

**Building Sustainable Livelihoods and Communities by Eradicating Poverty, Hunger, Illiteracy, and Human Suffering.**

**ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE**



The North-South Institute (NSI) is an organization whose objective is to promote sustainable development systems and foster environmentally sustainable economic development of small farmers, ranchers, and entrepreneurs in rural and semi rural areas throughout the globe.

The First Development Capital Fund (FDCF), a business unit of NSI, provides access to financial capital, risk management education, and financial literacy programs to its clients in underserved communities and individuals engaged in small business, agribusiness, manufacturing, and micro, small, & medium enterprises (MSME's) in rural and semi-rural areas in the Southern U.S. and selected overseas countries.



For more information or to apply, please contact the North-South Institute.



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**NORTH-SOUTH INSTITUTE  
(NSI)**



**Rural Micro-entrepreneurship Assistance Program (RMAP)**



# **RURAL MICRO-ENTREPRENEURSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RMAP)**



## **Description of RMAP**

The Rural Micro-entrepreneurship Assistance Program (RMAP) is one of the programs of the FDCF. In order to assist farmers and rural entrepreneurs in their effort to expand their businesses (agriculture, services, tourism, light manufacturing, agro-processing, etc.), the RMAP provides:

- Low Interest Micro-Loans of up to \$500-\$10,000 for one year through the Small Input Revolving Loan (SIRL).
- Low Interest Rural Business Micro-Loans (RBML) of \$5,000-\$25,000 for up to 3 years for purchasing assets or operating capital

## **Eligibility Guidelines & Requirements**

In order to be eligible for a RMAP Loan:

- Applicants must be active members of a partnering organization or peer lending group. Partnering organizations are farmers associations, cooperatives, rural business organizations, and other rural enterprises.
- Applicants must submit a complete application and short business plan which are approved by the FDCF Advisory Committee.
- Applicants who fail to repay any loan are not eligible to apply for another loan until all debts are paid.
- Applicants must be U.S. Citizens or Legal Residents who live and operate a business in Florida.

## **Loan Availability**

Loans will only be provided to cover up to a maximum of 75% of the cost of a specific project and/or equipment. Loans are available to each applicant on a graduated scale starting at \$500-\$5,000 for the first loan. The scale is:

- First-time applicants may apply for a loan between \$500 & \$5,000.
- Second-time applicants may apply for a loan between \$1,000 & \$10,000.
- Thereafter, applicants may apply for a loan between \$10,000 & \$25,000 which is the maximum loan amount and may only be applied for after two successful loans have been repaid in full.