



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

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

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GRANT AIDS JOB SEEKERS, EMPLOYERS IN SISKIYOU COUNTY

USDA Rural Development grant will provide workplace training through “bootcamp”

WEED, Calif., July 23, 2008 – USDA Rural Development State Director Ben Higgins presented a check for \$47,000 in grant funds to Siskiyou Training and Employment Program (STEP) Director Jeanne Hough today at the organization’s headquarters in Weed.

STEP will use their \$47,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) to offer intensive ‘bootcamp’ style trainings to job seekers and recent hires in Siskiyou County. Trainings will cover specific skills such as use of Microsoft Office software and typical office machines, as well as soft skills such as appropriate workplace attitude, and stress and time management. It is anticipated that at least 100 people will attend the trainings.

“One of the most important factors in the success of any business, rural or otherwise, is motivated, experienced, and qualified employees. With these funds, we’re assisting STEP in their longstanding efforts to develop a more skilled workforce in Siskiyou County, and creating new economic opportunities for these workers in the process.”

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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“Committed to the future of rural communities”

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