



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

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

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GRANT AIMS TO EXPAND BUSINESSES BEYOND COUNTY

USDA Rural Development grant used to advance marketing efforts of food producers

YREKA, Calif., July 23, 2008 – USDA Rural Development State Director Ben Higgins presented a check for \$30,000 in grant funds to Siskiyou County Economic Development Council (SCEDC) Executive Director Tonja Dowse and Board of Directors President Justine Wyatt today at the organization's headquarters in Yreka.

SCEDC will use their \$30,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) to provide advanced marketing assistance to businesses currently utilizing the organization's shared use, commercial kitchen. SCEDC will coordinate with experts in the food industry to offer both group and individual training and consulting services to expand businesses beyond Siskiyou County. It is anticipated that at least two businesses will begin distributing outside the county and that an additional three jobs will be created.

"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. I'm excited to leverage Siskiyou County Economic Development Council's proven ability to foster that entrepreneurial spirit and create good jobs in this critically important region of California."

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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