



**Gateway Opportunities:**  

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**A Guide to**  

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**Federal Programs**  

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**for Rural Gateway Communities**  

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# Preface

Gateway communities—their histories, economies, cultures, and most importantly, their residents—are part of the tradition and landscape of our National Park System. Hence, the mission of the National Park Service (NPS), as well as other federal agencies, directs collaboration with nearby communities on development, environmental conservation, visitor services, and other issues. *Gateway Opportunities: A Guide to Federal Programs for Rural Gateway Communities* is a basic inventory of federal programs that may provide support for partnerships between gateway communities, the NPS, and other federal agencies. Its objective is to create awareness of the opportunities that exist for collaboration, resource conservation, and community development. Its primary audience includes managers of the National Park System and leaders of gateway communities.

We hope readers find *Gateway Opportunities* a useful tool. The NPS Social Science Program is committed to delivering “usable knowledge” to NPS managers and the public. *Gateway Opportunities* was prepared by Ms. Karen Steer, a graduate student at Yale University, through an internship with the Social Science Program. This internship program provides graduate students in the social sciences with opportunities to work in Washington, D.C. and gain an understanding of the role of social science in the NPS. Nina Chambers co-authored the report, and is a Research Associate with the Social Science Program.

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# Introduction

Gateway communities are cities or towns adjacent to national parks and other protected areas. Visitors often use these communities as gateways to the parks—staying in their campgrounds or hotels, eating meals in town, purchasing supplies, and learning about the park’s natural and cultural resources. Increasingly, these communities face the simultaneous challenges of economic development and environmental management. Critical issues include rapid growth, appropriate land use, tourism development, and the economic shift from extractive to service industries. Many federal funding opportunities exist to address such issues. Federal programs, when used effectively, can foster greater collaboration between communities and federal agencies such as the National Park Service (NPS). Awareness of available programs is a first step to collaboration and action.

*Gateway Opportunities: A Guide to Federal Programs for Rural Gateway Communities* focuses on programs most relevant to rural gateway communities. Its main objective is to provide a basic description of federal funding and technical assistance programs available to rural gateway communities. Throughout this guide several specific terms are used; these are briefly defined below.

The **National Park System** is comprised of 376 areas with designations including national parks, national monuments, national preserves, national lakeshores, national seashores, national historic sites, national battlefields, national memorials, national recreation areas, and wilderness areas. In

addition, the NPS has a stewardship and technical assistance role in national heritage areas, wild and scenic rivers, national scenic trails, and other affiliated areas. Over 200 of these park units are located in rural areas.

According to the NPS (1995), the term **gateway community** refers to a community adjacent to a National Park System protected area. The local economy and social fabric of gateway communities are strongly influenced by NPS land management policies, as well as by the large number of visitors to the protected areas. Gateway communities are often located in spectacular and remote landscapes with a natural character and local tradition unique to the region. The term **rural gateway community** refers to a community located in a non-metropolitan area, with federally-defined population limits which range from 2,500 to 50,000 people. A **rural** designation is important because there are federal funds allocated specifically to communities defined as rural.

The NPS has a vested interest in **rural development** that meets the shared goals of the NPS and gateway communities. Rural development implies:

- *economic prosperity* and *diversification* that does not compromise quality of life or environmental protection;
- *sustainable community development*, such as appropriate infrastructure, land use planning, and open space management, that maintains a sense of place; and

- *cultural and social development* that allows for the preservation and promotion of traditional local values.

### **How to Use this Guide**

This guide focuses on federal agencies and programs relevant to rural gateway communities and the NPS. It is also relevant to other public land agencies and their gateway communities. The guide describes a wide range of programs. An important limitation of the information presented here is the changing nature of federal assistance. Program funding depends on appropriations from Congress, and programs vary in their availability and funding level from year to year. Often, federal programs work through the states, and the states have additional opportunities available not presented in this guide. Programs limited to specific parks, regions, or communities are not addressed in this guide. In addition, there are many non-profit and community-based organizations which also provide opportunities for funding and technical assistance, and these are also not

included in this guide. What *is* included is a comprehensive list of federal programs relevant to gateway communities.

The guide is organized in three parts. Part 1 provides background information about the role that the National Park Service and other federal agencies can play in rural gateway community development. Part 2 is an inventory of federal funding opportunities. This inventory is presented in two ways. It is first presented by topic area, so that funding programs that support specific types of projects can be easily found. Second, the same information is presented by the department or agency that manages the program. This listing includes contact information. (Names of agencies have been abbreviated, e.g., the USDA Forest Service is described as the “Forest Service.”) Communities working with specific agencies can use this list to identify possible opportunities for collaboration. Finally, Part 3 provides contact information and additional references to learn more about these programs.

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# Part 1: Background

The NPS mandate is to “preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.” In earlier eras, it was often seen as sufficient to protect and promote what lay within park boundaries. Over the past several decades, it has become increasingly evident that parks can not survive as “islands,” and that activities and conditions outside park boundaries affect the management of resources within them. Examples of negative effects include the loss of habitat due to human population growth and development pressures, an increase in air, water and noise pollution, and the decrease in the quality of visitor experiences. There is also a growing recognition that gateway communities can benefit resource management in parks. For example, communities adjacent to parks can provide necessary visitor services, offer additional educational opportunities, protect ecosystems, and promote desirable landscapes—as they benefit economically from visitors.

That the futures of many national parks and their gateway communities are intertwined is obvious. The overall goals of parks and communities are increasingly similar, with value placed on open space, good jobs, clean air and water, productive lands, and healthy, vital communities (Howe *et al.* 1997).

Yet, some barriers continue to hinder NPS/gateway community partnerships in conservation and rural development efforts. Financial, technical, and political constraints do not always allow

park staff to become involved with external development issues. Park staff may not have expertise in community development-related skills, such as conflict resolution and micro-enterprise development. Additionally, park managers may not be aware of the wide range of federal support available for rural development activities.

Barriers exist in gateway communities as well. Community leaders sometimes lack awareness of the federal and non-federal support available to them. Many times, community leaders do not have experience working with the federal government and may not know how to begin. In addition, rural communities seldom have the financial resources to plan development projects or to pay salaries for fundraisers or proposal writers.

These barriers can be overcome, and current trends make federal/local partnerships more attractive. Federal policies for rural development have undergone dramatic changes over the past 20 years. Federal rural assistance programs reflect these changes, with less funds allocated for extractive natural resource use and farming, and more funding available for infrastructure, environmental protection, and small business support. Increasing emphasis is placed on collaboration, cooperation, and co-management. Table 1 provides examples of mandates of key federal land management agencies. The table illustrates that common interests and goals exist, and that inter-agency collaboration for rural gateway community development is possible.

**Table 1. Examples of Federal Agency Mandates Relevant to Rural Development**

Department or Agency	Mandate
Department of Agriculture: Forest Service	<p>To sustain the health, productivity, and diversity of the land for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, and achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people.</p> <p>Under the strategic plan, the Forest Service will provide leadership in working with rural communities on developing natural resource-based opportunities and enterprises that contribute to the economic and social vitality of rural communities. Currently, the focus is on three areas: 1) an integrated agency-wide approach, 2) collaborative planning and community-based outreach, and 3) “team USDA.”</p>
Department of Agriculture: Rural Development, Office of Community Development	To provide technical support to other rural development offices, implement special initiatives for rural communities, disseminate information to rural communities and agencies about development strategies, and promote networking between communities, government agencies and other entities.
Department of Commerce	To promote job creation, economic growth, sustainable development, and improved living standards for all Americans by developing partnerships with businesses, universities, communities, and workers.
Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management	The BLM’s “Blueprint for the Future” outlines three goals of relevance to rural development: 1) to promote collaborative management by building effective partnerships with public land users, adjacent landowners, other agencies and government entities, and non-governmental organizations; 2) to improve understanding of environmental, social, and economic conditions and trends; and 3) to promote community-based planning.
Department of the Interior: National Park Service	The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. The NPS has broad authority to extend its expertise and support to communities throughout the nation, regardless of their proximity to park units. The skills needed to protect the parks should also be available to communities seeking to protect their treasured cultural and natural resources. Partnership programs offer various ways for the NPS to help in conservation, recreation, and preservation by providing community-based technical expertise and financial assistance.
Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	To enhance the country’s economic vitality, the quality of life, and the environment.

In addition, federal laws authorize the National Park Service and other federal agencies to collaborate with rural communities and extend management action beyond their protected boundaries. Some of these authorities and laws are described below.

*The authority to mitigate resource threats to NPS protected areas:*

- the Organic Act Redwood National Park Amendments (1978) express a legal duty to protect park resources against threatening activities arising on adjacent lands,
- the Endangered Species Act (1973) imposes a legal duty to protect endangered and threatened species,
- the Clean Air Act (1977) and amendments impose a legal duty to prevent and control air pollution,
- the Clean Water Act (1972) imposes a legal duty to prevent and control water contamination, and
- the Historic Sites Act (1935) provides the authority to protect historic sites.

*The authority to work in partnership with community groups:*

- the Endangered Species Act (1973) directs the Secretary to consult with states and cooperate with federal agencies;
- the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (1965) directs the NPS to assist states in planning, acquiring, and developing lands;
- the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act (1978) and separate NPS authority (1996) allows the NPS to enter into cooperative agreements with communities;
- the Outdoor Recreation Act (1963) declares a national policy to support recreation activities, and identifies the NPS as the leading agency; and

- the National Parks and Recreation Act (1978) directs the NPS to develop general management plans with public input.

*The authority to work with other agencies:*

- the National Environmental Policy Act (1969) mandates that management plans include inter-agency agreements;
- the National Forest Management Act (1976) imposes a clear legal obligation for the Forest Service to coordinate its land use planning process with other federal agencies, such as the NPS;
- the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (1976) declares that agencies can work together to establish, protect, develop, and enhance public lands; and
- the Endangered Species Act (1973) allows agencies to enter into cooperative agreements with other agencies for species conservation.

NPS areas—parks, historic sites, recreation areas, and others—are important neighbors to rural gateway communities. The NPS has both opportunity and responsibility to provide assistance in guiding development adjacent to National Park System lands so that it is achieved in a viable and sustainable way. Many federal funding programs currently exist that are available to the NPS, state agencies, and gateway communities to support shared interests and goals. These programs can assist with open space conservation, environmental protection, enhancement of visitor services, and strengthening of local economies. The NPS can increase its collaboration with other federal and state agencies to assist gateway communities through such rural development and conservation programs. Gateway communities can increase their collaboration with the NPS and other federal agencies. This guide to federal programs may help further such efforts.



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## Part 2:

# An Inventory of Federal Funding Opportunities

This part of the guide provides an inventory of federal funding programs available to rural gateway communities for conservation and development activities. The programs listed offer financial and/or technical assistance. Although this is not an exhaustive inventory, and other relevant federal programs exist, the programs described below are directly relevant to collaborative conservation and/or development projects. The programs are presented in two sets of tables. First, they are presented by topic area. Second, the same programs are presented by sponsoring agency or department and include contact information to find out more about the programs.

### **Topic Areas of Federal Funding and Technical Assistance Programs**

Tables 2-12 provide a brief description of funding opportunities by key topic areas. Comprehensive programs are presented first. These are programs that have a broad scope encompassing several topic areas. Specific topic areas and available programs follow, presented in alphabetical order. Topic areas include:

- Community Planning,
- Conservation Easements/Land Acquisition,
- Cultural Resource Management,
- Economic Development,
- Environmental Education,
- Infrastructure,
- Job Training,

- Natural Resource Management,
- Recreation, and
- Transportation.

Each table presents: a) the program name, b) the agency or department responsible for managing the program, and c) a brief description of the kind of projects that have been or can be funded by that program. Some programs have multiple objectives and are listed in more than one category.

A brief description of the topic areas, with illustrative examples, is provided below.

### ***Comprehensive Federal Programs***

Federal authority has increasingly been returned to the state and local level. This, coupled with development strategies that target a geographic area and address development opportunities specific to that area, has encouraged the establishment of comprehensive federal funding programs. These programs offer wide-ranging activities. Some provide extensive financial assistance, while others offer technical assistance and increased leverage of other federal funds.

For example, a Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program operating in Little Colorado, Arizona, joined to work with other organizations on heritage resource tourism, preservation, and education projects in the four-corners region. The Four Corners Heritage Trails were designed and developed, other cultural resources are being inventoried, and a marketable tourism package is being planned. The RC&D

Program played a vital role in identifying opportunities in the area, generating publicity, and leading visioning exercises and conferences.

Federal funds invested in rural Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC)—including loans, grants, and tax incentives—are being used to develop plans and organizational structures for revitalizing community economies. The Kentucky Highland EZ, for example, has established a four-pronged approach to revitalizing its communities—developing economic opportunity, promoting tourism, building infrastructure, and enhancing the quality of life. EZ/EC areas often attract additional funding from other programs to complement and support on-going development efforts.

Comprehensive assistance programs encourage partnerships between federal, state, and non-governmental agencies. For example, the Canyon County Partnership was formed in Moab, Utah as an alliance of four counties, the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, NPS, three state agencies, The Nature Conservancy, and AmeriCorps—all to work together on a recreation management strategy.

### ***Community Planning***

Community planning is often key to economic restructuring, local policy changes, development opportunities, and bringing about community action. Many federal programs now include assistance for community planning to aid communities and help ensure that programs have a higher rate of success in achieving their objectives.

For example, Estes Park, Colorado (gateway community to Rocky Mountain National Park) underwent an extensive and formal planning process to protect the community from over-development, maintain open spaces, and improve its relations with the park. Estes Park is often cited as a model for park-community planning, due to the level of collaboration and partnership, and the changes in local policy and attitudes that resulted.

### ***Conservation Easements/Land Acquisition***

Several federal programs encourage conservation easements, or can assist in land acquisition for wetlands, farmlands, wildlife habitat, or recreation. Conservation easements are flexible and often designed specifically for each individual land parcel. A wide range of management possibilities exist under such agreements. Development and access limitations can be placed on any part or all of the land; activities such as farming or grazing can continue on all or part of the land. The landowner can benefit through tax incentives.

For example, the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust was formed to facilitate conservation easements around Steamboat Springs and other rapidly developing communities in Colorado. By donating development rights to the land trust, future estate taxes are cut in half and the land is guaranteed to be used in perpetuity for ranching.

### ***Cultural Resource Management***

In addition to the importance of protecting the NPS cultural and historic sites, the historic character of many gateway communities is an important asset and can enhance the connection between park and community and maintain local cultural heritage. Federal assistance exists for aspects of historical and cultural site inventory, assessments for restoration, and educational activities. Opportunities exist for gateway communities to restore historic downtown districts or protect cultural/historic sites in a region.

For example, the Los Caminos del Rio Heritage Project in Lower Rio Grande, Texas, is a 200-mile cultural heritage corridor that has produced significant benefits to the area in the form of increased recreational opportunities, land conservation, economic opportunities, and cultural resource protection. Funding for this project was provided by a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) block grant for historic preservation and Department of Transportation funds. The NPS provided technical assistance and outreach.

### ***Economic Development***

Economic development programs help communities diversify their local economies by providing business counseling, feasibility studies for new businesses, infrastructure, planning, and other forms of assistance that support new economic activities.

Rural Cooperative Development Grants and Small Business Development Centers can assist in identifying and assisting potential small businesses. Business and Industrial Loans and Rural Business Enterprise Grants can provide funding for project development. Business and Industrial (B&I) Loans and Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) are two important funding sources for tourism ventures.

### ***Environmental Education***

Environmental education builds an informed and aware citizenry and can benefit parks and gateway communities by increasing understanding of key issues associated with park resources. Federal programs can provide teacher training, curricula and educational materials development, and demonstration projects.

For example, the EPA's Environmental Education Grants Program supports the development of materials that focus specifically on park resources and community-park relations. A park can thus be used as an outdoor learning center and laboratory for local school programs. Students can also contribute to their local park through experiential learning while assisting in park improvement activities.

### ***Infrastructure***

Infrastructure includes facilities such as water and sewage treatment plants, landfills, municipal buildings, schools, and other public buildings (roads are included in the section on transportation). Infrastructure is a critical need in many rural gateway communities, necessary to accommodate and encourage sustainable economic growth. Public Works and Facilities Development Grants can provide funding for projects from water treatment plants to tourism facilities to vocational training schools. Federal assistance programs can help establish basic community services for a growing population, or for tourism

development. These programs can also provide community buildings for schools or training facilities, cultural events, or interpretive centers. To alleviate development pressures within the park, many park managers are promoting the transfer of operations and services to the local community.

### ***Job Training***

As an often necessary complement to economic development, job training programs assist in community development and benefit the NPS. Local human resources can offer valuable technical support to park operations. Training centers that offer courses in hospitality and customer services, small business, nature-guiding, and tourism management can be encouraged in many communities for job creation.

### ***Natural Resource Management***

The benefits to NPS resources when gateway communities engage in sustainable natural resource management projects are significant. Clean air, clean water, protected watersheds, wetlands, and upland habitat protection all increase the quality of the park as well as the natural amenities of the local communities. Federal programs assist a wide range of natural resource management issues, from wildlife habitat protection to pollution management. Many programs focus on water, watersheds, and wetlands.

For example, the San Miguel River Watershed, near Telluride, Colorado, is threatened by human settlement, tourism, and a decline in traditional economies. With a Wetlands Protection Development Grant, a wetlands study was conducted, river sedimentation mitigation completed, and coordinated management strategies developed. The NPS contributed to these efforts through its Challenge Cost-Share Program.

### ***Recreation***

Many federal programs can assist with the construction of new trails, interpretive centers, picnic areas, and local beautification projects. Such improvements can enhance the recreation experience of visitors both inside and outside park boundaries.

For example, Tyrell County, North Carolina, recently improved the community's economy by increasing outdoor recreation opportunities for visitors. A greenway now connects canoe trails, bike paths and walkways; a highway rest area has been constructed by the Department of Transportation; interpretive centers and information brochures are available to tourists; wildlife viewing and fishing areas have also been established. Recreational opportunities such as these can be funded by the Recreational Trail Program.

### ***Transportation***

Parks, greenways, and trails have been demonstrated to increase property values, enhance local tax revenues, and attract tourists. Roads are

necessary for access, safety, and sustainable development. The Federal Highway Administration, and other federal agencies sponsor programs that assist in trail and scenic byway construction. These programs can enhance tourism in gateway communities, as well as relieve traffic congestion, improve air quality, and minimize impacts within the parks.

To maintain the traditional small town environment of one of the communities adjacent to the Iditarod Trail in Alaska, a seven mile corridor was planned to connect the town to the trail. This used Federal Highway Administration Funds, NPS Challenge Cost-Share funds, and Bureau of Land Management support.

**Table 2. Comprehensive Federal Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Examples of Funded Projects</b>
AmeriCorps	Corporation for National and Community Service	Volunteer support for park conflict-resolution; design and maintenance of nature areas; habitat restoration; other environmental and community service projects
Challenge Cost-Share Program	Department of the Interior: National Park Service	Historic and archaeological site restoration; scientific research; park trail maintenance, interpretive exhibits; summer youth employment
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)/Special Purpose Grants/Technical Assistance Grants	Department of Housing and Urban Development: Community Planning and Development	Housing, infrastructure and business loans; grants, workshops, and training to help administer local community block grants
Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Program (EZ/EC)	Department of Agriculture: Rural Development: Office of Community Development	Venture capital fund to invest in businesses located within the EZ; development of home-based businesses; construction of fire stations; expansion of local library and increased telecommunications capacity; promotion of community beautification through a recycling program; establishment of youth recreation centers; leadership classes; training of community outreach organizers; development of rural transportation system; job training workshops

*continued...*

**Table 2. Comprehensive Federal Programs (continued)**

Program	Agency Responsible	Examples of Funded Projects
Fund for Rural America	Department of Agriculture: Research Education and Economics: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service	Extension assistance through land-grant universities and extension offices; research-based technical assistance (both natural and social science research)
Learn and Serve America School and Community-Based Programs	Corporation for National and Community Service	Student participation in environmental science and conservation activities; historical restoration projects
Public Telecommunications Facilities Program	Department of Commerce: National Telecommunications Information Administration	Improvement of rural community access to education, health care, public safety, and other community services
Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D)	Department of Agriculture: Natural Resources Conservation Service	Assistance to cooperatively-owned businesses; development of a revolving loan fund for community projects; workshops in non-profit management, grant management, land-use planning; community center development; wetlands protection; tourism conferences and planning events; and stream habitat restoration
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)	Department of the Interior: National Park Service	Provides technical and some financial assistance to communities to construct trails and other recreation areas, includes: 1) Rails-to-Trails Program, which converts old railway beds to recreation trails; 2) Heritage Partnership Program, in which communities designated as Heritage Partners receive technical support for project planning and implementation; 3) American Heritage Rivers Initiatives support community-led efforts relating to rivers that spur economic revitalization, protect natural resources, preserve historic and cultural heritage; and 4) other RTCA Programs that support river corridors management, technical assistance to watershed associations, river greenways development, and wild and scenic rivers
Rural Community Advancement Program	Department of Agriculture: Forest Service	Consolidates funding for direct and guaranteed water and waste disposal loans and grants, emergency water assistance grants, solid waste management grants, community facility land and grants. <i>[In the National Rural Development Partnerships, representatives from different federal agencies, companies and non-profits work to help coordinate initiatives and to create teams and task forces for rural development strategies.]</i>

continued...

**Table 2. Comprehensive Federal Programs (continued)**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Examples of Funded Projects</b>
Rural Community Assistance Program	Department of Agriculture: Forest Service	Broad-based assistance to help communities capitalize on their potential to diversify and expand their economies through natural resource conservation within three program areas: rural development, economic recovery, and economic diversification
Sustainable Development Challenge Grants	Environmental Protection Agency: Office of Air and Radiation	Sustainable forestry; SmartWood certification program; other projects that link environmental sustainability and economic prosperity
Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)	Corporation for National and Community Service	Volunteer support for community-based initiatives

**Table 3. Community Planning Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Examples of Funded Projects</b>
Communities in Economic Transition	Department of Agriculture: Research Education and Economics: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service	Planning for small business development
Conservation Operations Program	Department of Agriculture: Natural Resource Conservation Service	Assistance in developing community-based conservation and management plans
Cooperative Extension Service	Department of Agriculture: Research Education and Economics: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service	Use of local land grant universities to conduct economic, agricultural, environmental, and health and safety analyses for communities
Local Technical Assistance Program	Department of Commerce: Economic Development Administration	Use of local university resources to research economic opportunities in the community, and to develop feasibility studies on innovative projects
National Forest-Dependent Rural Communities Program	Department of Agriculture: Forest Service	Timber stand improvement planning; marketing activities; planning for value-added production
Planning Program for Economic Development Districts, Indian Tribes, and Redevelopment Areas	Department of Commerce: Economic Development Administration	Assistance for planning activities through hired personnel and technical assistance
Rural, Economic and Social Development	Department of Agriculture: Research Education and Economics: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service	Use of local land grant universities to conduct applied social science research

**Table 4: Conservation Easements/Land Acquisition Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Examples of Funded Projects</b>
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	Department of the Interior: Fish and Wildlife Service	Land acquisition for endangered species protection
Farmland Protection Program	Department of Agriculture: Natural Resource Conservation Service	Conservation easements on threatened farmlands
National Park Service Federal Lands-to-Parks Program	Department of the Interior: National Park Service	Land acquisition of federal land for public park and recreation use
Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development and Planning (Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants)	Department of the Interior: National Park Service	Acquisition of federal land for development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities
Recreational Trails Program	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Acquisition of land for trails
Surface Transportation Program, Transportation Enhancement Activities	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Acquisition of scenic easements and historic sites
Wetlands Reserve Program	Department of Agriculture: Natural Resource Conservation Service	Conservation easements to restore wetlands on private lands
Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson Program)	Department of the Interior: Fish and Wildlife Service	Land acquisition for wildlife populations and recreation use

**Table 5. Cultural Resource Management Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Examples of Funded Projects</b>
Heritage Resources Program	Department of Agriculture: Forest Service	Inventory, restoration, and protection of cultural resources
Historic Preservation Fund Grants-in-Aid	Department of the Interior: National Park Service	GIS cultural resource layer (Pacific Northwest); historic rehabilitation tax credit program; video-tape production; historic building restoration
Promotion of the Arts Grants to Organizations and Individuals	National Endowment of the Arts: National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities	Preservation of New Mexico's historic adobe churches; preservation of Alabama's musical tradition; mentor program to teach youth about traditional culture
Recreation and Cultural Resource Management	Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management	Funding for archaeological training and research; interpretive signs for cultural sites
Surface Transportation Program, Transportation Enhancement Activities	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Acquisition of scenic easements on historic sites, historic highways, and for historic site preservation; restoration of historic transportation buildings, structures and facilities; archaeological planning and research

**Table 6. Economic Development Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Examples of Funded Projects</b>
Business and Industrial Loans	Department of Agriculture: Rural Development: Rural Business-Cooperative Service	Catfish farming; agribusiness expansion; development of a radio station; tourism infrastructure development; conservation-based micro-enterprise development
Communities in Economic Transition	Department of Agriculture: Research Education and Economics: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service	Tourism development; value-added business development
Loans for Small Businesses	Small Business Administration	Establishment and maintenance of small businesses
National Forest-Dependent Rural Communities Program	Department of Agriculture: Forest Service	Development of non-farm small business; recreation and tourism development; farmers market establishment
Planning Program for Economic Development Districts, Indian Tribes, and Redevelopment Areas	Department of Commerce: Economic Development Administration	Development of new businesses, economic diversification
Public Works and Facilities Development Program	Department of Commerce: Economic Development Administration	Construction of vocational centers; renovation of historic buildings; water and sewer facility construction
Resource Conservation and Development Loans	Department of Agriculture: Rural Development: Rural Utilities Service	Development of water-based recreation opportunities for economic development
Rural Business Enterprise Grants	Department of Agriculture: Rural Development: Rural Business-Cooperative Service	Eco-industrial park development; small-business development; construction of recycling operations; conservation-based micro-enterprise development
Rural Cooperative Development Grants	Department of Agriculture: Rural Development: Rural Business-Cooperative Service	Micro-enterprise development and technical assistance; identification and feasibility studies for business opportunities
Rural Development Grants	Department of Agriculture: Forest Service	Development of new technologies and alternative forest product industries; sustainability and marketing assistance for special forest products (such as herbs, mushrooms, moss, and pine needles); value-added industry development such as furniture
Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants	Department of Agriculture: Rural Development: Rural Business-Cooperative Service	Water and sewage treatment plants; income-generation projects
Service Corps of Retired Executives	Small Business Administration	Business counseling and technical assistance for small businesses
Small Business Development Center Program	Small Business Administration	Business counseling, feasibility and markets studies, other business research

**Table 7. Environmental Education Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Examples of Funded Projects</b>
Adult Education State Grants	Department of Education: Office of Vocational and Adult Education	Development of teacher-training and special demonstration projects
Environmental Education Grants Program	Environmental Protection Agency: Office of Environmental Education	Education and training program development with environmental curricula; design of field methods, practices, and techniques; assessment of specific environmental issues or problems

**Table 8. Infrastructure Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Examples of Funded Projects</b>
Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds	Environmental Protection Agency: Office of Water	Wastewater treatment loans
Community Facilities Loans	Department of Agriculture: Rural Development: Rural Housing Service	Construction of municipal buildings and schools; construction of social and cultural facilities, and other public infrastructure
Hardship Grants Program for Rural Communities	Environmental Protection Agency: Office of Water	Wastewater treatment facilities
Public Works and Facilities Development Program	Department of Commerce: Economic Development Administration	Construction of water, sewer, and tourism facilities, vocational-technical schools and skill centers
State Revolving Fund Program	Environmental Protection Agency: Office of Wastewater Management	A wide variety of both point source and non-point source water quality projects, including: water treatment facilities, watershed protection, estuary habitat preservation, excavation and removal of contaminated soil, soil erosion control, and stream bed restoration
Technical Assistance and Training Grants	Department of Agriculture: Rural Development: Rural Utilities Service	Assistance and training for water and waste disposal problems
Water and Waste Disposal Systems for Rural Communities	Department of Agriculture: Rural Development: Rural Utilities Service	Water and waste disposal facilities

**Table 9. Job Training Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Examples of Funded Projects</b>
Adult Education State Grant Program	Department of Education: Office of Vocational and Adult Education	Teacher-training and special demonstration projects
Communities in Economic Transition	Department of Agriculture: Research Education and Economics: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service	Planning and assistance for tourism, home-based businesses, value-added forestry, youth employment, and small businesses
Planning Program for Economic Development Districts, Indian Tribes, and Redevelopment Areas	Department of Commerce: Economic Development Administration	Establishment of vocational-technical facilities and skill centers for training
Youthbuild Program	Department of Housing and Urban Development: Community Planning and Development	Youth training for construction and park-related activities, such as natural resource monitoring, tourism services, and interpretation

**Table 10. Natural Resource Management Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Examples of Funded Projects</b>
Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds	Environmental Protection Agency: Office of Water	Riparian buffer protection
Conservation Operations Program	Department of Agriculture: Natural Resource Conservation Service	Technical assistance in conservation practices
Conservation Reserve Program	Department of Agriculture: Farm Service	Land conservation of sensitive farmland; soil, water, and wildlife protection
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	Department of the Interior: Fish and Wildlife Service	Program development for species/habitat protection
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	Department of Agriculture: Natural Resource Conservation Service	Soil, water, and natural resource conservation on farmlands
Federal-Aid Highway Program	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Roadside beautification; wetlands protection
Forestry Incentives Program	Department of Agriculture: Natural Resource Conservation Service	Tree planting
Hardship Grants Program for Rural Communities	Environmental Protection Agency: Office of Water	Wastewater treatment and rural sanitation
National Forest-Dependent Rural Communities Program	Department of Agriculture: Forest Service	Environmental restoration jobs for unemployed farmers and loggers
Resource Conservation and Development Loans	Department of Agriculture: Rural Development: Rural Utilities Service	Soil and water conservation; installation of municipal water supply reservoir with additional benefits for recreation, fish and wildlife

*continued...*

**Table 10. Natural Resource Management Programs (continued)**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Examples of Funded Projects</b>
Small Watershed Program	Department of Agriculture: Natural Resource Conservation Service	Wetlands creation and restoration; protection of water and fish habitat; watershed survey and management
State Partnerships	Department of the Interior: Geological Survey	Partnerships with state agencies and other institutions to gather and distribute science information for natural resource decision making
State Revolving Fund Program	Environmental Protection Agency: Office of Wastewater Management	Non-point source pollution management; estuary conservation and management
Technical Assistance and Training Grants	Department of Agriculture: Rural Development: Rural Utilities Service	Assistance for wastewater problems
Wetlands Protection Development Grants	Environmental Protection Agency: Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds	Wetlands enhancement and protection; river corridor restoration
Wetlands Reserve Program	Department of Agriculture: Natural Resource Conservation Service	Wetlands restoration and protection
Wildlife Conservation and Appreciation (Partnerships for Wildlife)	Department of the Interior: Fish and Wildlife Service	Habitat restoration and conservation
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	Department of Agriculture: Natural Resource Conservation Service	Restoration and conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands
Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson Program)	Department of the Interior: Fish and Wildlife Service	Wildlife restoration

**Table 11. Recreation Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Examples of Funded Projects</b>
Federal-Aid Highway Program	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists; trail construction and maintenance
Federal Highway Administrative Fund	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Trail construction, special access trails, trail-side and trail head facilities
National Park Service Federal Lands-to- Parks Program	Department of the Interior: National Park Service	Purchase of federal lands for recreation and parks, including interpretive centers, picnic areas, and community gardens
Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development and Planning (Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants)	Department of the Interior: National Park Service	Construction of picnic areas, campgrounds, and bike trails; recreation projects  <i>[Note: This program is not currently funded.]</i>
Park, Parkway, and Recreational Area Programs	Department of the Interior: National Park Service	Inter-agency planning for recreation programs

*continued...*

**Table 11. Recreation Programs (continued)**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Examples of Funded Projects</b>
Recreational Trail Program	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Development of trailhead facilities; construction of new trails
Recreation and Cultural Resource Management	Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management	Leave-no-trace program; fishing, travel and tourism activities; cooperative inter-agency visitor services
Scenic Byways Program	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Pedestrian and bicycle trail construction
Surface Transportation Program, Transportation Enhancement Activities	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Scenic beautification; facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists; trail maintenance
Wildlife Conservation & Appreciation (Partnerships for Wildlife)	Department of the Interior: Fish and Wildlife Service	Development of wildlife-related recreation opportunities

**Table 12. Transportation Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Agency Responsible</b>	<b>Examples of Funded Projects</b>
Federal-Aid Highway Program	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Pedestrian and bicyclist facilities
Federal Highway Administrative Funds	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Trail construction crossing federal lands; special access trails
Federal Lands Highway Program	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Trail construction to parks and forests
Recreational Trail Program	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Maintenance of recreation trails for motorized and non-motorized users; construction of new trails
Scenic Byways Program Fund	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Construction of scenic byways; pedestrian and bicyclist facilities
Surface Transportation Program, Transportation Enhancement Activities	Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration	Pedestrian and bicyclist facilities

### Federal Departments and Agencies Offering Funding and Technical Assistance

Tables 13-22 present the same programs as the previous set of tables, but they are organized according to the federal departments and agencies that manage them. Each table summarizes relevant programs under each department or independent agency. Within some departments, there are specific agencies or offices that handle the programs; the programs are listed under the specific agency or office that manages them. The departments and independent agencies represented are:

- Corporation for National and Community Service,
- Department of Agriculture,
- Department of Commerce,

- Department of Education,
- Department of Housing and Urban Development,
- Department of the Interior,
- Department of Transportation,
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Endowment for the Arts, and
- Small Business Administration.

Each table presents: a) the agency that manages the program, b) the name of the program, c) the topic area(s), d) a brief description of the program, and e) contact information. Although up-to-date contact information is listed for each agency, website addresses and phone numbers can often change, and programs vary in availability from year to year.

**Table 13. Corporation for National and Community Service**

tel: (202) 606-5000 or (800) 942-2677  
<http://www.cns.gov>  
 1201 New York Avenue, NW  
 Washington, DC 20575

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Corporation for National & Community Service	AmeriCorps	Comprehensive	Provides grants and volunteers for community service projects.	(see above)
	Learn and Serve America School and Community-Based Programs	Comprehensive	Provides grants to encourage schools and community-based agencies to provide service-learning opportunities for school-age youth; and to coordinate adult volunteers in schools.	
	Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)	Comprehensive	Provides full-time, full-year AmeriCorps or VISTA volunteers to local organizations to address the problems of poverty.	

**Table 14. Department of Agriculture**

<http://www.usda.gov>

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Farm Service	Conservation Reserve Program	Natural Resource Management	Offers long-term rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term resource conservation on sensitive cropland or marginal pasture land. This includes measures to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance and restore wildlife habitat.	tel: (202) 720-5295 <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov">http://www.fsa.usda.gov</a>
Forest Service	Heritage Resources Program	Cultural Resource Management	Provides assistance to protect and restore heritage resources that are available for the education and use of current and future generations; to increase visitor satisfaction through awareness and participation in inventory, restoration; and protection from vandalism.	tel: (202) 205-1389 <a href="http://www.fs.gov">http://www.fs.gov</a>
	National Forest-Dependent Rural Communities Program	Economic Development Community Planning Natural Resource Management	Provides assistance to communities faced with acute economic problems associated with federal or private sector resource management decisions and policies, that are located in or near a national forest, and are economically dependent upon forest resources. Financial aid is extended to these communities to help them develop strategic plans to diversify the economic base and to improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of rural areas. This program is only available to counties within 100 miles of Forest Service lands that are at least 15% natural resource-dependent, and in towns no greater than 10,000 people.	

*continued...*

**Table 14. Department of Agriculture (continued)**

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Forest Service	Rural Community Advancement Program	Comprehensive	Provides support for state-wide strategic planning, coordination and development activities, and collaborative efforts by state and local communities.	tel: (202) 720-2847
	Rural Community Assistance Program	Comprehensive	Provides technical and financial assistance to foster sustainable rural economic development and resource management through wise use of forest resources.	tel: (202) 205-1389 <a href="http://www.fs.gov">http://www.fs.gov</a>
	Rural Development Grants	Economic Development	Provides economic development planning grants, technical assistance, and information to help communities address long-term economic problems.	
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Conservation Operations Program	Community Planning Natural Resource Management	Provides technical assistance to land users, communities, and government agencies in planning and implementing conservation activities.	tel: (202) 720-1845 <a href="http://www.ncg.nrcs.usda.gov">http://www.ncg.nrcs.usda.gov</a>
	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	Natural Resource Management	Provides participating farmers and ranchers facing serious threats to soil, water, and related natural resources with technical, financial, and educational assistance for environmental enhancement.	
	Farmland Protection Program	Conservation Easements	Provides funds to purchase conservation easements in order to limit non-agricultural uses of productive farmland.	tel: (202) 720-2847 <a href="http://www.ncg.nrcs.usda.gov">http://www.ncg.nrcs.usda.gov</a>
	Forestry Incentives Program	Natural Resource Management	Technical and financial assistance is given to plant trees on private, non-industrial lands, and to establish timber industry improvements.	

*continued...*

**Table 14. Department of Agriculture (continued)**

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Resource Conservation and Development Program	Comprehensive	Initiated in 1962, this grassroots, multi-agency collaboration provides technical assistance and small grants to plan, develop, and implement projects that meet the environmental, economic, and social needs of an area. An RC&D council is formed by local volunteers with a coordinator assigned to them. The following four areas are emphasized: 1) natural resource conservation, 2) resource development; 3) community/economic/business development; and 4) environmental education. There are currently 315 RC&D areas.	tel: (202) 720-2847 <a href="http://www.ncg.nrcs.usda.gov">http://www.ncg.nrcs.usda.gov</a>
	Small Watershed and Flood Prevention Program	Natural Resource Management	Provides cost-sharing grants and technical assistance to protect, manage, improve, and develop water and related land resources of a watershed.	tel: (202) 720-3527 <a href="http://www.ncg.nrcs.usda.gov">http://www.ncg.nrcs.usda.gov</a>
	Watershed Surveys and Planning	Natural Resource Management	Provides technical and financial assistance to federal, state, and local agencies for coordinating water programs. These include programs that help solve problems of upstream rural community flooding, water quality improvement coming from agricultural non-point sources, wetlands preservation and drought management for agricultural and rural communities.	

*continued...*

**Table 14. Department of Agriculture (continued)**

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Wetlands Reserve Program	Conservation Easements Natural Resource Management	Voluntary program to restore wetlands, improve habitat, and protect waterfowl. Landowners establish a conservation easement and receive the agricultural value of land.	tel: (202) 720-3527 <a href="http://www.ncg.nrcs.usda.gov">http://www.ncg.nrcs.usda.gov</a>
	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	Natural Resource Management	Voluntary program to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private land through technical assistance and cost-sharing grants. NRCS offers financial incentives for the landowner to develop habitat for fish and wildlife.	
Research Education and Economics; Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES)	Communities in Economic Transition	Job Training Community Planning Economic Development	Targeted to increase jobs in rural communities, this program offers strategic planning for economic development, and technical assistance for enterprise development and management.	tel: (202) 720-2810 <a href="http://www.reeusda.gov">http://www.reeusda.gov</a> <a href="http://www.econ.ag.gov">http://www.econ.ag.gov</a>
	Cooperative Extension Service	Community Planning	Provides grants to land-grant institutions to conduct scientific investigations on issues critical to the economic, agricultural, societal, health/safety, and environmental progress of rural areas.	
	Fund for Rural America	Comprehensive	Provides extension services through land grant universities and extension offices, natural and social science research, and technical assistance.	
	Rural, Economic and Social Development	Community Planning	Works through land grant universities to apply social science research to issues and problems prominent in rural areas.	

*continued...*

**Table 14. Department of Agriculture (continued)**

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Rural Community Facilities Development Division: Rural Housing Service	Community Facilities Loans	Infrastructure	Provides loans to construct, enlarge, extend or improve community facilities that provide essential services.	tel: (202) 720-1490 <a href="http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs">http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs</a>
Rural Development: Office of Community Development	Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community	Comprehensive	The EZ/EC Program is a community-based sustainable development initiative for economic revitalization which provides competitive community block grants for comprehensive strategic plans. Plans include economic, physical, environmental, community, and human development projects. There are currently 30 EC and 3 EZ in rural areas. EZ/EC designation entitles the community to millions of dollars in funding, as well as the authorization to apply for benefits from other department programs.	tel: (202) 619-7981, or (800) 645-4712, or (800) 851-3403 <a href="http://www.ezec.gov">http://www.ezec.gov</a>
Rural Development: Rural Business-Cooperative Service	Business and Industrial Loans	Economic Development	Guaranteed bank loans for public, private, or cooperative organizations, Indian tribes and individuals in rural areas for improvement of economic and environmental characteristics of the rural community.	tel: (202) 690-4730 <a href="http://www.rurdev.gov">http://www.rurdev.gov</a>
	Rural Business Enterprise Grants	Economic Development	Provides investment in human and physical resources of the community to develop land, create assistance programs, encourage business growth, and create jobs.	

*continued...*

**Table 14. Department of Agriculture (continued)**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Topic Area(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Rural Development: Rural Business- Cooperative Service	Rural Cooperative Development Grants	Economic Development	Provides grants that improve economic conditions in rural areas by promoting the development and commercialization of new services and products that can be produced or provided in rural areas. Grants can be used for technical assistance and training for small businesses, and analyzing business opportunities.	tel: (202) 690-4730 <a href="http://www.rurdev.gov">http://www.rurdev.gov</a>
	Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants	Economic Development	Provides loans and grants to projects that promote rural economic development and job creation, including funding for project feasibility studies and start-up costs.	
Rural Development: Rural Utilities Service	Resource Conservation and Development Loans	Economic Development Natural Resource Management	Provides loans for rural community public outdoor-oriented water-based recreation facilities; soil conservation, water development, and other natural resource conservation projects of economic benefit to the community.	tel: (202) 720-9637 <a href="http://www.usda.gov/rus">http://www.usda.gov/rus</a>
	Technical Assistance and Training Grants	Infrastructure Natural Resource Management	Provides project grants to identify and evaluate solutions to water and wastewater disposal problems.	
	Water and Waste Disposal Systems for Rural Communities	Infrastructure	Provides direct and guaranteed loans for the installation, repair, improvement, or expansion of rural water facilities.	

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**Table 15. Department of Commerce**

<http://www.doc.gov>

1400 Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20230

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Economic Development Administration	Local Technical Assistance Program	Community Planning	Provides project grants to enlist the resources of designated university centers in promoting economic development; support demonstration projects; and disseminate information on economic development issues of national significance.	tel: (202) 482-2127 <a href="http://www.doc.gov/eda">http://www.doc.gov/eda</a>
	Planning Program for Economic Development Districts, Indian Tribes, and Redevelopment Areas	Job Training Economic Development Community Planning	Provides grants to conduct economic development planning and implementation of programs designed to create or retain full-time permanent jobs and income for the unemployed and underemployed in areas of economic distress.	
	Public Works and Facilities Development Program	Infrastructure Economic Development	Grants are provided to help distressed communities attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate long-term, private sector jobs.	
National Telecommunications and Information Administration	Public Telecommunications Facilities Program	Comprehensive	Provides matching grants to non-profit organizations to improve quality of, and public access to, education, health care, public safety, and other community-based services.	tel: (202) 482-2048 <a href="http://www.ntia.doc.gov">http://www.ntia.doc.gov</a>

**Table 16. Department of Education**

tel: (202) 205-8270, or (800) USA-LEARN, or (800) 872-5327

<http://www.ed.gov>

600 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20202-7320

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Office of Vocational and Adult Education	Adult Education State Grant Program	Environmental Education Job Training	Provides grants to develop teacher-training programs and small business demonstration projects.	(see above)

**Table 17. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

tel: (202) 708-2290

<http://www.hud.gov>

451 Seventh Street, SW

Washington, DC 20240

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Community Planning and Development	Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)/ Economic Development Initiative	Comprehensive	Provides project grants, workshops, and training to help administer local community block grant programs.	(see above)
	Youthbuild Program	Job Training	Provides grants to economically-disadvantaged young adults to obtain education, employment skills, and meaningful on-site construction work experience. Preference is given to EZ/EC designated areas.	

**Table 18. Department of the Interior**

http://www.doi.gov  
 1849 C Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20240

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Bureau of Land Management	Recreation and Cultural Resource Management	Recreation Cultural Resource Management	Provides project grants, facilities, equipment and training to manage and preserve recreation and cultural resource values of public lands and to increase public awareness and appreciation of these values. This program is applicable only to lands administered by the BLM.	tel: (202) 452-5134 http://www.blm.gov
Fish and Wildlife Service	Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	Natural Resource Management Conservation Easements	Provides grants to states to develop programs for endangered and threatened species conservation. This includes land acquisition, protection, and public education. State agencies are required to have a cooperative agreement with the DOI to participate.	tel: (703) 358-2156 http://www.fws.gov
	Wildlife Conservation and Appreciation (Partnerships for Wildlife)	Natural Resource Management Recreation	Provides partial funding and technical assistance to private landowners through cooperative agreements to restore wetlands, grasslands, riparian areas, and other habitats; conserve fish and wildlife and provide opportunities for public enjoyment through non-consumptive activities; and to establish partnerships with other agencies.	
	Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson Program)	Natural Resource Management Conservation Easements	Provides grants to restore or manage wildlife populations and the provision of public use of these resources. This includes land acquisition and research. Grants must be through State Fish and Wildlife Agencies.	

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**Table 18. Department of the Interior (continued)**

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Geological Survey	State Partnerships	Natural Resource Management	Provides project grants to develop partnerships with state agencies and institutions to gather, analyze, and distribute biological science information needed for natural resource management decision making.	tel: (703) 648-4260 <a href="http://www.usgs.gov">http://www.usgs.gov</a>
National Park Service	Challenge Cost-Share Program	Comprehensive	Established to broaden opportunities for non-federal involvement in NPS activities. This program provides matching grants for projects on park lands or in support of NPS programs off park lands. Projects include: historic and archaeological site restoration, resource management, scientific research, park trail maintenance, interpretive exhibit enhancement, scientific research, and summer youth employment.	tel: (202) 343-9577 <a href="http://www.nps.gov">http://www.nps.gov</a>
	Historic Preservation Fund Grants-in-Aid	Cultural Resource Management	Provides matching grants to states for the identification, evaluation and protection of historic properties. This includes surveying, preservation planning, improvement of local historic preservation ordinances, support for technical or professional administrative assistance; nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and education.	tel: (202) 343-9573 <a href="http://www2.cr.nps.gov">http://www2.cr.nps.gov</a>
	Federal Lands-to-Parks Program	Recreation Conservation Easements	Provides assistance to public agencies to acquire federal land for public park and recreation use.	tel: (202) 565-1200 <a href="http://www.cr.nps.gov/rtca/flp/flphome.html">http://www.cr.nps.gov/rtca/flp/flphome.html</a>

*continued...*

**Table 18. Department of the Interior (continued)**

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
National Park Service	Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development and Planning (Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants)	Recreation Conservation Easements	Provides financial assistance to states and political subdivisions for the preparation of statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plans (SCORP) that identify needs for conservation and development of outdoor recreation resources and objectives (state program), as well as the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities (federal program). Facilities must be open to the general public. <i>[Note: The state component is not currently funded.]</i>	tel: (202) 565-1133 <a href="http://www.cr.nps.gov/lwcf/lwcf.htm">http://www.cr.nps.gov/lwcf/lwcf.htm</a>
	Park and Recreational Area Programs	Recreation	Coordinates with other agencies to inventory and study public park, parkway, and recreational area programs not under the jurisdiction of USDA.	tel: (202) 565-1200
	Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program	Comprehensive	Provides staff assistance to support government and citizen partnerships to increase the number of protected rivers, trails and landscapes.	tel: (202) 565-1200 <a href="http://www.cr.nps.gov/rtca">http://www.cr.nps.gov/rtca</a>

**Table 19. Department of Transportation**

tel: (202) 366-0660

http://www.dot.gov

400 Seventh Street, SW

Washington, DC 20590

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Federal Highway Administration	Federal-Aid Highway Program	Recreation Cultural Resource Management	Provides grants to improve public roads, restore roadside beauty, facilitate wetland mitigation, and provide habitat protection.	(see above)
	Federal Highway Administrative Funds	Natural Resource Management Conservation Easements	Provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails, restores areas damaged by recreation impacts, develops trail-side and trail head facilities, provides features which facilitate the access and use of trails by people with disabilities, acquires easements for trails or trail corridors, and constructs new trails crossing federal lands.	
	Federal Lands Highway Program	Natural Resource Management Recreation	Provides access to and within national forests, national parks, and Indian lands.	
	Recreational Trail Program	Natural Resource Management Conservation Easements	Provides funds to states for the purpose of providing and maintaining recreational trails. Trails and trail-related projects must be identified in, or further a specific goal of, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), required by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. <i>[Note: This program will soon be part of the Federal-Aid Highway Program.]</i>	
	Scenic Byways Program	Comprehensive	Provides funds for pedestrian and bicycle trails along highways.	

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**Table 19. Department of Transportation (continued)**

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Federal Highway Administration	Surface Transportation Program, Transportation Enhancement Activities	Recreation Transportation Conservation Easements Cultural Resource Management	Provides funds to state and local governments for water-related projects, wetland mitigation, landscaping, trails, historic preservation, and other projects.	(see above)

**Table 20. Environmental Protection Agency**

tel: (202) 260-2090

<http://www.epa.gov>

401 M Street, SW

Washington, DC 20460

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Office of Air and Radiation	Sustainable Development Challenge Grants	Comprehensive	Provides project grants to help catalyze community-based and regional projects that promote sustainable development to improve environmental quality and economic prosperity. An objective of this program is to build partnerships that increase a community's long-term capacity to protect the environment through sustainable development.	tel: (202) 260-6226, or 260-6812 <a href="http://www.epa.gov/oar">http://www.epa.gov/oar</a>
Office of Environmental Education	Environmental Education Grants Program	Environmental	Provides grants for projects which design, demonstrate or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques.	tel: (202) 260-4965
Office of Wastewater Management	State Revolving Loan Fund Program	Infrastructure Natural Resource Management	Provides funding for a variety of water quality programs.	tel: (202) 260-7359
Office of Water	Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds	Infrastructure Natural Resource Management	Provides revolving loans to states for water quality activities, such as wastewater treatment and riparian buffer protection.	tel: (202) 260-2036

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**Table 20. Environmental Protection Agency (continued)**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Topic Area(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Office of Water	Hardship Grants Program For Rural Communities	Infrastructure Natural Resource Management	Provides grants and technical assistance linked to Clean Water State Revolving Fund loans to fund wastewater treatment for small rural communities.	tel: (202) 260-2036
Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds	Wetlands Protection Development Grants	Natural Resource Management	Provides financial assistance to support wetlands protection or enhance existing programs.	tel: (202) 260-5084

**Table 21. National Endowment for the Arts**

tel: (202) 682-5400

<http://arts.endow.gov>

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20506-0001

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Topic Area(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities	Promotion of the Arts Grants to Organizations and Individuals	Cultural Resource Management	Provides project grants to support the arts through heritage preservation, education, and youth cultural education among others.	(see above)

**Table 22. Small Business Administration**

tel: (800) U-ASK-SBA, or (800) 827-5722

<http://www.sbaonline.sba.gov>

409 Third Street, SW

Washington, DC 20416

Agency	Program	Topic Area(s)	Description	Contact Information
Small Business Administration	Loans for Small Businesses	Economic Development	Provides direct loans and counseling for small businesses.	(see above)
	Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)	Economic Development	A non-profit organization funded by SBA that provides technical assistance to small businesses through free counseling and workshops.	
	Small Business Development Center Program (SBDC)	Economic Development	Provides management assistance to current and prospective small business owners by offering one-stop assistance in designated centers. There is an SBDC in every state, with a network of nearly 1,000 service locations.	

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## Part 3:

# Contact Information and Additional Resources

This section of the guide provides additional resources to assist in learning more about the federal programs presented in the previous section. Below is a list of the government departments and agencies with contact information as of September 1998. Following this contact information are additional references, including websites, that may be useful in conservation and development activities. Be aware that phone numbers and website addresses are often changed, and that programs vary in availability from year to year.

Additional references are provided at the end of this section. References include literature cited, additional references used in creating this guide, and other reports, manuals, and websites that may be helpful in pursuing collaborative activities for rural development.

### Contact Information

#### **Corporation for National and Community Service**

1201 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20575  
tel: (202) 606-5000  
(800) 942-2677  
<http://www.cns.gov>

#### **United States Department of Agriculture**

1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
<http://www.usda.gov>

#### **Farm Service Agency**

tel: (202) 720-5295  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

#### **Forest Service**

tel: (202) 205-1385  
<http://www.fs.gov>

#### **Natural Resources Conservation Service, Community Assistance/Rural Development**

tel: (202) 720-2847  
<http://www.ncg.nrcs.usda.gov>

#### **Office of Community Development**

tel: (202) 619-7981 or (800) 645-4712  
or (800) 851-3403  
<http://www.ezec.gov>

#### **Research Education and Economics**

tel: (202) 720-2810  
<http://www.ree.usda.gov>  
<http://www.econ.ag.gov>

#### **Rural Business-Cooperative Service**

tel: (202) 690-4730  
<http://www.rurdev.gov>

#### **Rural Housing Service**

tel: (202) 720-1490  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs>

#### **Rural Utilities Service**

tel: (202) 720-9637  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus>

#### **United States Department of Commerce**

1400 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230  
<http://www.doc.gov>

#### **Economic Development Administration**

tel: (202) 482-2127  
<http://www.doc.gov/eda>

**National Telecommunications and Information Administration**

tel: (202) 482-2048  
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov>

**United States Department of Education**

Office of Vocational and Adult Education  
600 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-7320  
tel: (202) 205-8270  
(800) USA-LEARN  
(800) 872-5327  
<http://www.ed.gov>

**United States Department of Housing and Urban Development**

Office of Economic Development  
451 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20410  
tel: (202) 708-2290  
<http://www.hud.gov>

**United States Department of the Interior**

1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
<http://www.doi.gov>

**Bureau of Land Management**

Office of Public Affairs  
tel: (202) 452-5134  
<http://www.blm.gov>

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

tel: (703) 358-2156  
<http://www.fws.gov>

**Geological Survey**

Biological Resources Division  
tel: (703) 648-4260  
<http://www.usgs.gov>

**National Park Service**

Challenge Cost-Share Program  
tel: (202) 343-9577  
<http://www.nps.gov>

**National Park Service**

Heritage Preservation Services  
tel: (202) 343-9573  
<http://www2.cr.nps.gov>

**National Park Service**

Land and Water Conservation Fund  
tel: (202) 565-1133  
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/lwcf/lwcf.htm>

**National Park Service**

Federal Lands-to-Parks Program  
tel: (202) 565-1200  
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/rtca/flp/flphome.html>

**National Park Service**

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation  
tel: (202) 565-1200  
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/rtca>

**United States Department of Transportation**

Federal Highway Administration  
400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590  
tel: (202) 366-0660  
<http://www.dot.gov>

**United States Environmental Protection Agency**

401 M Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20460  
tel: (202) 260-2090  
<http://www.epa.gov>

**Office of Air and Radiation**

tel: (202) 260-6226 or 260-6812  
<http://www.epa.gov/oar>

**Office of Environmental Education**

tel: (202) 260-4965

**Office of Wastewater Management**

tel: (202) 260-7359

**Office of Water**

tel: (202) 260-2036

**Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds**

tel: (202) 260-5084

**National Endowment for the Arts**

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20506-0001  
tel: (202) 682-5400  
<http://arts.endow.gov>

**Small Business Administration**

409 Third Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20416  
tel: (800) U-ASK-SBA  
(800) 827-5722  
<http://www.sbaonline.sba.gov>

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### **Mission Statement**

The objectives of the NPS Social Science Program are to conduct and promote state-of-the-art social science related to the mission of the National Park Service and deliver usable knowledge to NPS managers and to the public.



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