



Field Operations

FACT SHEET

August 2015

Bridges to Opportunity

OVERVIEW

Bridges to Opportunity (Bridges) began October 2014 and was launched as a way to utilize the 2,100 Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices nationwide to help connect farmers and ranchers to additional services beyond the traditional FSA programs and loans. Through the Bridges software application, FSA employees are able to provide farmers and ranchers with information on grants, courses, events and activities provided by nonfederal agricultural organizations that have partnered with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Instead of searching multiple locations, or performing numerous Internet searches, farmers meet with FSA representatives in the county office to get information on various topics (i.e. - disaster programs, nongovernmental grants, technical assistance or other opportunities), for which they may qualify from the partner organizations.

HOW BRIDGES TO OPPORTUNITY WORKS

USDA has partnered with thousands of local, state, regional and national agricultural organizations that offer programs, nongovernmental grants, technical assistance, financial advice and other information vital to today’s farmers and ranchers. Information from these partners is entered into the Bridges software application. For example, a farmer or rancher may come into the county office seeking information on organic production. An FSA employee can enter “organics” in the Bridges software application and a list of all local, state, regional and national organizations offering resources and services on organic production will come up. The FSA employee can email or print the information for the farmers and ranchers and send an email to one or more of the partner organizations informing them that the producer has an interest in learning more about their service or program. The database will contain information on all subject matters that affect producers, such as drought relief, beginning farmer information and disaster assistance.

LOCATION

As a new service offered by the USDA, Bridges to Opportunity is rolling out in phases. Currently, the program is in phase two and available in 20 states and 195 county offices that service 316 counties. The following counties have access to Bridges to Opportunity:

STATES	COUNTIES
California	Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity
Colorado	Adams, Broomfield, Denver, Arapahoe, Boulder, Jefferson, Broomfield, Larimer, Morgan, Weld
Connecticut	Fairfield, Hartford, Tolland, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland, Windham
Florida	Broward, Charlotte, Collier, De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Indian River, Lee, Manatee, Sarasota, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Palm Beach
Illinois	Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Jefferson, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Perry, Randolph, St. Clair, Warren, Washington
Iowa	Buena Vista, Cherokee, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, O’Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Sioux
Louisiana	Catahoula, East Carroll, Franklin, LaSalle, Madison, Tensas, Avoyelles, Concordia
Massachusetts	Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, Worcester
Minnesota	Kittson, East Polk, Red Lake, Clay, Norman, Carlton, Cook, Kanabec, Lake, Morrison, Pine, North St. Louis, South St. Louis, Todd, Meeker, Traverse, Cottonwood, Rock, Watonwan, Carver, Faribault, McLeod, Martin, Mower

FACT SHEET
BRIDGES TO OPPORTUNITY

August 2015

STATES	COUNTIES
Missouri	Boone, Callaway, Cole, Franklin, Gasconade, Jefferson, Maries, Miller, Moniteau, Montgomery, Morgan, Osage, St. Charles, St. Louis, Warren
Nebraska	Chase, Custer, Dawson, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Garfield, Gosper, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Perkins, Phelps, Red Willow, Valley, Wheeler
Nevada	Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Northwest Nye, Pershing, Storey, Washoe, White Pine, Southeast Nye, Carson City
New York	Allegany, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming, Schuyler, Seneca, Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Steuben, Sullivan, Yates, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Suffolk, Ulster, Westchester
North Carolina	Alleghany, Ashe, Wilkes, Cumberland, Durham, Hoke, Orange, Person, Robeson, Scotland, Halifax
Ohio	Wayne, Athens, Hocking, Licking
Oregon	Clatsop, Columbia, Marion, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, Crook, Deschutes, Hood River, Jefferson, Wasco, Malheur, Umatilla
Texas	Anderson, Houston, Leon, Madison, Austin, Bexar, Washington, Cameron, Hale, Comanche, Young, Delta, Hopkins, Rains, Wood
Virginia	King George, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Charles City, Henrico, James City, New Kent, York, Allegany, Bath, Rockbridge

STATES	COUNTIES
West Virginia	Boone, Cabell, Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mason, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Pocahontas, Putnam, Raleigh, Summers, Wayne, Wyoming, Barbour, Braxton, Brooke, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Gilmer, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Lewis, Marshall, Nicholas, Ohio, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Upshur, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Morgan, Pendleton, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker
Wisconsin	Adams, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Marquette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waushara

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Bridges to Opportunity, visit the website at www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/outreach-and-education/Bridges or contact a county offices where Bridges to Opportunity is offered. To find a county office visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.