



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

*Review: Rural applications hold close. PFW*

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Christine Varney  
Deputy Assistant to the President and  
Secretary of the Cabinet

**FROM:** Fred Slayback  
Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs and  
Counsel to the Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Program

**DATE:** July 6, 1994

1. Overview

The deadline for receipt of applications was June 30, 1994. USDA received 220 applications from communities seeking designation as rural empowerment zones or enterprise communities.

There are 36 states represented in the applications. The largest number of applications received were from Alabama (10), Arkansas (11), California (10), Georgia (9), Kentucky (12), Louisiana (18), Mississippi (17), New Mexico (12), South Carolina (9), Tennessee (10), Texas (22), and West Virginia (10). Attached is a list of applicants as of July 5, 1994. We expect that this list will undergo slight changes as applicants may have delivered packages to the wrong Department (we have received one application this week that was incorrectly submitted to HUD).

USDA refurbished existing leased space on 7th and D Streets, SW (the Reporter's Building) and, with HUD's assistance, has set up the a government-wide work site for all members of the CEB to review urban and rural applications.

Reviewers from USDA, HHS, Transportation, Justice, Commerce, Education, SBA and EPA are working in teams of five for comprehensive reviews of rural applications that range in volume from 3 inches to 3 boxes.

2. Review Process

USDA has created a process that will bring in the expertise of the various members of the CEB and provide the board with the Secretary's recommendations by the beginning of

September. The dates provided are estimated starting times for each activity. We anticipate that all operations will overlap.

**July 5th Eligibility Review Process Initiated**

During the first week, approximately 20 staff conduct an eligibility review of applications, ensuring that applications are complete and that applicant satisfies poverty, size and population criteria. Applications that are not complete will be submitted to the outreach staff who will contact applicants and provide 10 working days to remedy or submit the corrected items.

**July 5th Technical Review Process Initiated**

Approximately 40 employees, in teams of 5, begin to review the content of the applications. The review should not take longer than 2 days per application. Teams are structured with one manager, person with experience in the process, and four reviewers -- from various Departments and agencies.

Individual reviewer, based on his/her own review as well as the group discussion, critiques the application and completes his/her analysis with assessment profiles of elements of the strategic plan. With the team manager, prepares a analytical summary of the proposal.

**July 11th Site Visits**

State USDA employees are directed to conduct site visits of all applicants. Prior to each site visit, employees are briefed on the specifics of the application by team managers.

**July 18th Federal Departments Informed of Program and Waiver Requests**

Liaisons will contact other federal Departments by phone and by fax of the presence of an application that seeks funding or waiver requests.

Department reviewers receive a form that indicates the conditional commitment for funding or approval of waiver. The forms are to be returned within ten working days with indications of conditional approvals of waivers or programs.

**July 18th Health and Human Service Review for Title XX Feasibility**

Special Title XX HHS employees will be provided with access to the application file, the executive summary and to the computer review. The Title XX employee will be expected to complete his/her review within two working days and indicate the status of HHS' analysis.

**July 25th      Review by Panel of Rural Development Experts**

A panel of five senior USDA employees with experience with rural development, grant making and/or other appropriate skills begins to conduct a review of the executive summaries and the applications (The review process by teams and other Departments continues during this period.)

The panel will discuss the applications and individually score such factors as: quality of the strategic plan, the strength of assurances of support, the quality of community and business sector input, innovativeness, feasibility, level of need, and community involvement.

**Aug. 22nd      Presentation of the Finalists to the Secretary**

The Under Secretary will present the Secretary with all of the applications and will indicate the relative strengths and weaknesses, based on the analysis of the Panel, the technical reviewers, the site visits, and the analysis by the Under Secretary.

The Secretary will determine which applications are to be submitted to the Community Enterprise Board for their consultation.

**Sept. 1st      Presentation to the Community Enterprise Board**

The Secretary consults with the CEB Board on his finalists.

**Sept. 15th      Announcements of Pre-Designation**

The Secretary pre-designates the rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities and enters into discussions with the pre-designated communities on methods of strengthening their strategic plans.

## USDA EZ/EC Applications

<u>Num</u>	<u>Entity Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>
13	Mat.Su Resource Conservation & Development Inc.	Wasilla	AK
111	Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission	Kotzebue	AK
171	Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council	Bethel	AK
5	West Alabama Planning & Development Council	Northport	AL
6	West Alabama and Planning Council	Northport	AL
22	Lowndes County (Alabama) Commission	Haynesville	AL
26	East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission	Anniston	AL
39	Perry County Commission	Marion	AL
50	Bullock County Commission	Union Springs	AL
78	Selma-Dallas Community Action Agency	Selma	AL
103	Hale Empowerment & Revitalization Organization	Greensboro	AL
113	Federation of Southern Cooperative/Land Assistance Fund	Epes	AL
219	Tuskegee University	Tuskegee	AL
2	Crowley's Ridge Development Council, Inc.	Jonesboro	AR
20	Mississippi County, Arkansas EOC, Inc.	Blytheville	AR
58	East Central AR Ec. Dev. Corporation	Forrest	AR
65	Woodruff County Economic Development Council, Inc.	McCrory	AR
84	East Central Arkansas Economic Development Corp.	Forrest City	AR
91	Newton County Resource Council	Jasper	AR
104	South Central Arkansas Community Action Authority	El Dorado	AR
136	Mid-Delta Community Services	Helena	AR
166	Southeast Arkansas Enterprise Community Partnership	Dermott	AR
183	East Central Arkansas Economic Development Corporation	Forrest City	AR
225	Eastern Arkansas Empowerment Zone Initiative	Brinkly	AR
18	City of Eloy	Eloy	AZ
28	Greater Flagstaff Economic Council, Inc.	Flagstaff	AZ
168	AZ Department of Commerce	Phoenix	AZ
35	Imperial County Community Economic Development	El Centro	CA
61	City of Shafter	Shafter	CA
71	City of Watsonville	Watsonville	CA
79	Kings Community Action Organization	Hanford	CA
131	Planada Community Development Corporation	Planada	CA
150	Riverside County Economic Development Agency	Indio	CA
153	City of Hollister	Hollister	CA
194	County of Humboldt	Eureka	CA
207	County of Fresno, Public Works & Development Services Department	Fresno	CA
222	Southern Coachella Valley Community	Palm Springs	CA
15	City of Rocky Ford	Rocky Ford	CO
192	Town of Windham	Williamtic	CT
68	Highlands County Industrial Development Authority	Sebring	FL
77	Immokalee Foudation	Naples	FL

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<u>Num</u>	<u>Entity Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>
82	Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.	Palatka	FL
89	Marianna Chamber of Commerce	Marianna	FL
101	City of Belle Glade, Florida	Belle Glade	FL
182	Hillsborough County City County Planning Commission	P.O. Box 1110	FL
23	Camilla Chamber of Commerce	Camilla	GA
106	Rural Georgia Minority Business Council	Montezuma	GA
157	South Georgia Regional Development Center	Valdosta	GA
179	City of Rome	Rome	GA
193	City of LaGrange, Dept of Community and Economic Development	LaGrange	GA
211	Crisp/Dooly EZ/EC Coordinating Committee	Cordele	GA
216	CSRA Regional Development Center	Augusta	GA
223	Development Authority of Bryan County	Pembroke	GA
229	Southern Lower Chattahoochee Region Council of Governments	Cuthbert	GA
73	Iowa Department of Economic Development	Des Moines	IA
124	City of Pocatello	Pocatello	ID
10	City of Quincy, Illinois	Quincy	IL
17	Wabash Area Development, Inc.	Enfield	IL
29	City of Carbondale	Carbondale	IL
44	Wimberly & Associates	Carbondale	IL
48	Pembroke Township	Hopkins Park	IL
198	City of Cairo	Cairo	IL
199	City of Danville Dept of Development Services	Danville	IL
95	City of Galena	Galena	KS
7	Buffalo Trace Area Development District	Maysville	KY
8	Gateway Area Development District	Owingsville	KY
70	Flat Woods Community-Based Development Corporation, Inc.	Oneida	KY
81	Kentucky River Area Development District	Hazard	KY
90	Kentucky Communities Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.	Barboursville	KY
125	Kentucky River Area Development District	Hazard	KY
145	Ozark Delta Regional Empowerment Commission	Hickman	KY
159	Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation	London	KY
165	Big Sandy Area Development District	Prestonburg	KY
172	City of Bowling Green	Bowling Green	KY
195	Appalachian Foundation Inc.	Catlettsburg	KY
212	Lake Cumberland Area Development District	Russell Springs	KY
54	South Central Planning & Development Commission	Thibodaux	LA
72	Clifton Choctaw Reservation, Inc.	Gardner	LA
100	St. Tammy Community Housing Resource Board	Slidell	LA
102	Delta Economics Energy District, Inc. (Deed)	Baton Rouge	LA
105	Boyce Economic Development Committee	Boyce	LA

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<u>Num</u>	<u>Entity Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>
110	Delta Economic Energy District, Inc. (Deed)	Baton Rouge	LA
112	City of Opelousas	Opelousas	LA
115	Madison Parish Police Jury	Tallulah	LA
119	City of Plaquemine	Plaquemine	LA
152	Southern Mutual Help Association, Inc.	New Iberia	LA
160	St. Landry Economic Inducement District	Opelousas	LA
164	St. Mary Community Action Agency, Incorporated	Franklin	LA
169	Capital Regional Planning Commission	Baton Rouge	LA
170	Northeast Acadia Development Corporation (NADCD)	Church Point	LA
173	Town of Cullen	Cullen	LA
215	Macon Ridge Economic Development Region, Inc.	Winnsboro	LA
221	Project Celebration, Inc.	Many	LA
226	City of Covington, Louisiana	Covington	LA
51	City of Lewiston, Maine	Lewiston	ME
162	FiveCAP, Inc.	Scottville	MI
38	Northwest Technical College, Custom Training Services	Bemidji	MN
31	City of Salem	Salem	MO
34	City of Rich Hill	Rich Hill	MO
55	Bootheel Regional Planning & Economic Development Commlsion	Malden	MO
96	West Central Missouri Community Action Agency	Appleton City	MO
114	Epworth Bootheel Family Learning Center	East Prairie	MO
142	City of Kirksville	Kirksville	MO
163	Ripley County, Missouri	Doniphan	MO
176	City of Sikeston	Sikeston	MO
4	Town of Edwards	Edwards	MS
9	Holly Springs/Marshall County	Holly Springs	MS
14	Madison County Human Resource Agency	Canton	MS
25	Meridian/Lauderdale County Partnership	Meridian	MS
36	Holmes/Humphreys/Madison Enterprise Community	Lexington	MS
45	Mid-Delta Empowment Zone Alliance (MDEZA)	Stoneville	MS
75	Washington County Economic Development District	Greenville	MS
86	Greenwood-Leflore Enterprse Community	West Greenwood	MS
88	Arkansas-Mississippi Tri-County Empowerment Corp.	Clarksdale	MS
108	Alcorn State University-Cooperative Extension Program	Lorman	MS
140	North Delta Planning and Development District, Inc.	Clarksdale	MS
143	City of Hattiesburg	Hattiesburg	MS
151	Town of Utica	Utica	MS
174	Yazoo Community Action Inc.	Yazoo City	MS
203	Natchez-Adams County Economic Development Authority	Natchez	MS
213	Bolvar/Sunflower Counties Enterprise Community	Cleveland	MS
217	Kemper County Economic Development Authority	DeKalb	MS
74	Halifax/Edgecombe/Wilson Empowerment Alliance	Tarboro	NC

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<u>Num</u>	<u>Entlty Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>
189	Lumber River Council of Governments	Lumberton	NC
201	Columbus County Economic Development Commission	Whiteville	NC
202	Anson County, North Carolina	Wadesboro	NC
209	Northeastern North Carolina Economic Development Commission	Elizabeth City	NC
210	County of Warren	Warrenton	NC
214	Town of Boone	Bonne	NC
52	City of Scottsbluff	Scottsbluff	NE
117	City of Kearney	Kearney	NE
123	Chadron/Dawes County Economic Development Corporation	Chadron	NE
220	Stewart's Creek Township	Orange	NJ
228	Cumberland County Dept. of Planning and Development	Bridgeton	NJ
40	City of Hobbs	Hobbs	NM
41	City of Lordsburg	Lordsburg	NM
67	Helping Hands, Inc.	Mora	NM
80	Eastern Plains Council of Governments	Clovis	NM
98	Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments	Gallup	NM
109	Economic Development Division, Roswell Chamber of Commerce	Roswell	NM
129	City of Las Vegas	Las Vegas	NM
134	Dona Ana County	Las Cruces	NM
135	City of Lovington	Lovington	NM
158	City of Sunland Park	Sunland Park	NM
200	Salt Missions Trail Main Street	Estancia	NM
204	City of Deming	Deming	NM
227	The Institute for Human Services, Inc.	Corning	NY
46	Regional Development Finance Authority	Dayton	OH
47	Tri-County Community Action Agency	Athens	OH
130	Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission	Portsmouth	OH
149	City of Portsmouth Community Development Department	Portsmouth	OH
32	Tri-City 6006	Langston	OK
33	Ada Area Community Development Corporation	Ada	OK
144	City of Altus	Altus	OK
146	City of Muskogee	Muskogee	OK
178	Logan County Economic Development Council	Guthrie	OK
197	Great Plains Economic Development Association	Tipton	OK
85	Josephine County Community Services-Comm. Action Agency	Grants Pass	OR
43	Clarion University of Pennsylvania	Clarion	PA
66	City of New Castle	New Castle	PA
154	Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission	Franklin	PA
155	City of Lock Haven	Lock Haven	PA
156	Fayette County Board of Commissioners	Uniontown	PA

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<u>Num</u>	<u>Entity Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>
27	Denmark Community Outreach Enterprise Committee	Denmark	SC
83	Penn Center	St. Helena Island	SC
97	Williamsburg Enterprise Community	Kingstree	SC
99	Affendale-Barnwell Redevelopment Program	Fairfax	SC
121	The Greater Orangeburg Enterprise Community Coalition	Orangeburg	SC
126	Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments	Sumter	SC
148	Marion County	Marion	SC
181	Eastern Orangeburg Enterprise Community	Holly Hill	SC
190	Lowcountry Council of Government	Yemassee	SC
120	Northeast South Dakota Community Action Program	Sisseton	SD
1	Johnson County Chamber of Commerce	Mountain City	TN
3	City of Covington	Covington	TN
11	Africa in April, Inc	Bolivar	TN
19	First Tennessee Development District	Johnson City	TN
24	City of Athens	Athens	TN
60	City of Paris, Tennessee	Paris	TN
127	Regional Education and Community Health Services, Inc.	Jacksboro	TN
147	The Fayette/Hatwood Enterprise Community Steering Committee	Memphis	TN
186	Scott Count Executive Office	Huntsville	TN
188	Norris Lake Enterprise Community	Tazewell	TN
16	Pecos County	Fort Stockton	TX
21	Quanah Economic Development Corporation	Quanah	TX
30	City of Terrell	Terrell	TX
37	Jim Wells County Master Planning Association	Alice	TX
49	City of Luling	Luling	TX
53	Mitchell County Board of Economic Development	Colorado City	TX
56	Marion County	Jefferson	TX
59	Middle Rio Grande Development Council	Unvalde	TX
63	Duval County Commissioners Court	San Diego	TX
64	South Texas Development Council	Laredo	TX
69	Brazos Valley Development Council	Bryan	TX
76	City of Gonzales	Gonzales	TX
87	Jarvis Christian College	Hawkins	TX
92	Dimmit County Commissioners Court	Carizo Springs	TX
94	Buena Vista Independent School District	Imperial	TX
107	Rio Grande Valley Empowerment Zone-C/O Valley Chamber of Commerce	Westlaco	TX
118	City of Presidio	Presidio	TX
122	City of Marchall, texas	Marshall	TX
128	City of Burnet	Burnet	TX
161	El Paso County	El Paso	TX
167	Medina Economic Development Foundation	Devine	TX

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191	Brazos Valley Development Council	Bryan	TX
12	New River Valley Planning District Commission	Radford	VA
218	The Economic Empowerment & Housing Corporation of the Eastern Shore	Nassawadox	VA
93	City of Eagle Pass	Eagle Pass	WA
116	Yakima County	Yakima	WA
177	Grant County Community Action Council	Moses Lake	WA
133	Central Appalachia Empowerment Zone	Clay	WV
137	Mingo County Commission	Williamson	WV
138	Wyoming County Commission	Pineville	WV
139	City of Fairmont	Fairmont	WV
184	P.R.I.D.E In Logan County, Inc.	Logan	WV
185	Webster County Commission	Webster Springs	WV
187	McDowell County Action Network	Wilcoe	WV
196	City of Morgantown	Morgantown	WV
205	Lincoln County Economic Development Authority, Inc.	West Hamlin	WV
206	Barbour County Development Authority	Philippi	WV

Grand Total: 220