



# RURAL DEVELOPMENT COVID-19 Measures for Rural Communities


# Online COVID-19 Resources

- New COVID-19 Website
- Daily updates with stakeholder announcements and resources for rural lenders
- FAQs for borrowers
- Links to USDA COVID-19 website


**[rd.usda.gov/coronavirus](https://rd.usda.gov/coronavirus)**



**Updated April 14, 2020** — USDA Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses, and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep our customers, partners, and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America. Please bookmark this page and check back regularly as circumstances are changing daily and the width and depth of our responses to your questions and concerns will certainly increase. A PDF of all Immediate Actions to date is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

**COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide**

A resource for rural leaders looking for federal funding and partnership opportunities to help address this pandemic.

**Responding to COVID-19**

Rural Americans rising to the occasion and helping during this difficult time.



# Online COVID-19 Resources (cont.)



## COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

USDA and its Federal partners have programs that can be used to provide immediate and long-term assistance to rural communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. These programs can support recovery efforts for rural residents, businesses and communities through:

- technical, training, and management assistance;
- financial assistance; and
- state and local assistance.

This resource matrix organizes funding opportunities identified in the CARES Act and other federal resources that can help support rural America. Opportunities are categorized by customer and assistance type.

For more information on the immediate actions USDA is taking to respond to COVID-19, visit [usda.gov/coronavirus](https://usda.gov/coronavirus).

For the latest news from the CDC on COVID-19, visit [coronavirus.gov](https://coronavirus.gov).

- Developed Federal Rural Resource Guide to serve as a one-stop shop of federal programs that can be used by rural communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Find this and other information at [rd.usda.gov/coronavirus](https://rd.usda.gov/coronavirus)

# **RD Programs: COVID-19 Immediate Actions**

## **Rural Housing Service**

### **Single-Family Housing Direct and Guaranteed Programs**

- Issued 60 day moratorium on foreclosure and evictions
- Payment Moratoriums and Assistance
- Modified appraisal reporting, repair inspections, and employment verification

### **Multi-Family Housing Programs**

- Eviction and penalty protection due to non-payment of rent
- Forbearance extension for property owner borrowers

### **Community Facilities Direct and Guaranteed Loan Program**

- Direct loans may receive up to one year of payment deferrals
- Guaranteed Lenders may offer 180-day loan payment deferrals

# **RD Programs: COVID-19 Immediate Actions**

## **Rural Utilities Service**

### **Water and Waste Disposal Loan Guarantee Program**

- Lenders may offer 180-day loan payment deferrals without prior RD consent

### **Telecom**

- Extended the ReConnect Application deadline to April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Extended deadline for borrower audit submissions for 60 days

### **Electric**

- Extended deadline for borrower audit submissions for 60 days; historically due April 30<sup>th</sup>

### **Other Actions**

- RUS Administrator to consider requests to waive certain site inspection requirements during COVID-19 emergency to prevent project delays.
- Allowing applicant to utilize alternative methods to notify the public such videoconferences, teleconferences, and public notices on websites.

# RD Programs: COVID-19 Immediate Actions

## Rural Business Cooperative Service

- Lenders may offer 180-day loan payment deferrals on Business and Industry Loan Guarantees and Rural Energy for America Program Loan Guarantees without prior consent from RD.
- Intermediary borrowers participating in the following programs may approve loan payment deferrals for their borrowers without RD approval.
  - Intermediary Relending Program
  - Rural Business Development Grant
  - Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant
  - Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program
- Extended application deadline for the Rural Business Development Grant to April 15<sup>th</sup>.

# CARES Act Implementation

## **Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program**

- Appropriated \$20.5M in program level; supporting up to \$1B in lending authority
- Program would provide:
  - Increased maximum allowable repayment terms to 10 years. Loan repayment may be deferred on principal or principal and interest payments for a period up to 12 months from the loan closing and may extend for a period up to 3 years.
  - Eligible loan purposes include payroll costs, healthcare benefits, salaries, principal and interest payments, rent/leases, utilities, inventory and supplies.
- Notice of Funding Availability at OMB clearance, target release as soon as possible.

# CARES Act Implementation (cont.)

## ReConnect

- Appropriated a \$100M set-aside for grants; priority for grant applicants unfunded in Round 1.
  - Funding set-aside gives priority to applications that were unsuccessful in Round 1 due to the 100% unserved requirement but meet Round 2's 90% unserved requirement.
- Implemented via Federal Register Notice. ReConnect Round 2 application window is now closed.

## Distance Learning and Telemedicine

- Appropriated \$25M to support DLT grants
- Implemented via Federal Register Notice; application window opened April 14<sup>th</sup> and closes July 13<sup>th</sup>

## Single Family Housing and Multi-Family Housing Assistance

- Lenders must provide immediate forbearance when requested on guaranteed loans for up to 180 days. Penalties and fees may not be charged during the forbearance period.
- Multi-family borrowers may not evict tenants for non-payment of rent for the next 120 days.
- Implemented via Stakeholder Notice





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