

SUBJECT: Value-added Grant Information

Friends:

June 15, 2004

The Value-added Grant Notice of Funding/Request for Proposals has been published in the Federal Register Today, June 15, 2004. Volume 69, Number 114 page 33348.

Applications must be filed by 4:00 P.M. EDT (**1:00 PDT**) **on July 30, 2004.**

Applicants may access the program regulation, the Notice of Funding, and applicable forms at the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm>

Program regulations are included in **7 CFR 4284** Subpart A and Subpart J. Click on the link to program regulations and then click on the lower left portion of the page with the link to **7 CFR 4284.**

Forms can be found by clicking on “Forms” under the “Applications” Heading. The forms are the most recent version and are fillable forms.

The Notice of Funding is found under the “Funding Announcements” Heading. Click on and download the 2004 Announcement.

READ THE PROGRAM REGULATIONS AND NOTICE OF FUNDING CAREFULLY. IT IS THE APPLICANT SOLE RESPONSIBILITY TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE NOTICE OF FUNDING AND APPLICATION SUBMITTAL.

There have been changes to the scoring system and to the limitations on page numbers, enclosures, and eligibility. Read the definitions carefully.

Additional criteria have been added:

Small farm – having an average gross sales of \$250,000 or less over the last three fiscal years.

Community and Industry Support: local business associations, industry associations, and political institutions that support the project and why that support is important to the project. State and National Congressional support will not be considered. This is different than the letters of support referenced in Criteria 4 (Planning) and Criteria 3 (Working Capital) commitments and support.

Commitments and Support (Criteria 3 or 4) must have evidence of **Producer** commitments and **End Users**, as well as **third party** financial, in-kind and technical support. Applicants must address all three areas to be competitive.

Submit applications to one of the following locations either in paper or preferably in electronic format. Specifications for submittal are contained in the NOFA. Filing deadline is July 30, 2004 at 1:00 PM PDT (4:00 P.M. EDT)

Northwestern Washington: ATTN. Tuana Jones (tuana.jones@wa.usda.gov) or Linda Knight (Linda.knight@wa.usda.gov) or mail to Rural Development 2021 E. College Way, Suite 216, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273-3610 360-428-4322 ext 158 or 159

Counties: Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Island, San Juan, Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap

Southwestern Washington: ATTN.: Gayle Hoskison (gayle.hoskison@wa.usda.gov) or Don Wagoner (don.wagoner@wa.usda.gov) or mail to Rural Development, 1835 Black Lake Blvd., SW, Suite C, Olympia, WA 98512-5716 360-704-7753 or 360-704-7724

Counties: Grays Harbor, Mason, Pacific, Whakiakum, Clark, Lewis, Thurston, Pierce, Cowlitz, Skamania.

Southeastern Washington: ATTN.: Randy Baird (Randy.baird@wa.usda.gov) or Dan McNeley (Daniel.mcneley@wa.usda.gov) or mail to Rural Development, 1606 Perry Street, Suite E, Yakima, WA 98902-5769 509-454-5743 EXT 130 or 134

Counties: Klickitat, Yakima, Kittitas, Franklin, Benton, Walla Walla, Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Adams, Whitman

Northeastern Washington: ATTN.: Melanie Drecksel (Melanie.drecksel@wa.usda.gov) or Le Debes (Leroy.debes@wa.usda.gov) or mail to Rural Development, Room 314, Federal Bldg, 301 Yakima Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801-2993 509-664-0200 EXT 220 or 509-924-7350 EXT 115

Counties: Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Lincoln, Grant

State Rural Business Program Office: Attn.: Chris Cassidy, Program Director, 1835 Black Lake Blvd., SW, Suite B, Olympia, WA 98512-5716 360-704-7762 or 509-454-5743 EXT 129

Chris.cassidy@wa.usda.gov

Clint Kaasa, State Business Program Specialist, 509-704-7762 clint.kaasa@wa.usda.gov

John Brugger, State Cooperative Specialist, 509-924-7350 EXT 114 john.brugger@wa.usda.gov