Rural Business Development Grant Program

Project Selection Criteria

Project Score _____________

Name of Applicant_________________________________________________________

State _________     County________________________________________________

Grant $___________________    Initial or Subsequent ______________________

Amount of previous Rural Development funding for this project: $________________

Purpose:  Revolving Fund:  |_|    Technical Assistance:  |_|
          Industrial Site:   |_|  Other Business Development:  |_|
          Business Opportunity |_|

Brief description of the proposed facility:

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Priorities          Points

A.  Leveraging.

Applicant has evidence of commitment
of funds from nonfederal sources for
proposed project.  If Rural Development
portion of project funding is:

  1.  Less than 20 percent  30
  2.  20 but less than 50 percent  20
  3.  50 but less than 75 percent  10
  4.  75 percent or more  0

Rural Development funds $_________ divided by non-Federal funds plus
Rural Development funds $_________ X 100 = _______% which is Rural
Development’s portion of the project funding.
B. Economic Distress.

Points will be awarded for each of the following criteria met by the community or communities to benefit from the grant (cannot exceed 40 points total:

1. Trauma
   (natural disaster occurred not more than 3 years prior to filing application)-15 points
   FEMA Designation __________

2. Economic distress
   (Military Base/Employer 20% or more loss in total jobs ____) - 15 points

3. Long-term poverty
   (demonstrated by being a former EZ/EC, REAP, CC or a persistent poverty county)-10 points
   indicate which __________

4. Long-term population decline
   (demonstrated by latest 3 decennial Census)- 10 points
   Show amounts _______

Subtotal __________

C. Population.

Proposed project(s) will be located in a community of:

1. Under 5,000 15
2. Between 5,000 and less than 15,000 10
3. Between 15,000 and 25,000 5

Population _______

D. Unemployment.

Proposed project(s) will be located in areas where the unemployment rate:

1. Exceeds the State rate by 25% or more 20
2. Exceeds the State rate by less than 25% 10
3. Is equal to or less than the State rate 0
E. Median Household Income.

Proposed project(s) will be located in areas where the median household income (MHI) for the State is:

1. Less than poverty line 25
2. More than poverty line but less than 65% 15
3. Between 65% and 85% 10
4. Equal to or greater than 85% 0

F. Experience.

Applicant has evidence of successful experience in type of activity.

1. 10 or more years 30
2. At least 5 but less than 10 years 20
3. At least 3 but less than 5 years 10
4. At least 1 but less than 3 years 5

Number of years experience ______

G. Small business start-up or expansion.

Applicant has written evidence that small business development will be supported by startup or expansion as a result of the grant. 5 points for each letter for separate businesses up to 25 points

_____ Number of Letters X 5 = ___

H. Jobs created or supported.

Applicant has written evidence that the proposed project will create and/or support existing jobs. The number of jobs must be evidenced by a written commitment from the business to be assisted.

1. One job for less than $5,000 25
2. One job for $5,000 but less than $10,000 20
3. One job for $10,000 but less than $15,000 15
4. One job for $15,000 but less than $20,000 10
5. One job for $20,000 but less than $25,000 5

Amount of Grant _____ divided by number of jobs ____ = $____/jobs
I. Size of grant request.

1. Less than $100,000 25
2. $100,000 to $200,000 15
3. More than $200,000 but not more than $500,000 10

J. Indirect cost.

Applicant is not requesting grant funds to cover their administrative or indirect costs.- 5 points ____

K. Discretionary points. Either the State Director or Administrator may assign up to 50 discretionary points to an application. Assignment of discretionary points must include a written justification. Permissible justifications are geographic distribution of funds, special Secretary of Agriculture initiatives such as Priority Communities, or a state’s strategic goals. Discretionary points may only be assigned to initial grants.

However, in the case where two projects have the same score, the State Director may add one point to the project that best fits the State’s strategic plan regardless of whether the project is an initial or subsequent grant.

State Director or Administrator Discretionary points ____

Directions: Complete the information requested on pages of this Attachment. In paragraphs A-D of Section C, circle the points for those priorities which apply to, and are met by, the application under consideration. Determine and justify the number of discretionary points, if any, to be awarded in paragraph E of Section C of this Attachment and add up the total number of points scored.