

**From:** Brady, Ted - RD, MONTPELIER, VT <[Ted.Brady@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Ted.Brady@vt.usda.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 4, 2015 6:00 PM

**To:** Bill Botzow All the best,  
Bill

**Subject:** Follow up from USDA RD Testimony

Chairman Botzow,

Thank you for your time today. As promised, below is the announcement of our Rural Business Development Grant for non-profits and municipalities. Also, here's a link to our annual report:

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/VTNHAnnualReport2014.pdf>.

Great chatting with the committee today. Thanks for the invite.

Ted

## Rural Business Development Grant

(Formerly Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) and Rural Business Opportunities Grant (RBOG))

### Applications Requested

**VERMONT APPLICATIONS DUE: Friday May 1, 2015**

**Application Cycle Open: USDA Rural Development invites applications to compete for FY15 funding for the Rural Business Development Grant program. Applications are being accepted for both State and Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP Zone) areas.**

Eligible applicants for grant funds include non-profits, municipalities, development corporations, and state agencies.

Rural Business Development Grant Program (RDBG) has consolidated both the Rural Business Enterprise and Rural Business Opportunities grant programs into one grant program. Please indicate which project type you are applying for (see below).

- Rural Business Enterprise Activities: Technical assistance (i.e. feasibility studies, marketing plans) and equipment purchases (grantee must retain ownership) are encouraged (i.e. shared biz incubator equipment). Projects involving construction or revolving loan funds are discouraged due to limited funds allocated.
- Rural Business Opportunity Activities: Promote sustainable economic development in rural communities, economic planning for rural communities, provide technical assistance to rural businesses, or provide training for rural entrepreneurs, or comprehensive area wide planning.  
**Please note: Funding for RBOG like activities has been limited to 10% of available funds. Please contact Rural Development if you are seeking funds for an RBOG like activity.**

**Agency Initiative:** Nearly all business sectors can be assisted with the program. However, USDA-RD is placing specific emphasis on the following business sectors in 2015.

1. Projects that support the USDA's Bio economy Initiative
2. Projects that impact locally produced / locally manufactured food networks and/or distribution systems.
3. Projects located in USDA's targeted High Poverty Areas in support of USDA's Poverty Funding Initiative  
**Pre-Screen:** Please call the office listed below (802) 828-6002 to pre-screen your project. We highly encourage pre-screening prior to application submission. We encourage you to discuss and submit your proposals early. Please do not wait until the deadline!

To compete for the Vermont State Allocation or the NEK REAP Zone Reserve, your completed application must be received by close of business **Friday, May 1, 2015** at the RD Montpelier office – 87 State Street, Suite 324 – PO Box 249 – Montpelier, VT 05601.

To learn more about the program, please visit the following website: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/vt>. Application is the same for both types of activities. A summary of selected Vermont projects funded during 2014 is provided for your information and reference.

**Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) & Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG) – FY 2014**

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Use Of Funds</b>	<b>\$ Amount/ Source of Funds</b>
Rutland Regional Planning Commission	Agritourism Toolkit	\$45,000 State Allocation
Hawks Mountain Ridge Riders	Groomer	\$77,000 State Allocation
Sterling College	Internship Development	\$25,499 State Allocation
Vermont State Colleges	E-Commerce Advising Training	\$32,501 State Allocation
Burke Area Chamber of Commerce	Connecting Businesses with local resources	\$69,000 REAP Zone
Saint Johnsbury Works, Inc.	Downtown Revitalization Project	\$76,160 REAP Zone
Northern Community Investment Corporation	Technical Assistance – Small Businesses	\$250,000 REAP Zone
Vermont Farm-to-School	Scale Up Green Mountain Farm Direct	\$102,110 REAP Zone
Northern Community Investment Corporation	Model Neighborhood Wood Heat Initiative	\$100,000 REAP Zone (Opportunity Like Activity)
Vermont Council on Rural Development	Planning – Community Revitalization	\$100,000 REAP Zone (Opportunity Like Activity)
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets	Feasibility Analysis for ON-Farm Renewable Natural Gas Production for Transportation Fuels	\$97,433 REAP Zone (Opportunity Like Activity)
Northern Community Investment Corporation	Business Plan and Feasibility Study to establish priorities for expanding broadband services to Rural Communities	\$100,000 REAP Zone (Opportunity Like Activity)
The Center for an Agricultural Economy	Update the Regional Food System Plan	\$91,729 REAP Zone (Opportunity Like Activity)
Northern Forest Center	Tourism Destination Coordination and Marketing Initiative	\$100,000 REAP Zone (Opportunity Like Activity)

+++++

Ted Brady  
 State Director – Vermont and New Hampshire  
 USDA Rural Development  
 (802) 828-6066 (direct) | (802) 505-3136 (cell)  
[ted.brady@vt.usda.gov](mailto:ted.brady@vt.usda.gov)

+++++

Sign Up for Vermont and New Hampshire Email Updates:



Stay Connected with Twitter: 

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.