



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

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Ben Higgins, State Director

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Contact: Sarah Pursley
Office: (530) 792-5801
Cell: (916) 798-9295

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS HOME REPAIRS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Grants and low interest loans available in Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma counties

DAVIS, Calif., February 21, 2007 – The USDA Rural Development office in Ukiah, serving Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma counties, announced the availability of Section 504 grants and low-interest loans for low-income individuals to make needed repairs on their homes. Funding may be used for a variety of projects including installing or renovating water or sewer hook-ups, roofing, flooring, lighting, insulation and weatherization.

Grants are available for up to \$7,500 to homeowners 62 years or older who are unable to otherwise finance their repairs. However, low interest loans are also available without an age requirement. The maximum loan amount is \$20,000 with an interest rate of one percent and up to 20 years repayment. Eligible applicants are low-income homeowners living in rural towns of less than 10,000 people or in towns with up to 20,000 people in non-metropolitan areas.

“The 504 program is just one aspect of Rural Development’s single family housing program, which allows for homeowners living in rural communities with limited income to correct major health or safety hazards, or to make homes more accessible for people with disabilities,” said Ben Higgins, USDA Rural Development State Director.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$72 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Interested parties in Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma counties can find more information by contacting Ann Manos or Leanne McManus at the USDA Rural Development office in Ukiah located at 405 South Orchard Ave., (707) 462-2916 or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>.

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“Committed to the future of rural communities”
United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
430 G Street, Agency 4169, Davis, CA 95616-4169
Telephone (530) 792-5801 Fax (530) 792-5837
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>