



# NEWS RELEASE

**United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development**

**World Wide Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>**

**Ben Higgins, State Director**

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## **GRANT SUPPORTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN GRIDLEY**

*USDA Rural Development grant will provide training and assistance to rural entrepreneurs*

GRIDLEY, Calif., July 21, 2008 – USDA Rural Development State Director Ben Higgins presented a check for \$60,000 in grant funds to Gridley Mayor Jerry Fichter tonight during an economic development meeting held at Gridley City Hall.

The City of Gridley will use their \$60,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) to help small businesses located in the city develop and expand their businesses online. In addition, the Gridley Marketplace website will be expanded. It is anticipated that this assistance will result in an additional ten jobs throughout Gridley.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our rural economies,” said Higgins. “With these funds, we are supporting those who are showing the entrepreneurial spirit and drive to succeed that makes for successful families, neighborhoods, and communities.”

USDA Rural Development’s RBEG funds are available to rural communities, non-profit corporations and tribes for projects that strengthen the economic conditions of rural areas through business and job development and training as well as project planning.

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 \$91 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. As a result, over 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at one of California’s 18 local USDA Rural Development offices or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>.

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