



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USDA Rural Development Increases Mortgage & Income Limits

Amherst, MA April 15, 2003—David Tuttle, State Director for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, announced today that the mortgage limits for the Rural Housing Direct Loan program increased, in some cases significantly, effective March 24, 2003. The heightened limits will enable families to select from a wider range of available housing and will make new construction more of a viable alternative where needed.

The new mortgage limits are:

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>MAXIMUM MORTGAGE LIMIT</u>
KENT	ONE LIVING UNIT	\$199,500
NEWPORT	ONE LIVING UNIT	\$204,100
PROVIDENCE	ONE LIVING UNIT	\$199,500
WASHINGTON	ONE LIVING UNIT	\$199,500
BRISTOL	ONE LIVING UNIT	N/A (No RHS eligible communities in Bristol County)

Totals for Fiscal Years 2001-2002 reflect a USDA Rural Development investment of over \$3 million in rural Rhode Island through its Rural Housing program which brought homeownership to close to ninety households.

The Rural Housing Direct Loan program provides loans that assist eligible households to purchase a home located in a rural area. Qualifying applicants may obtain 100 percent financing to purchase an existing dwelling, purchase a site and construct a dwelling, or purchase newly constructed dwellings located in rural areas. Rural Housing Direct Loans afford financing at reasonable rates and terms, mortgage payments based on the household's adjusted income, and require no down payment.

Income limits, which determine eligibility for the Rural Housing Loan Program, have also been revised and updated. Income limits can be obtained by contacting the USDA Rural Development State Office in Amherst, MA at 1-800-352-8015 or your local USDA Rural Development Office in Warwick, RI at (401) 826-0842. This and other information is also available on the web at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ma.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, OCR, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

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