



Housing Construction for Rural Educators, Public Safety Officers and Medical Providers

Because of unavailable or substandard housing, rural communities across the country often face challenges recruiting and retaining teachers, law enforcement professionals and doctors. Approximately 9,000 housing units are needed in rural Alaska alone. To address these challenges in Alaska and other states, Senator Begich introduced the *Rural Educator and American Community Housing Act*. It will provide \$50 million to build housing and improve living arrangements for educators, public safety officers and medical providers working in rural communities.

Funding will pay for loan guarantees and grants for housing construction, modernization, renovation and repairs in rural communities

Dollars will go to housing authorities, local governments, tribes and other entities and can be used for:

- ❖ Interest payments on housing loans;
- ❖ Repayment of loans made to build or improve housing;
- ❖ Purchasing or leasing property on which housing will be built, modernized or repaired; or
- ❖ Other activities involving construction, modernization, renovation and repair of housing units.

Priority Applicants

- ❖ Priority in applying for projects will go to: State and local education agencies, educational service agencies, state and local housing authorities, Indian tribes and tribal organizations, tribally designated housing entities, local governments, and any consortium of these organizations.

Application Requirements

All applications must include:

- ❖ Evidence that the housing project will be located in a rural community (not part of an urbanized area and either off the road system with a population of less than 10,000 or any community with a population of less than 2,500);
- ❖ An identification of the entity that will administer the program;
- ❖ A description of how the entity will ensure adequate maintenance of the facility;
- ❖ Demonstrated need for modernized, habitable housing in the community;
- ❖ A description of the impact the project will have on the rural community and its economy; and
- ❖ A demonstration of how the housing will be used for educators, law enforcement officers and firefighters, and/or medical providers.