



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development

**RURAL GATEWAY PEER-TO-PEER CONFERENCE CALL**  
**Small Business Development Programs in Rural and Underserved Areas:**  
**A Discussion of Best Practices**  
**Date: March 14, 2013**  
**Time: 2:00 p.m. EST**

The Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development (ORHED) invites you to take part in our next Peer-to-Peer conference call. Scheduled for **March 14, 2013**, this call will offer participants the opportunity to learn about the current issues related to small business development programs in Rural and underserved areas.

Leaders of Rural America organizations will share their knowledge of successfully implementing small business development program activities that have expanded and created opportunities for those living in Rural America. Various organizations will have an opportunity to discuss and share issues related to small business development programs and economic development and the impact on Rural America. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions about best practices, discuss the challenges of developing small businesses, and economic development activities within rural communities, and establish contacts for future reference.

Join HUD's Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development (ORHED) and the U.S. Small Business Administration as we engage rural community leaders in this open forum on the perspective of small business development programs in rural and underserved areas as it pertains to economic development. Speakers will include **Peter Gibbs**, Deputy Director, Office of Surety Guarantees; **Jamie Davenport**, Deputy Branch Chief, Microenterprise Development Branch; **Tamara Murray**, Underwriting Marketing Specialist, Denver Office of Surety Guarantees and **Onica Browne**, Financial Analyst, Office of Economic Opportunity.

**Topics to be discussed**

- Community Advantage Pilot Loan Guarantee Program and the Microloan Program
- Surety Bond Guarantee Program
- Office of Native American Affairs
- Small Business Administration Loans collaborating with USDA
- Public and Private sources of funding to carry out projects
- Best practices and lessons-learned

**Format of the call:**

Call-in instructions and additional materials will be emailed to participants on **March 13, 2013**. The call will consist of a 60 minute presentation by our speakers, followed by a Q&A session.

Please **RSVP** by email to [rhed@hud.gov](mailto:rhed@hud.gov) no later than close of business on **March 13, 2013**. Please include your name and organization.

**If you have any questions, please call 1-877-RURAL-26 (1-877-787-2526).**