

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Office of the Governor Office of Rural Development

Projects and Funding (LAC 4:VII.1901-1903)

The Office of the Governor, Office of Rural Development has exercised the emergency rule provision of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B), to adopt the following Emergency Rule in the projects and funding of this office under the authority of the Louisiana Rural Development Law, R.S.3:311 et seq., LAC 4:VII. 1901-1903. This Emergency Rule, effective September 10, 1996, shall remain in effect for a period of 120 days or until a final rule is promulgated, whichever occurs first.

Emergency rulemaking is necessary in order to permit the office to continue all its legal operations, including funding emergency requests for the health, safety and welfare of citizens in rural areas and to allow time for public hearings and legislative approval of the administrative procedures being initiated. Notice is given that rule making procedures will be initiated to adopt LAC 4:VII.1901-1903.

Title 4. Administration Part VII. Governor's Office

Chapter 19. Rural Development

§1901. Projects or Activities

A. The Office of Rural Development (ORD) provides financial assistance to local units of government throughout the state mitigating the effects of natural and economic emergencies and funding units of local government projects essential to community well-being.

B. Municipalities with populations of less than 25,000 and parishes with populations of less than 100,000 inhabitants will be considered rural for the purposes of this program.

C. The ORD applies the following guidelines to any project or activity funded:

1. All projects or activities funded must be related to rural development revitalization of a rural area, as defined in R.S.3:313.

2. All funds shall be used to mitigate the rapid deterioration or assist the improvement of rural health, education, agribusiness, transportation, public facilities, tourism, infrastructure, or other defined purposes essential to the socioeconomic well-being and quality of life of Louisiana's rural areas.

3. Projects or activities should further enhance community services and broaden rural employment opportunities whenever possible.

4. Projects or activities should further the provisions of the Rural Development Law, R.S.3:311-323.

E. The director of the ORD shall develop and application procedure satisfying the purposes, intentions, and the implications of regulatory provisions contained in the Rural Development Law.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S.3:311 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Office of Rural Development, LR 22:

§1903. Application Process

A. Rural development grant application packets are available from the Office of Rural Development to all who request them. All requests for information may be submitted via mail to the Office of Rural Development, Post Office Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004.

B. Municipalities, parish governments, school boards, other units of government, and special districts are eligible to apply for rural development funds. All applicants must be authorized by law to perform governmental functions and be provided governmental body support, and must be subject to state audit.

C. Current population figures are used to determine the eligibility for funding of municipalities. Those requirements are:

1. village	0 - 1,000	\$ 15,000;
2. town	1,001 - 5,000	\$ 25,000;
3. city	5,001 - 25,000	\$ 50,000;
4. parish	population < 100,000	\$100,000.

D. Funding may exceed above amounts listed for economic development projects if permanent jobs are created. Based upon the size of the parish population and the number of applications received within that parish,

funding may exceed the recommended amount of \$100,000 per parish.

E. Funds from this program cannot be used to pay consulting fees charged to a unit of government for the preparation of the application or used for previously created debt.

F. Grant recipients are required to maintain an audit trail verifying that all funds received under this program were used to fulfill the above criteria for funding.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S.3:311 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Office of Rural Development, LR 22:

A copy of the complete rural development grant application packet is available for review by the public. Copies may be obtained by contacting the ORD at Governor's Office of Rural Development, Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 (504)342-1618.

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