



STATE OF WASHINGTON

The State of Washington's Farmworker Housing Infrastructure Loan Program is accepting applications for funding for projects that will provide on-farm seasonal housing and that will be open in time for the 2007 harvest season. This program is intended to help growers, employees, and communities by providing safe and decent housing for migrant workers.

The FHILP provides no-interest loans to support the development, rehabilitation, or expansion of grower owned and operated on-farm housing for migrant workers. Loans may be used for infrastructure costs, such as septic, drinking water, site preparation, and electric entrance. The amount of the infrastructure loan cannot exceed 50% of the total cost of the project, which includes all building construction, repairs, and other needed improvements. Loan repayment is deferred for 15 years and will be forgiven if the project remains licensed and in compliance with Washington State temporary worker housing regulations throughout the term of the loan.

Last year, the program loaned over \$900,000 to 11 growers, resulting in the construction of over 600 new beds for the 2006 season. About \$1.5 million is available for the 2007 season. Projects of all sizes and in all crops and growing areas are welcome; however, projects will be prioritized based on need, the degree to which the project meets that need, and overall cost-effectiveness. Priority will also be given to projects that address imminent health and safety issues.

The deadline for applications is December 15, 2006. If there are any funds remaining, additional applications may be accepted in spring 2007. Contact Pat Arnold, Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development for more information, at PatriciaA@cted.wa.gov, 509-395-2341, or P.O. Box 124, Trout Lake, Washington 98650.