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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA and RCAP are Accepting Applications for Rural Capacity Building Technical Assistance

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 2019 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett and RCAP Executive Director Nathan Ohle today announced that USDA and cooperative partners are accepting applications from rural communities and regions for technical assistance to implement economic development projects.

USDA and four partners will review the applications as part of the Rural Economic Development Innovation (REDI) initiative. USDA is partnering with the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, National Association of Counties, McClure Engineering Company, and Purdue University Extension/Community & Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky.

Successful applicants will receive free technical assistance to develop and implement rural economic development plans. RCAP and assembled partners will deliver technical assistance utilizing the WealthWorks model focused on helping rural regions and communities identify existing wealth or assets to build upon, recognize market opportunities and connect local assets to real market demand. WealthWorks allows local leaders to focus on what they have—instead of what they lack—to generate multiple forms of wealth that benefit residents today and for generations to come while rooting value in local people, places, and businesses. Rural communities with 50,000 or fewer people are eligible to apply. Applications will be scored, reviewed and selected on a competitive basis.

Interested parties can learn more about this initiative during an informational webinar on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, at 1:00 PM EST.

Contact RD.Innovation@osec.usda.gov to request an application. The application deadline is April 5, 2019.

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