

Mandatory Stand-Up Talk

May 8, 2012

New strategy for low-activity Post Offices in rural areas

The Postal Service has announced a new strategy that could keep Post Offices in rural communities open by modifying window hours. The strategy would preserve Post Offices, while also achieving a half-billion dollars in cost savings to help return USPS to financial stability.

Postmasters at affected Post Offices have been informed of the strategy and will be getting individual details throughout the next week.

Window hours would be modified to match customer use at each office. Window service hours would be 2, 4 or 6 hours a day, determined based on earned workload. Low-activity Post Offices more than 25 driving miles from another facility, or outside a 25-mile radius of an administrative Post Office, would have 6 hours of window service each weekday.

The new strategy complements three other options previously announced, which include:

- Providing rural carrier or highway contract delivery;
- Contracting with a local business or government office to create a Village Post Office; or
- Offering service from a nearby Post Office.

As part of the strategy, a Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) and Special Incentive will be offered for the nation's 21,000 Postmasters. PCES Postmasters are not eligible.

Full details will be posted on the Workforce Connection website, at www.liteblue.usps.gov, and published in a Newsbreak as soon as the offer is officially announced.

Implementation of the new strategy will occur over a two-year period, in a multi-phased approach through September 2014.

The Postal Service is committed to implementing this plan in a responsible and fair way for affected employees and communities.

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