

# CODE OF ETHICS

**We, as community action professionals ever respectful of cultural diversity, dedicate ourselves to eliminate poverty in the midst of plenty in this nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity, and commit ourselves to:**

Recognize that the chief function of the Maryland Rural Development Corporation is, at all times, to serve the human and community needs of the rural poor

Accept as a personal duty the responsibility to keep current on emerging issues and to conduct ourselves with professional competence, fairness, and effectiveness

Respect the structure and responsibilities of the Board of Directors and its related decision making bodies, provide them with facts and advice as a basis for their decision making, and uphold and implement the policies they adopt.

Keep the community informed about issues affecting the rural poor and to facilitate communication among the poor, the non-poor private sector and locally elected public officials.

Conduct our organizational and operational duties with positive leadership exemplified by open communication, creativity, dedication, and compassion.

Exercise whatever discretionary authority we have under the law to promote the interests of rural low income communities, families and individuals.

Serve the community action movement with respect, concern, and responsiveness, recognizing that service to the poor is beyond service to oneself.

Demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, and fortitude in our community building activities in order to inspire confidence in the community action movement.

Perform our professional duties in such a way so as not to realize undue personal gain.

Avoid any interest or activity which conflicts with the conduct of our official duties.

Protect confidentiality in the course of our official duties.

Strive for personal excellence, and encourage the ongoing development of our associates and those seeking to become community action professionals.