



Guide to Grants

From the Office of Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell
Proudly Representing Alabama's 7th Congressional District



Nov 15, 2013

Welcome to the *Guide to Grants!*

I am honored to represent the 7th Congressional District of Alabama. One of the most important responsibilities as your representative is to provide you with information about funding opportunities. Now more than ever, grant opportunities are vital to the success of our local governments, organizations and other entities. This weekly guide will identify federal and foundation grant opportunities to assist you in goals for our communities. This Guide will include links to grant writing resources to help you make your proposals more successful. This Guide will also describe new funding opportunities for economic development, infrastructure, healthcare and educational projects as example. In addition, I am pleased to provide a Letter of Support for grant application projects in the 7th Congressional District of Alabama. Please let us know when grants are awarded, especially if you found the opportunities in the *Guide to Grants*.

For more information, please visit the website at <http://sewell.house.gov/> and you can subscribe to *Guide to Grants* at: <http://sewell.house.gov/contact-me/newsletter> or call 202-225-2665. Previous editions of the Guide to Grants are archived at <http://sewell.house.gov/guide-grants>.

Recent News

- [Statement from Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell on President Obama's Plan to Help Consumers Facing Cancellations to Healthcare Insurance Policies](#)
- [Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell Releases Alert to Constituents Regarding Reports of Fraud in USDA Farmer Discrimination Cases](#)
- [Statement by Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell on the passing of Birmingham City Council President Maxine Parker](#)
- [Statement from Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell in Observance of Veteran's Day](#)
- [Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell Announces Judicial Nomination Process for Federal Judgeship Vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit](#)
- [Congresswoman Sewell, Congressman Bachus Introduce Resolution Recognizing Birmingham's Veterans Day Celebration](#)



CONGRESSWOMAN TERRI A. SEWELL – REPRESENTING ALABAMA'S 7TH DISTRICT

Washington D.C. Office | 1133 Longworth House Office Building | Washington, D.C. 20515

[HTTP://Sewell.House.Gov](http://Sewell.House.Gov) | Phone: (202) 225-2665 | Fax (202) 226-9567

Statement from Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell on President Obama's Plan to Help Consumers Facing Cancellations to Healthcare Insurance Policies

November 15, 2013

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell (D-AL) released the following statement in response to President Obama's Plan to Help Consumers Facing Cancellations to their Healthcare Insurance Policies:

"I remain committed to the Affordable Care Act which is designed to provide access to health care for all Americans. While no law is perfect, I believe it is imperative that we provide access to healthcare for the 42 million Americans that are uninsured. I am encouraged by the President's efforts to honor his promise to ensure that individuals keep their current plans while giving them one year to evaluate better coverage options under the Affordable Care Act. I hope that those individuals that have plans with insufficient coverage will take this year to evaluate alternative plans that may in fact be better. It is my hope that the Administration continues to make the regulatory changes necessary to improve the Affordable Care Act so that it works for all insured and uninsured Americans.

I voted against H.R.3350 (the bill sponsored by Rep. Fred Upton) because it is yet another attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Rather than working together to improve this law, this bill seeks to unravel the protections and securities provided to the American people through the ACA. This bill puts insurance companies back in charge of our health care which could allow them to continue discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions and forcing women to pay more than men for the same coverage. We need to work together to improve the unintended consequences of the Affordable Care Act rather than dismantle it."

For more background about the President's announcement please visit:<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/11/14/president-obama-announces-new-steps-help-americans-receiving-insurance-cancellation->

###

Statement by Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell on the passing of Birmingham City Council President Maxine Parker

November 12, 2013

Today, Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell released the following statement on the passing of Birmingham City Councilwoman Maxine Parker

"I am deeply saddened to hear about the loss of Birmingham's beloved Councilwoman Maxine Parker, who recently became Council President. She will forever be remembered for her public service, strength, kindness and relentless pursuit for environmental justice in North Birmingham. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, colleagues and constituents during this difficult time."

###

Statement from Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell in Observance of Veteran's Day

Nov 11, 2013

Washington, DC – Today, Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell (D-AL) issued the following statement in recognition of Veterans Day. This holiday will be observed on Monday, November 11:

On Veterans Day, we pause to pay tribute to every service member who has answered the call to protect our democracy. Across every generation, their courage has never wavered. For that, we owe our nation's veterans and their families a debt of gratitude.

We acknowledge that no ceremony or parade can fully repay the debt we owe. Our gratitude must be displayed in the support we provide to our veterans and service members when they return home. It is unacceptable that nearly 1 million veterans suffer when SNAP benefits are slashed and that 67,000 will go to bed tonight without a home. No one who fights for our country should return to our shores and have to fight for a job, a meal, a home or quality healthcare. Providing support to our veterans and their families with the care they need and the benefits they deserve is one of our most fundamental moral obligations as a society. This obligation endures long after the war has ended and we should remain dedicated to that cause.

The immeasurable contributions and resolve of our nation's veterans represent the very best of what the American people have to offer. Today, we must express the gratitude of a grateful nation as we remember our wounded, our missing and our fallen.

###

Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell Announces Judicial Nomination Process for Federal Judgeship Vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

Nov 7, 2013

BIRMINGHAM, AL – On Tuesday November 5, Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell (D-AL) announced she will accept applications for recommendations to fill the federal judgeship vacancy created by Judge Joel Dubina who will take senior status on United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Applications are available online at www.alfedscreening.com and will be due on Monday, November 18.

Congresswoman Sewell has set up a Screening Committee for Federal District Judgeships in the State of Alabama to assist her with recommendations that will be made to the President to fill vacant federal judgeship positions in Alabama. The Screening Committee will include distinguished legal scholars, jurists and practitioners from the state of Alabama. The Screening Committee will review all applications, conduct interviews with applicants and make recommendations to Congresswoman Sewell. Nominations for federal judgeships are made solely by the President of the United States and all nominees must be confirmed by the United States Senate.

“Judge Joel Dubina was a fine jurist and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to him for his more than 22 years of service,” said Rep. Sewell. “Judge Dubina has served this nation and our state with distinction and I wish him well as he enters this next phase in his career.”

###

Congresswoman Sewell, Congressman Bachus Introduce Resolution Recognizing Birmingham's Veterans Day Celebration

October 30, 2013

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Terri Sewell (AL-7) and Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) today introduced a House resolution recognizing the significance of Birmingham’s Veterans Day commemorations

The resolution cites Birmingham as “home to the first and longest-running national celebration of Veterans Day.” National Veterans Day in Birmingham is now in its 66th year of paying tribute to the veterans who have served and sacrificed to protect America’s freedoms. The observance involves many events, including a parade through downtown Birmingham and the presentation of the National Veteran Award, which this year is being bestowed to the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

Congresswoman Sewell said, “Birmingham’s history of celebrating and honoring our nation’s brave service men and women is a tradition we are proud of. I am honored to introduce this resolution with Congressman Bachus in order to rightfully recognize Birmingham for its instrumental contributions to the establishment of National Veterans Day, the National Veterans Award, and the World Peace Luncheon. Birmingham’s steadfast recognition and celebration of our nation’s veterans serves as a compelling reminder of the role we all have in honoring those who defend and protect our democracy.”

Congressman Bachus said, “Birmingham has a long and proud history of honoring our esteemed veterans and truly is a role model for communities throughout our nation. It is my hope that our resolution will bring national attention to our continuing need to pay gratitude to those who have given their service, and even given their lives, to preserve the freedoms that we all are privileged to have as Americans. Our Veterans Day celebration in Birmingham is a tradition that we must cherish and support.”

The resolution cites the pivotal role that World War II veteran Raymond Weeks of Birmingham played in organizing the local celebration and advocating the creation of a National Veterans Day to General and later President Dwight Eisenhower. President Ronald Reagan recognized

Raymond Weeks as the “driving force” behind Veterans Day while presenting him with a Presidential Citation Medal at the White House in 1982.

Congressman Bachus served as Grand Marshal for the National Veterans Day Parade in Birmingham in 2008.

###

Recent Grant Awards

- **November 7, 2013** – Alabama Communities to receive \$839,000 in New Investments funded by the Delta Regional Authority.
- **November 7, 2013** – Whatley Health Services is awarded continuation grant through HHS for Health Center Cluster in amount of \$702,125.00.
- **September 26, 2013** – UWA is awarded \$101,941.00 from HHS for Campus Suicide Prevention Program
- **September 26, 2013** – Whatley Health Services is awarded \$85,000.00 from HHS for the Ryan White Title III HIV Capacity Development and Planning Grants
- **September 25, 2013** - Miles College is awarded \$300,000 from HHS for Prevention Partners for this mental health/substance abuse grant
- **September 25, 2013** – Aletheia House is awarded \$116,000 from HHS for the New Media grant program.
- **September 20, 2013** – City of Selma awarded \$500,000 for HUD’s Hope VI Main Street Program.
- **September 19, 2013** – UAB awarded \$367,500 for environmental research entitled, Biological Response to Environmental Health Hazards.
- **September 18, 2013** - Wallace Community College in Selma will receive \$3,251,562 DOL grant as part of a 6-college, multi-state grant led by Midlands Technical College in Columbia, South Carolina for the development and expansion of innovative training programs.
- **September 17, 2013** – UAB awarded \$394,091 for research for mothers and children.
- **September 17, 2013** – UAB awarded \$566,803 for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Research.

Table of Contents

| | | |
|--------------------|--|----|
| Section I | ACCESSING & REGISTERING FOR GRANT INFORMATION | |
| | 1. What is a Federal Grant? | 9 |
| | 2. Accessing Program Funding Registration | 9 |
| | 3. Foundation Grants: Private and Corporate Funding Sources | 9 |
| Section II | PROGRAM FUNDING THROUGH FEDERAL AGENCIES | |
| | Institute for Museum and Library Service (2 Program) | |
| | 1. Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries | 10 |
| | 2. National Leadership Grants for Museums | 10 |
| | National Endowment for the Arts (1 Program) | |
| | 1. Our Town | 10 |
| | National Endowment for the Humanities (4 Programs) | |
| | 1. Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations | 11 |
| | 2. Seeking Artists to Design United States Coins and Medals | 11 |
| | 3. Media Projects | 11 |
| | 4. Advancing Informal STEM Learning Grants | 12 |
| | National Science Foundation (2 Programs) | |
| | 1. Improving Undergraduate STEM Education | 12 |
| | 2. Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers | 12 |
| | U.S. Department of Agriculture (4 Programs) | |
| | 1. Technical Assistance and Training Grant: Utilities Programs | 12 |
| | 2. Solid Waste Management Grant Program | 13 |
| | 3. Biorefinery Assistance Program | 13 |
| | 4. Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) | 13 |
| | U.S. Department of Homeland Security (1 Program) | |
| | 1. Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) | 14 |
| | U.S. Department of Labor (1 Program) | |
| | 1. National Veterans Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) | 14 |
| | U.S. Small Business Administration | |
| | 1. Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Program | 14 |
| Section III | PROGRAM FUNDING THROUGH FOUNDATIONS | 15 |
| Section IV | SCHOLARSHIPS/ INTERNSHIPS/FINANCIAL AID | 16 |
| Section V | RESOURCES | 16 |

Section I ACCESSING & REGISTERING FOR GRANT INFORMATION

- A federal grant is an award of financial assistance from a federal agency to a recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States. Federal grants are not federal assistance or loans to individuals. A federal grant may not be used to acquire property or services for the federal government's direct benefit. The 26 federal agencies offer over 1,000 grant programs annually in various categories. Website: <http://www07.grants.gov/aboutgrants/grants.jsp>
- To learn about Federal grant opportunities, register your organization and receive notices, please visit www.grants.gov. It is the resource for all Federal grants.
- To apply for Federal Grants: http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp
- [Grants.gov Applicant Training Video](#) - Need a quick lesson on how to Register, Find and Apply? Watch this short video to get tips on registering with Grants.gov; finding grant opportunities; understanding your search results; and, applying for opportunities.
- To learn about foundation grant opportunities, please visit <http://foundationcenter.org/>. The Foundation Center is a gateway to information about private funding sources and provides guidelines about how to write a grant proposal. It also provides links to state libraries with grants reference collections, and links to other useful Internet websites.

Section II PROGRAM FUNDING THROUGH FEDERAL AGENCIES

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Program: **NEW -Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries**

Description: These small grants encourage libraries, and archives to prototype and evaluate specific innovations in the ways they operate and the services they provide, resulting in new tools, products, services, or organizational practices. The deadline is February 3, 2014.

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=247645>

Program: **NEW - National Leadership Grants for Museums**

Description: National Leadership Grants (NLG) for Museums support projects that address current and future needs of the museum field and that have the potential to advance practice in the profession so that museums can improve services for the American public. Grant awards will range from \$50,000 to \$500,000.

Website:

<http://eeinalabama.org/resource/about.aspx?s=79357.0.0.37934>

National Endowment for the Arts

Program: **NEW - Our Town**

Description: The agency's program that supports communities that are using the arts to revitalize neighborhoods and reignite local economies. Pending availability of funding, grants will range from \$25,000 to \$200,000. Application deadline is January 13, 2014 at 11:59 pm.

Website: <http://arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town>.

National Endowment for the Humanities

Program: **NEW - Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations**

Description: Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations grants provide support for museums, libraries, historic places, and other organizations that produce public programs in the humanities. The deadline is January 8, 2014.

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=247073>

Program: **NEW - United States Mint Call for Artists: Seeking Artists to Design United States Coins and Medals**

Description: The United States Mint will award contracts to up to 20 artists to participate in the United States Mint Artistic Infusion Program (AIP) and submit designs for selected coin and medal programs.

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=246854>

Program: **NEW - Media Projects**

Description: Media Projects grants support the following formats: interactive digital media; film and television projects; and radio projects. Interactive digital media may be websites, games, mobile applications, virtual environments, streaming video, podcasts, or other digital formats.

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=246714>

Program: **NEW-Advancing Informal STEM Learning Grants**

Description: The Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) program seeks to advance new approaches to and evidence based understanding of the design and development of STEM learning in informal environments; provide multiple pathways for broadening access to and engagement in STEM learning experiences; advance innovative research on and assessment of STEM learning in informal environments; and develop understandings of deeper learning by participants.

Website: <http://eeinalabama.org/resource/about.aspx?s=97569.0.0.37934>

National Science Foundation

Program: **NEW- Improving Undergraduate STEM Education**

Description: A well-prepared, innovative science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce is crucial to the Nation's health and economy. Indeed, recent policy actions and reports have drawn attention to the opportunities and challenges inherent in increasing the number of highly qualified STEM graduates, including STEM teachers.

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

Program: **NEW - Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers**

Description: The ITEST program through research and model-building activities seeks to build understandings of best practice factors, contexts and processes contributing to K-12 students' motivation and participation in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) core domains.

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=247596>

U.S Department of Agriculture

Program: **NEW-Technical Assistance and Training Grant: Utilities Programs**

Description: The Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant Program has been established to assist communities with water or wastewater systems through free technical assistance and/or training provided by the grant recipients. Qualified private non-profit organizations will receive TAT grant funds to identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste disposal problems in rural areas, assist applicants in preparing applications for

water and waste grants made at the State level offices, and improve operation and maintenance of existing water and waste disposal facilities in rural areas.

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

Program: **NEW- Solid Waste Management Grant Program**

Description: Funds may be used to: Evaluate current landfill conditions to determine threats to water resources in rural areas; provide technical assistance and/or training to enhance operator skills in the maintenance and operation of active landfills in rural areas; provide technical assistance and/or training to help associations reduce the solid waste stream; and provide technical assistance and/or training for operators of landfills in rural areas which are closed or will be closed in the near future with the development/implementation of closure plans, future land use plans, safety and maintenance planning, and closure scheduling within permit requirements.

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

Program: **NEW - Biorefinery Assistance Program**

Description: The program provides loan guarantees to viable commercial-scale facilities to develop new and emerging technologies for advanced biofuels. Applications are due Jan. 30, 2014.

Website:

<http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/10381/usda-accepting-applications-for-biorefinery-assistance-program>

Program: **NEW- Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program**

Description: The RBEG program provides grants for rural projects that finance and facilitate development of small and emerging rural businesses help fund distance learning networks, and help fund employment related adult education programs. To assist with business development, RBEGs may fund a broad array of activities.

Website: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_rbeg.html

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Program: **NEW - Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)**

Description: The AFG program provides financial assistance to help fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Service (EMS) organizations and State Fire Training Academies (SFTA): for critically needed resources to protect the public, to train emergency personnel, and to foster interoperability and support community resilience, as well as enhance through direct financial assistance, the safety of the public and to provide a continuum of support for emergency responders regarding fire, medical, and all hazard events.

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

U.S. Department of Labor

Program: **NEW-National Veterans Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC)**

Description: The primary objective of the HVRP NVTAC is to provide a broad range of technical assistance on veterans' homelessness programs and issues to existing and potential HVRP, HFVWWF, IVTP, and SD grantees and applicants, employers, Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), federal, state, and local agency partners including state and local workforce investment boards, non-profit organizations including faith-based and community organizations, the general public, and other interested stakeholders.

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

U.S. Small Business Administration

Program: **NEW - Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Program**

Description: The purpose of this Program Announcement is to invite proposals from Public and Private Institutions interested in obtaining funding for continuation of the VWISE National Entrepreneurship Training Program designed to train female veterans and transitioning service personnel interested in starting new small businesses, and current spouses or companions of veteran small business owners interested in expanding/diversifying existing firms. The deadline is December 5, 2013.

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

**Section IV PROGRAM FUNDING THROUGH PRIVATE,
CORPORATE & COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS**

Program: **NEW - Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation Announces
2014 Toolbox for Education Grant Program**

Description: Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation has announced the opening of its Spring 2014 Toolbox for Education grant cycle. The program supports projects that encourage parental involvement in local schools and build stronger community spirit.

Website:

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml;jsessionid=WXWK4CNQ2PVCFLAQBQ4CGXD5AAAACI2F?id=443700023

Program: **NEW - Starbucks Shared Planet Youth Action Grants**

Description: The Starbucks Foundation's Youth Leadership Grant Program supports organizations that provide young people ages 15-24 a continuum of services in developing creative approaches to address pressing concerns in their communities. Grants range from \$10,000-\$30,000.

Website: <http://eeinalabama.org/resource/about.aspx?s=13512.0.0.37934>

Program: **NEW - The Alabama Black Belt Heritage Area County Grant**

Description: The University of West Alabama through its Center for the Study of the Black Belt in the Division of Educational Outreach will once again offer \$500 per county to stimulate ideas and projects in the fifth annual Alabama Black Belt Heritage Area County Grant Program. The forms are due to The Center for the Study of the Black Belt (mailing/e-mail address listed at bottom of form) by Monday, December 2.

Website: <http://alblackbeltheritage.org/node/539>

Section IV INTERNSHIPS/ SCHOLARSHIPS / FINANCIAL AID

FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid
<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

HBCU Scholarship Directory
<http://hbcuconnect.com/scholarships/>

Federal Aid Website: <http://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/federal-aid/>

Alabama Scholarships Website: <http://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-state/alabama-scholarships/>

Alabama's Scholarship and Grant Programs
Website: <http://www.collegescholarships.org/states/alabama.htm>

Scholarship Experts Website: <http://scholarshipexperts.com>

Fast Web Website: <http://www.fastweb.com/>

Section V RESOURCES

(NOVEMBER 11, 2013) RURAL DEVELOPMENT HONORS AMERICA'S VETERANS AND HIGHLIGHTS WAYS USDA CAN HELP THEM

Washington, Nov 11, 2013 --

Acting Under Secretary for Rural Development Doug O'Brien today honored the nation's veterans and underscored the many opportunities available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help them start or expand businesses and purchase homes in rural communities.

"America's rural towns, farms and hamlets comprise nearly 40 percent of the nation's armed services personnel, so it is a privilege to recognize their contributions on Veterans Day," O'Brien said. "I am proud of the work USDA and the Obama Administration have done over the past few years to reach out to our veterans and ensure they are aware of the many programs Rural Development has available to them and their communities."

Today, about 6.1 million veterans live in rural areas. They are often leaders in their communities, and USDA wants to help them pursue and reach their goals. For example, our Rural Housing Program can help veterans become homeowners. USDA's Single-Family Housing Programs finance homes for low- and moderate-income rural Americans through direct loans and loan guarantees, and provide loans and grants to repair or improve existing homes, including accessibility modifications for people with disabilities. (View the list of all Single-Family Housing Loan and Grant programs.)

Army veteran Crystal Woolen served this nation for eight years as a heavy equipment operator, including a 15-month tour in Iraq. Upon returning stateside in 2011, she sought to buy a home in Palisade, Colo. Woolen contacted Housing Resources of Western Colorado, a local non-profit housing agency, and learned about Rural Development's Self-Help Housing program. Under this program, participants –with expert supervision – perform about 65 percent of the construction labor on each other's homes. The savings from reduced labor costs allows them to obtain low-interest mortgages through USDA. In addition to learning home construction skills, Woolen received instruction in managing a household budget – important skills that will help her as a new homeowner.

Our Multi-Family Housing Programs finance apartment-style rental housing complexes for very-low-, low- and moderate-income individuals and families, the elderly and people with disabilities. Additionally, Rental assistance is available to very-low-income individuals to help them offset the cost of rent.

Rural Development Community Facilities Programs provide direct loans, grants and loan guarantees for essential community facilities in rural areas. Typical projects include hospitals, health clinics, schools, fire houses and community centers. In Missouri, for example, Rural Development recently provided Exceptional Equestrians of the Missouri Valley with a \$750,000 Community Facilities loan to purchase a horse stable and about 31 acres of land. One of the programs that Exceptional Equestrians offers is its "Heroes on Horseback" program, a free therapeutic riding service for disabled and injured veterans.

Through its Business Programs, Rural Development provides loans and grants for new, existing and expanding rural business. Funding can be used for projects that provide jobs and job training for veterans. One of the biggest challenges for veterans returning home is finding employment. In rural west Tennessee, a new program — the Soldiers to Civilians (S2C) Project — was recently started to give local veterans training in precision agriculture. Thanks to a Rural Business Enterprise Grant from Rural Development, today the S2C program is expanding beyond west Tennessee to help even more veterans in the rural delta areas of east Arkansas and west Mississippi.

USDA has also worked assiduously to increase its rate of hiring veterans and disabled veterans. In February 2012, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and The American Legion signed an agreement to increase outreach, recruitment, hiring and retention of veterans and to ensure that veterans across America – and especially in rural America – are well-informed about USDA programs. The Legion is the nation's largest veterans' service organization and helps transitioning military and veterans find jobs. Legion posts are often the hub of rural communities. One-third of American Legion members and more than 5,300 posts are located in counties with populations under 40,000.

These are just a few examples of how USDA supports America's rural veterans. O'Brien noted that this support is a reminder of the importance of USDA programs for all of rural America. A comprehensive new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill would further expand the rural economy and is just one reason why Congress must get a comprehensive Food, Farm and Jobs Bill done as soon as possible, he added.

To learn more about USDA programs, we encourage veterans and their families to contact their nearest USDA Rural Development local office for assistance.

Alabama Charities to Assist the Poor

Website:

http://www.charity-charities.org/HungerPoverty/Alabama_3.html

The Health Insurance Marketplace is Open!

Enroll now in a plan that covers essential benefits, pre-existing conditions, and more. Plus, see if you qualify for lower costs.

[Apply Now](#)

<https://www.healthcare.gov/>

The SHOP Marketplace is Open for Business!

You can enroll in health coverage that works for you—and your employees.

[Apply Now](#)

<https://www.healthcare.gov/small-businesses/>

[What do small businesses need to know?](#)

[What if I currently have COBRA coverage?](#)

[What if I'm losing job-based insurance?](#)

[Can children stay on a parent's plan until age 26?](#)

Enroll America

Alabama

Health Insurance Marketplace - HealthCare.Gov is the Health Insurance Marketplace for Alabama. Consumers can apply as early as October 1, 2013. Visit HealthCare.Gov to learn more.

Find out where the uninsured live in Alabama: [Enroll America's Outreach Maps](#)

Exchange Implementation Update

Type of Exchange Planned:

The new Alabama Health Insurance Marketplace is operated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Visit marketplace.cms.gov to see how you can partner with HHS to help people enroll in the new coverage options in Alabama.

Federal Support for Enrollment in Alabama:

- Alabama has received a total of [\\$9,772,451](#) from HHS to support establishment of the Health Insurance Marketplace.
- On July 10, 2013, health centers in Alabama were awarded a total of [\\$2,424,896](#) to provide outreach and enrollment assistance.
- HHS is planning to provide [\\$1,071,682](#) to organizations in Alabama to serve as navigators.

- See more at: <http://www.enrollamerica.org/states/alabama#sthash.uT0mDsbB.dpuf>

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS IN ALABAMA

Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments
P.O. Box 2603
Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35662
Phone: 256.389.0500
Fax: 256.389.0599
Executive Director: Keith Jones
Visit the Web site of Region 1 - <http://nacolg.com/>

West Alabama Regional Commission
4200 Highway 69 North
Northport, Alabama 35473-3505

Phone: 205.333.2990
Fax: 205.333.2713
Executive Director: Robert B. Lake
Visit the Web site of Region 2 - <http://www.warc.info/index.php>

Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
1731 First Avenue North, Suite 200
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
Phone: 205.251.8139
Fax: 205.328.3304
Executive Director: Charles Ball
Visit the Web site of Region 3 - <http://www.rpcgb.org/>

East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission
P.O. Box 2186
Anniston, Alabama 36202
Phone: 256.237.6741
Fax: 256.237.6763
Executive Director: Bill Curtis
Visit the Web site of Region 4 - <http://www.earpdc.org/>

South Central Alabama Development Commission
5900 Carmichael Place
Montgomery, Alabama 36117
Phone: 334.244.6903
Fax: 334.270.0038
Executive Director: Tyson Howard
Visit the Web site of Region 5 - <http://scadc.state.al.us/>

Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission
107 Broad Street
Camden, Alabama 36726
Phone: 334.682.4234
Fax: 334.682.4205
Executive Director: John Clyde Riggs
Visit the Web site of Region 6 - <http://www.alarc.org/atrc/index.htm>

Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission
P.O. Box 1406
Dothan, Alabama 36302
Phone: 334.794.4093
Fax: 334.794.3288
Executive Director: Thomas B. Solomon
Visit the Web site of Region 7 - <http://www.sanman.net/searpcdc/searpcdc.htm>

South Alabama Regional Planning Commission
P.O. Box 1665

Mobile, Alabama 36633
Phone: 251.433.6541
Fax: 251.433.6009
Executive Director: Russ Wimberly
Visit the Web site of Region 8 - <http://www.sarpc.org/>

Central Alabama Regional Planning Development Commission
125 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
Phone: 334.262.4300
Fax: 334.262.6976
Visit the Web site of Region 9 - <http://www.carpdc.com/>

Lee-Russell Council of Governments
2207 Gateway Drive
Opelika, Alabama 36801
Phone: 334.749.5264
Fax: 334.749.6582
Executive Director: Suzanne G. Burnette
Visit the Web site of Region 10 - <http://www.lrcog.com/>

North-Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments
P.O. Box C
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Phone: 256.355.4515
Fax: 256.351.1380
Executive Director: C. Ronald Matthews
Visit the Web site of Region 11 - <http://www.narcog.org/>

Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments
5075 Research Drive, NW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805-5912
Phone: 256.830.0818
Fax: 256.830.0843
Executive Director: Robert B. Culver
Visit the Web site of Region 12 - <http://www.tarcog.org/>

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS IN ALABAMA

Website: <http://alabamagiving.org/cf-directory/>

Autauga Area Community Foundation
c/o Central Alabama Community Foundation, Inc.
434 N. McDonough Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334-264-6223
Website: www.aacfinfo.org

The Community Foundation of South Alabama
c/o The Community Foundation of South Alabama
P.O. Box 990
Mobile, AL 36601
Phone: 251-438-5591
Website: www.communityendowment.com

Black Belt Community Foundation
609 Lauderdale Street
Selma, AL 36701-4555
Phone: 334-874-1126 Fax: 334-874-1131
Website: <http://blackbeltfound.org/>

The Greater Brewton Foundation
P.O. Box 87
Brewton, AL 36427
Phone: (251) 867-4881

Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama
P. O. Box 36202
Anniston, Alabama 36202
Telephone: 256-231-5160 Fax: 256-231-5161
Website: <http://www.yourcommunityfirst.org/>

Central Alabama Community Foundation, Inc.
434 N. McDonough Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
Telephone: 334-264-6223 Fax: 334-263-6225
Website: <http://www.cacfinfo.org>

Elmore County Community Foundation
c/o Central Alabama Community Foundation, Inc.
434 N. McDonough Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334-264-6223
Website: www.eccfinfo.org

The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
2100 First Ave. N., Ste. 700
Birmingham, AL 35203

Telephone: (205) 328-8641 Fax: (205) 328-6576
Website: <http://www.foundationbirmingham.org>

The Community Foundation of Greater Decatur
P.O. Box 2003
Decatur, AL 35602
Phone: 256-353-5312
Website: www.cfogd.org

The Community Foundation of Huntsville/Madison County
659 Gallatin Street
Huntsville, AL 35801
Phone: 256-564-7430
Website: <http://www.communityfoundationhsv.org/>

Limestone Area Community Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 578
Athens, AL 35612
Phone: 256-232-4200

Riverbend Community Foundation
635 West College Street
Florence, AL 35630
Phone: 256-764-3431

Shelby County Community Health Foundation
Shelby Baptist Medical Center
1000 First Street N.
Alabaster, AL 35007
Phone: (205)669-3737

Southeast Alabama Community Foundation

P.O. Box 1422
Dothan, AL 36302-1422
Phone: 334-671-1059, Fax: 334-793-0627
Website: www.sacinfo.org

Community Foundation of West Alabama
P.O. Box 3033
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403
Telephone: 205-366-0698, Fax 205-366-0813
Website: <http://thecfwa.org/>

Walker Area Community Foundation
P.O. Box 171
Jasper, AL 35502-0171

Telephone: 205-302-0001, Fax: (205) 302-0424
Website: <http://www.wacf.org>