



Questions & Responses

1. Does the USDA do land and construction loans in Kauai, Hawaii? If so, is there funding for this type of loan?

Tedd Buelow Response:

Yes. USDA Rural Development offers its full range of programs throughout Hawaii, including Kauai. Project and program eligibility requirements will have to be met. Some programs offer construction loan financing, while others offer permanent, take out financing. Land acquisition is an eligible project cost in some RD programs. For more information you can consult the USDA Rural Development website (<https://www.rd.usda.gov/>) or call the RD Office in Kauai at (808) 245-9014, Ext. 4.

2. If a tribe wanted to build a large solar facility for \$100 Million could they separate the facility so that it breaks up into (5) \$20 Million facilities and can they get 5 separate loans?

Tedd Buelow Response:

Phased projects can be accommodated in RD's programs. Financing for residential solar is not eligible under the Rural America for American Program (REAP). The loan would need to be to an eligible applicant and, for an eligible project purpose and it would have to meet other program criteria, including rurality. More information on the REAP and RUS Electric programs can be found here:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/RD-RUS-RBSEnergyEfficiencyComparisonChart2016.pdf>

I also encourage you to follow-up with local USDA Rural Development staff. A list of our State Offices contact info and webpages can be found here:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>



3. Can tribes attach expected tax credits as a warrant to loans in an effort to get better loan pricing? The warrant would separate in time from the bond.

Tedd Buelow Response:

Adequate security for an RD direct loan or an RD loan guarantee depends on the specific project and the program being used. Please follow-up with USDA RD National Office or Local program staff to run through different program requirements based on as much information is available regarding a specific project. Contact information for USDA Rural Development staff and offices is available at:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us>.

4. How do you recommend a given tribe navigate all these different programs - not just USDA but Interior, DOD, etc.

Tedd Buelow Response:

Invite agency staff from the respective programs to participate in meetings/discussions with Tribes and lenders so that a solid understanding of the menu of programs is communicated. The FDIC could assist in facilitating such meetings in the future. To initiate such a meeting or conversation, parties can always reach out to USDA RD's Native American Coordinator, Tedd Buelow, at (720) 544-2911 or tedd.buelow@usda.gov.

Joel Smith Response:

All programs require first that the project aligns with a willing lender. The lender should help the tribe choose which program fits best and help navigate.

5. As a branch manager and mortgage loan originator for over 20 years I have done many loans on tribal trust loans under the HUD 184 program. We are an approved lender for the USDA Guarantee program. We are also do construction loans for USDA and the 184 program. How can I get approved to do the tribal trust loans on the reservation with your current MOU in other states besides ND and SD?



Tedd Buelow Response:

At USDA Rural Development, there is no need to go through an MOU process to provide 502 guaranteed loans on tribal trust land in any state. If you're a 502 approved lender, USDA will work with you to ensure you've reviewed the tribe's homesite lease and documented that you've reviewed and are comfortable with the tribe's foreclosure and eviction ordinances. If you're not an approved 502 guaranteed lender, I would refer you to my colleagues in the National Office that can provide additional information regarding that process.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/lenders/usda-linc-training-resource-library>