

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and You

President Obama signed into law on Feb. 17, 2009 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The goal is to invigorate the nation's economy and create or save jobs. Part of this program provides funding for housing and energy efficiency upgrades. There also is funding for qualified applicants to purchase homes.

One of the areas hardest hit by the economic downturn has been the rural areas. A rural area is considered to be a community with a population of less than 20,000 people. The funding for rural Illinois is over \$224,000,000. These funds are available through the local USDA Rural Development offices.

There are three different funded programs for rural homeowners. Two are direct loans from the USDA Rural Development and one is a loan guarantee through banks and mortgage companies. These loans and grants may be made to applicants who meet the low income criteria based on the median income in each county. Below are the basic criteria of each loan program:

Program	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Terms/Conditions
Single Family Housing Direct Loans	Provide well-built affordable homes	Families & Individuals	Buy, build, repair permanent residence	Up to 100% market value 33 & 38 year fixed rate
Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loans	Help guarantee loans with private lenders	Families & Individuals	Purchase new or existing home	Up to 100% market value 30 year negotiated fixed rate
Single Family Housing Direct Repair Loans & Grants	Help very low income homeowners repair their homes	Families & Individuals who own their homes	Repair or replace roof; purchase or repair heating system; structural repair; winterizing	\$20,000 loan to 20 years at 1%; grants up to \$7,500 for eligible applicants

This is a one-time funding opportunity and available until Sept. 30, 2010. If you reside in Ford, Iroquois, Livingston or McLean counties, the

USDA Rural Development office is located in Pontiac, Ill. If you reside in Champaign, Douglas, Edgar, Piatt or Vermilion counties the USDA

Rural Development office is located in Champaign, Illinois. Below are the addresses and phone numbers for each office.

Champaign Office: USDA Service Center
2118 West Park Ct., Ste B
Champaign, IL 61821
(217) 403-6236

Pontiac Office: USDA Service Center
1510 West Reynolds; P.O. 80
Pontiac, IL 61764
(815) 844-6127

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative also has Energy Wise Home Loans available up to \$10,000 at 6.8 percent

for 7 years for qualified members. For more information contact the Eastern Illini marketing department at 800-

824-5102. Eastern Illini is a Touchstone Energy cooperative and your connection to energy wise living.



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