in the creation of laws, policies, and other initiatives that affect their economic, civic, and social conditions, and foster cooperation and understanding among all agencies and organizations, public and private.

CALENDAR CORNER

- Jan 8**—Food Processing “From Recipe to Reality” workshop in Lincoln
- Jan 9**—satellite training on BECA, Nebraska Advantage rural incentives, and New Market Tax Credits
- Jan 10**—NDN-CR meeting in Holdrege
- Jan 10**—Rural Institute planning meeting in Holdrege
- Jan 16**—Partnership for Rural Nebraska board meeting in Lincoln
- Jan 22**—Nebraska Affordable Housing Program—pre-application deadline
- Jan 23**—NDN Panhandle meeting in Bridgeport
- Feb 6-7**—Agri/Eco-tourism workshop in Kearney

**NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:
JANUARY 18, 2007—LINCOLN**



**ENTREPRENEURIAL
COMMUNITIES GRANT
APPLICATION DEADLINE
Feb 9, 2007 (noon)**

Rural Development Commission

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