

CERTIFICATION REGARDING THE IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYEES, RELATIVES, ASSOCIATES AND TRANSACTION CONFLICT OF INTEREST

This certification is required by 2 CFR 400, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, and 7 CFR 1900, Subpart D, Processing and Servicing Rural Development Assistance to employees, Relatives, and Associates, and all guidance related thereto.

Rural Development (RD) prohibits any elected or appointed official, agent, or employee of a recipient from having any financial or personal interest in any transaction or activity funded. Recipients are required to identify, in writing, any known relationship or association with an RD employee in accordance with 7 CFR 1900, Subpart D. To ensure the highest standards of honesty, integrity, and impartiality by RD employees, the applicant must identify any RD assistance benefiting an RD employee in any of the following circumstances:

1. RD employee is the recipient.
2. RD employee's family member(s) or known close relative(s) are the recipient.
3. RD employee has an immediate working relationship with the recipient, the employee related to the recipient, or the employee who would normally conduct the activity.
4. RD employee has a business or close personal association with the recipient.

Following 2 CFR 400, all participating non-Federal entities must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest. The standards of conduct must include disciplinary actions in the event of a violation by officers, employees, or agents of the non-Federal entity. Any non-Federal entity that has a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization that is not a state or local government or Indian Tribe is subject to the standards identified herein. Policies and any accompanying documents shall be furnished to RD upon request.

I hereby certify in this disclosure letter, in accordance with 2 CFR 400 and 7 CFR 1900, Subpart D, that a written, up-to-date conflict of interest policy is in place and any known relationships or close associates of an RD employee, real or potential conflicts, or conflicts in transactions, if any, are listed below or will be disclosed immediately upon discovery:

Michael Ridley has electronically signed on 01/31/2022 that everything in between is correct to the best of his/her knowledge.