

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Forest Service****Lake County Resource Advisory Committee****AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.**SUMMARY:** The Lake County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a meeting.**DATES:** The meeting will be held on August 26, 2004, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Lake County Board of Supervisor's Chambers at 255 North Forbes Street, Lakeport.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Debbie McIntosh, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Upper Lake Ranger District, 10025 Elk Mountain Road, Upper Lake, CA 95485. (707) 275-2361; e-mail [dmcintosh@fs.fed.us](mailto:dmcintosh@fs.fed.us).**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Roll Call/Establish Quorum; (2) Review Minutes From the June 24, 2004, Meeting; (3) Discuss Other Business for 2004; (4) Strategy for Attending the Lake Co. Board of Supervisor's Meeting; (5) Letters to Congress on Retaining the RACs; (6) Discuss Project Cost Accounting USFS/County of Lake; (7) Set Next Meeting Date; (8) Public Comment Period; Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time. (9) Adjourn.

Dated: July 21, 2004.

**Blaine P. Baker,***Designated Federal Officer.*

[FR Doc. 04-17190 Filed 7-27-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M****DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Rural Utilities Service****Announcement of Grant Application Deadlines and Funding Levels****AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of solicitation of applications.**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announces its Community Connect Grant Program application window for funding during fiscal year (FY) 2004. In addition, RUS announces the minimum and maximum amounts for Community Connect grants applicable for the fiscal year. The

Community Connect Grant Program regulations are contained in 7 CFR 1739, subpart A published elsewhere in this issue.

**DATES:** You may submit completed applications for grants on paper or electronically according to the following deadlines:

- Paper copies must be postmarked and mailed, shipped, or sent overnight *no later than* September 13, 2004 to be eligible for FY 2004 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2004 grant funding.

- Electronic copies must be received by September 13, 2004 to be eligible for FY 2004 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2004 grant funding.

**ADDRESSES:** You may obtain application guides and materials for the Community Connect Grant Program via the Internet at the following Web site: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/commconnect.htm>. You may also request application guides and materials from RUS by contacting the appropriate individual listed in section VII of the Supplementary Information section of this notice.

Submit completed paper applications for grants to the Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 5151, STOP 1590, Washington, DC 20250-1590. Applications should be marked "Attention: Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program."

Submit electronic grant applications at <http://www.grants.gov> (Grants.gov), following the instructions you find on that Web site.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, telephone: (202) 720-9554, fax: (202) 720-0810.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION****Overview***Federal:* Rural Utilities Service (RUS).*Funding Opportunity Title:*

Community Connect Grant Program.

*Announcement Type:* Initial announcement.*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:* 10.863.*Dates:* You may submit completed applications for grants on paper or electronically according to the following deadlines:

- Paper copies must be postmarked and mailed, shipped, or sent overnight *no later than* September 13, 2004, to be eligible for FY 2004 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2004 grant funding.

- Electronic copies must be received by September 13, 2004, to be eligible for FY 2004 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2004 grant funding.

**Items in Supplementary Information**

I. Funding Opportunity: Brief introduction to the Community Connect Grant Program.

II. Award Information: Available funds and minimum and maximum amounts.

III. Eligibility Information: Who is eligible, what kinds of projects are eligible, what criteria determine basic eligibility.

IV. Application and Submission Information: Where to get application materials, what constitutes a completed application, how and where to submit applications, deadlines, items that are eligible.

V. Application Review Information: Considerations and preferences, scoring criteria, review standards, selection information.

VI. Award Administration Information: Award notice information, award recipient reporting requirements.

VII. Agency Contacts: Web, phone, fax, email, contact name.

**I. Funding Opportunity**

The provision of broadband transmission service is vital to the economic development, education, health, and safety of rural Americans. The purpose of the Community Connect Grant Program is to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible applicants that will provide, on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis, broadband transmission service that fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety services. RUS will give priority to rural areas that it believes have the greatest need for broadband transmission services, based on the criteria contained herein.

Grant authority will be used for the deployment of broadband transmission service to extremely rural, lower-income communities on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis. The "community-oriented connectivity" concept will stimulate practical, everyday uses and applications of broadband by cultivating the deployment of new broadband transmission services that improve economic development and provide enhanced educational and health care opportunities in rural areas. Such an approach will also give rural communities the opportunity to benefit from the advanced technologies that are necessary to achieve these goals. Please see 7 CFR 1739, subpart A for specifics.

This notice has been formatted to conform to a policy directive issued by the Office of Federal Financial Management (OFFM) of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB),