

Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP)

What does this program do?

The Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) provides loans to entities that agree to make affordable loans to help consumers implement cost-effective, energy efficiency measures. This program, authorized by Congress in the 2014 Farm Bill, helps to build a cleaner and more sustainable domestic energy sector for future generations. RESP will help lower energy bills for rural families and businesses and will reduce barriers to investment in energy efficiency projects or activities.

Who may apply for this program?

Eligible applicants include current and former Rural Utilities Service (RUS) borrowers, subsidiaries of current or former RUS borrowers, and entities that provide retail electric service in rural areas.

How is RESP different from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Loan Program (EECLP)?

- RESP offers a lower-cost financing option—a zero percent interest rate;
- RESP also has a broader pool of eligible borrowers (utilities, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and states), while EECLP program borrowers are limited to utilities that serve rural areas;
- RESP offers longer loan terms: 20 years versus 15 years for EECLP loans.

How may funds be used?

Funds may be used to implement energy-saving measures, or for energy costs incurred by qualified consumers.

How do we get started?

Applications for the RESP program will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted. To be considered for funding, applicants should submit a letter of intent to RESP@usda.gov. More information is available in the annual funding announcement published in the Federal Register.

What are the Loan Terms?

The RUS borrower is eligible to apply for a loan of up to 20 years at a 0 percent interest rate. (Up to 4 percent of the loan total may be used for startup costs.) The RUS borrower can charge an interest rate of up to 3 percent for relending to qualified consumers.

What governs this program?

These loans are made available under the authority of section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U. S.C. 8107a) (Section 6407).

How do I learn more?

For more information about the program, please contact Robert Coates at Robert.Coates@usda.gov.

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled “What Governs This Program?” You may also contact your local office for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at rd.usda.gov. *USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*