

CENTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS

RURAL ACTION BRIEF

SPECIAL EDITION—UPDATE TO NEBRASKA SUBSCRIBERS NOTICE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE

MAY 2006

ACTION ALERT – Economic Development Opportunity!!!

You have until **August 1, 2006**, to apply for a Building Entrepreneurial Communities (BECA) grant! **\$360,000** is available in grant money for eligible applicants!

The purpose of the BECA program is to help economically depressed rural areas of Nebraska build entrepreneurial communities through grants that will create community capacity to build and sustain programs to generate and retain wealth in the community and region.

Eligible Applicants - Eligible applicants include every local government (municipality or county). At least two local governments must collaborate on the project. At least one of the local governments must have chronic economic distress as indicated by:

- An unemployment rate which exceeds the statewide average unemployment rate;
- A per capita income below the statewide average per capita income; or
- Severe historical population loss, which means a population loss of ten percent or more over a twenty-year period of time (see listing of counties with chronic economic distress below)

Eligible Activities - Eligible activities must be projects that address one of the following:

- Provide education and technical assistance to energize small business development and entrepreneurship
- Provide technical assistance to facilitate small business transfer;
- Build community business capacity and leadership programs;
- Generate opportunities that will attract and retain young people and families;
- Provide education about philanthropy and intergenerational transfer of wealth; and
- Build community endowments to support these activities.

Match Requirements - Grant recipients shall provide a dollar-for-dollar cash match. Matching funds shall be from sources other than state and federal programs. Grant application for complete with qualifying towns and counties can be found at: http://rdc.neded.org/library/BECA_App_Guideline2006.doc

Will your idea qualify for this grant? Contact Linda Fettig, Rural Development Commission, 308.749.2291 or linda.fettig@ded.ne.gov or Kathie Starkweather at the Center , 402.687.2100 or kathies@cfra.org.

Eligible
Counties in
Nebraska

Antelope	Arthur	Banner	Blaine	Boone	Box Butte
Boyd	Brown	Burt	Butler	Cedar	Chase
Cherry	Clay	Colfax	Custer	Dakota	Dawes
Dawson	Deuel	Dundy	Fillmore	Franklin	Frontier
Furnas	Garden	Garfield	Grant	Greeley	Hall
Harlan	Hayes	Hitchcock	Holt	Hooker	Jefferson
Johnson	Kearney	Keya Paha	Kimball	Knox	Lincoln
Logan	McPherson	Madison	Morrill	Nance	Nemaha
Nuckolls	Otoe	Pawnee	Perkins	Polk	Red Willow
Richardson	Rock	Scotts Bluff	Sheridan	Sherman	Sioux
Thayer	Thomas	Thurston	Valley	Webster	Wheeler

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Special Edition: Update to Nebraska Subscribers: Building Entrepreneurial Communities Notice of Funds Available

The *Rural Action Brief* is a publication of the Rural Research and Analysis Program of the Center for Rural Affairs. The *Rural Action Brief* will be published quarterly and on special occasions, and will analyze Federal Executive, Legislative and Administrative action concerning rural development and asset-building programs and initiatives.

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If you or anyone you know wish to receive the *Rural Action Brief*, please contact **Jon Bailey** at jonb@cfra.org or **Kim Preston** at kimp@cfra.org, or the Center for Rural Affairs at the phone number or address above. There is no charge for a subscription to the *Rural Action Brief*. Past copies of *The Rural Action Brief* are available on our website, <http://www.cfra.org/>

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Established in 1973, the Center for Rural Affairs is a private, non-profit organization working to strengthen rural communities through action oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues.