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**Business Finance & Development Partners Meet with  
National Officials From The USDA's Rural Development Division**  
*Focus is on Streamlining and Simplifying Approval Processes and Procedures*

TULSA, Okla., Nov 12, 2005 —Business Finance & Development met recently with national officials from the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Division in Washington, D.C., to discuss the division's current processes and procedures.

"This division is charged with using government funds and guarantees to stimulate economic development in rural America—communities with populations of less than 50,000," said Business Finance & Development's Founding Partner, Greg O'Donnell. "Those communities, many of which are located in the Midwest, represent a significant part of our client base. We're pleased to represent their interests through participation at meetings such as these."

The purpose of the meetings was to receive updates and clarifications on existing and new programs, and provide input on how programs might be improved. O'Donnell and Partner, Jim Holder, joined other national lenders and consulting firms at these meetings.

Said Holder, "We were very encouraged to hear plans for streamlining the approval process and simplifying many of the procedures currently in place."

Holder explained that the USDA appears to be moving away from direct loans, toward guaranteed loan programs. Business Finance & Development is considered a leading expert in guaranteed loan programs, which use sophisticated underwriting processes and state and federal regulations that protect borrowers in that lending environment.

By relying more on the lending community to properly underwrite the loan, Holder says the USDA can focus on ensuring that loans are qualified for the program, and on reviewing participating lenders. "It's this workload distribution, allowing both the government and participating lenders to do what each does best, that will lead to greater efficiencies and, in turn, higher volume use of the program," Holder said.

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