



HUD's Rural Gateway Clearinghouse

An Introduction

Why Was the RGC Created?



Public Law 105-276 (October 21, 1998) directs HUD to create an RGC to:

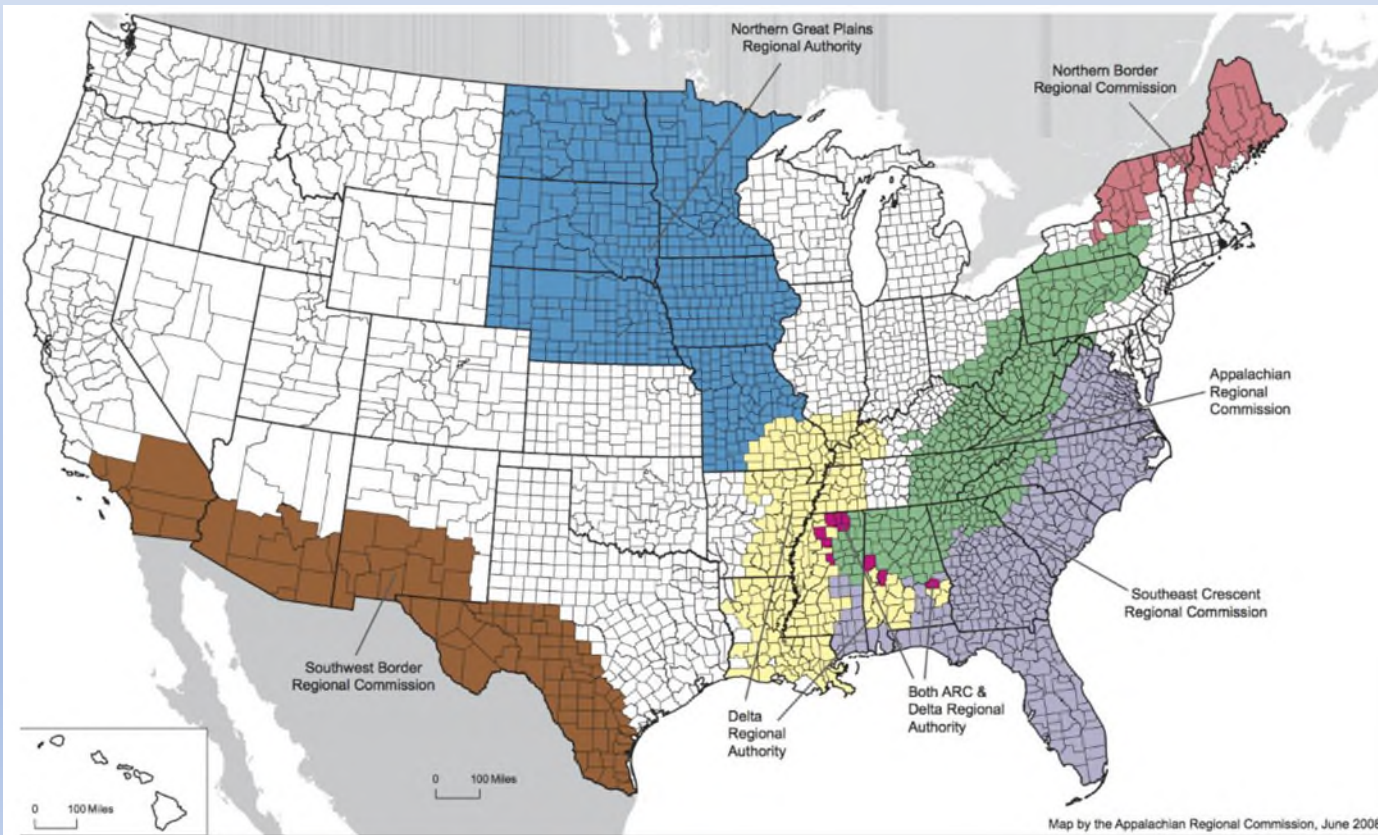
- Facilitate informational services, technical assistance, training, and investment capital.
- Benefit local rural, state, and regional organizations.
- Support efforts to rebuild and preserve healthy, productive communities.
- Act as a screen/filter for private sector organizations to establish economic development-based initiatives.



Originally Established by Congress in 1998



The RGC's core statutory focus is America's underserved and rural areas.

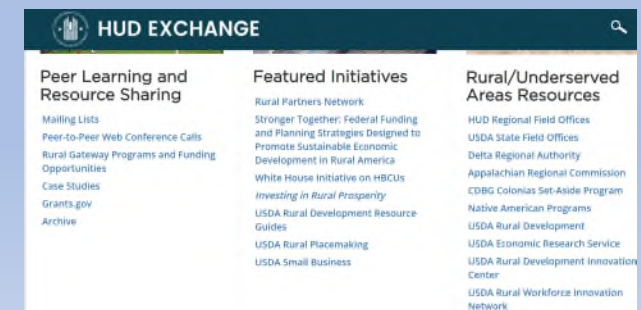
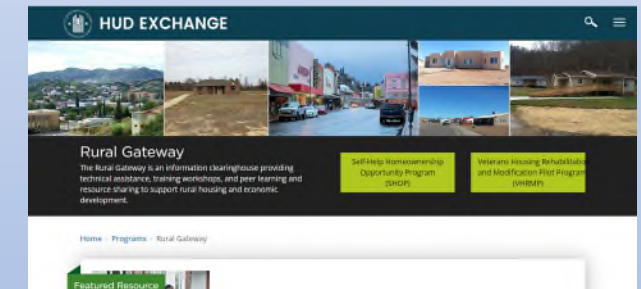
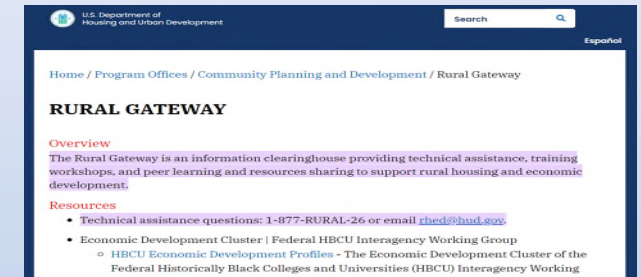


- Lower Mississippi Delta River Region
- Appalachia's Distressed Counties
- Colonias
- Federally recognized Indian tribes
- Seasonal farmworkers
- "Other" rural populations (essentially any "underserved" area)

What Is HUD's Rural Gateway Clearinghouse (RGC)?



- **A peer-to-peer network for local development agencies.** Information sharing among regional, state, and local economic development agencies. Group discussions, conferences, panels.
- **A “U.S. government-wide” information source.** A repository of information from federal economic development agencies.
- **A source of technical assistance for rural agencies.** Direct technical assistance, including via a 1-800 telephone number.



What Are the Objectives of the RGC?



1. Build capacity of organizations working on housing, economic, and infrastructure development.
2. Serve as a promoter and screen/filter of private sector-based partnerships to support housing, economic development, infrastructure, and capacity-building activities.
3. Improve and streamline access of these organizations to different sources of government, nonprofit, and for-profit sources of investment capital, technical assistance, and training and information.



Nogales, Arizona, Revitalized Downtown Nogales

What Are the Guiding Tenets of the RGC?



1. Serve as a facilitator (not a direct provider) of information, technical assistance, and funding as provided by federal, state, and local government agencies, nonprofits, and for-profit entities.
2. Ensure that the technical assistance and information provided is based on best practices.
3. Be proactive in pursuing partnerships with the private sector and building capacity of intermediaries.



Ferriday, Louisiana, Home Nearly Complete

What Types of “Economic Development” Are Targeted?



The RGC collects resources that support:

- Public infrastructure
- Project finance
- Community facilities
- Capacity building



What Are Considered “Rural”?



- **Definition of *Rural*:** Different government agencies have different definitions of “rural.” Some are optimized for academic studies, while others are optimized for policy-based funding allocations, and still others for agency management purposes. The Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development (ORHED) will place a page on RGW with links to different definitions and descriptions of their use. The agency will not select one definition but will support tools to access the different maps and datasets.



Technical Assistance and 1-877-RURAL-26



Trained specialists are available on a toll-free line to answer questions about federal programs, help identify federal resources, and suggest follow-up.

- 1-800 information line.
- 1-877-RURAL26 (+1 (877) 787-2526).
- Rural Gateway website, available at www.hud.gov/ruralgateway.
- Email – rhed@hud.gov



All members of the public may call this line. Answers may take time for research and response and are generally limited to brief information about programs and sources.

Peer-to-Peer Forums



Through the RGC, HUD sponsors public online meetings to rural economic development agencies. These calls support networking and information sharing among rural organizations. Participants share experiences, challenges, and solutions. Developing a peer network helps to minimize the sense of isolation often felt by rural organizations.

- Peer-to-peer forums.
- Conference calls.
- HUD conferences.
- HUD participation in third-party conferences.
- Workshops.
- Listservs.



To participate in these calls, register for notices on the RGC website at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/rural/calls/>

Technical Assistance and Training



ORHED will perform the following tasks:

- Create clear definitions for “capacity” and “capacity building.”
- Identify the training most asked for by regional entities.
- Create and maintain a page for resource links to free online training on these topics specifically.
- Identify the training topics that seem to have the least free online resources—that is, the training topics that ORHED believes are priority unmet needs.
- Sponsor a page of the “best free online training” courses to encourage the development of more and better training that is free and available.
- Create and maintain a working paper on RGW that discusses these issues, inviting peer-to-peer comment, such as with online bulletin boards.



Rural Case Studies



HUD provides case studies on projects initiated by rural serving organizations. Case studies are designed to be capacity-building oriented, scalable, replicable, and require little internal funds. They emphasize linking housing, economic development, business.

Examples of case studies on the RGC website are:

1. San Felipe Public Housing Authority (San Felipe, New Mexico).
2. Southern Bancorp Community Partners (Helena, Alaska).
3. Karuk Tribe of California (Happy Camp, California).
4. Nogales Community Development Rural Innovation Fund Colonia Continuum of Services (Nogales, Arizona).



Castañer Region, Ponce, Puerto Rico, PathStone Self-Help Housing

Internet Links to Resources



HUD's RGC website provides a "one-stop-shop" for accessing a broad range of resources to assist rural serving organizations. These annotated links include federal agencies and major nonprofit organizations.

The HUD RGC website can be found at:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/rural/>



Peer Learning and Resource Sharing

- Mailing Lists
- Peer-to-Peer Web Conference Calls
- Rural Gateway Programs and Funding Opportunities
- Case Studies
- Grants.gov
- Archive



Featured Initiatives

- Rural Partners Network
- Stronger Together: Federal Funding and Planning Strategies Designed to Promote Sustainable Economic Development in Rural America
- White House Initiative on HBCUs
- Investing in Rural Prosperity*
- USDA Rural Development Resource Guides
- USDA Rural Placemaking
- USDA Small Business



Rural/Underserved Areas Resources

- HUD Regional Field Offices
- USDA State Field Offices
- Delta Regional Authority
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- CDBG Colonias Set-Aside Program
- Native American Programs
- USDA Rural Development
- USDA Economic Research Service
- USDA Rural Development Innovation Center
- USDA Rural Workforce Innovation Network

Links to Financing Sources



HUD's RGC website provides regularly updated links to funding opportunities. Resources include:

- Funding links.
- Easy-to-read funding summaries that provide information on key sources of funding for rural programs, including programs from various federal agencies and private foundations.

Links to funding opportunities can be found at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/rural/funding-opportunities/#open-funding-opportunities>

Rural Gateway Programs and Funding Opportunities

Find by Agency

Open Funding Opportunities

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Corporation for National and Community Service

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Department of the Treasury

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

2023 Funding Opportunities

Training and Technical Assistance to Improve Water Quality and Enable Small Public Water Systems to Provide Safe Drinking Water

EPA is seeking applications from organizations with a demonstrable history of providing effective, results-oriented technical assistance to public water systems. The Agency's priorities include maximizing funds to provide significant benefit to drinking water systems in communities of need; tackling the climate crisis; and advancing environmental justice and equity. **Application Deadline: 1/31/2023.**

Native American Congressional Internship

This program provides American Indian and Alaska Native students with the opportunity to gain practical experience with the federal legislative process to understand first-hand the government-to-government relationship between Tribes and the federal government. **Application Deadline: 1/31/2023.**

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grants and Guaranteed Loans

USDA Rural Development provides funding for agriculture producers and rural small businesses to purchase, install and construct renewable energy systems or complete energy efficiency improvements. Contact your local [State Energy Coordinator](#) for assistance. **Federal Register. Application Deadlines: Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance 1/31/2023, Grants 3/31/2023 and Loan Guarantees are accepted year-round.**