



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT INVESTS \$1.75 BILLION TO MAKE RURAL MISSOURI A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

A record \$1,756,139,950 was invested in rural Missouri during fiscal year 2010 through the USDA Rural Development programs. These federal funds were through a variety of loan, grant and guarantee programs to provide quality housing, good jobs, broadband service, improved health care, energy efficiency improvements, clean drinking water plus reliable modern essential community facilities and services.

“The largest number of recipients ever benefited during this banner year for the agency,” said Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. “It is very rewarding and exciting to witness the economic stimulus these programs provide to help individuals, families, businesses and communities across Missouri.”

Investment highlights in Missouri for fiscal year 2010 regarding improving the quality of life and being successful in the 21st century include the following:

In the Rural Development Single Family Housing Programs, \$572 million was provided to 5,962 individuals and families for homeownership and/or rehabilitation of their homes in Missouri. Of this amount, \$495 million of loan guarantees to 4,757 individuals or families were provided through partnerships with private sector lenders. Another \$76 million was provided to 1,214 deserving individuals or families through the direct housing programs. Three grants totaling \$262,325 were made through the Housing Preservation Grant program to assist individuals and families with funds for weatherization and needed home repairs. One Self-Help Technical Assistance grant for \$324,000 was issued to assist nineteen families with housing assistance.

The Multi-Family Housing Program provided almost \$20 Million in assistance in FY 2010. A substantial portion of this amount, \$16.7million assisted over 14,180 very-low income residents that were residing in Rural Development financed apartment complexes with their rental payment. Currently Missouri has 720 apartment complexes located in rural communities which provide affordable housing to approximately 15,539 elderly and family households. In addition to providing this rental assistance, Missouri provided \$456,172 in voucher assistance to assist those residents that were residing in 62 Rural Development financed properties that are no longer in the program. This assistance will help 267 residents find suitable housing to avoid being displaced or even the possibility of becoming homeless.

Six Multi-Family Housing complexes received loans for \$1.9 million and three grants for \$117,290. Five Multi-Family Housing complexes received Preservation and Revitalization loans in the amount of \$2.8 million and four loan deferrals in the amount \$774,640. The purpose of this program is to preserve and revitalize existing multi-family housing apartment complexes in rural communities for another 20 years. The borrowers that were selected will be allowed to defer their debt which will in turn be used to make much needed capital improvements to their property. This program will be preserving affordable housing for 116 very-low and low income households.

Through the Community Facilities program \$152 million in funds were provided to 168 communities including: 14 health care projects for hospital expansions, nursing homes or medical facilities; 35 police, fire and safety vehicles; 21 road graders, tractors, maintenance trucks; 22 public facilities for police or fire stations, community centers, office buildings, jail, or parking lot improvements; six emergency generators; seven first responders and early warning systems; plus seven library expansions or improvements.

In the Rural Development's Business and Cooperative Programs a grand total of \$99.5 million was delivered to rural Missouri. Of this amount, over \$86.4 million in guaranteed loans were made with our commercial lending partners which provided assistance to 41 businesses across the state. Funds were used to provide financing to businesses including a livestock auction facility, trucking companies, a rural healthcare facility, assisted living and residential care facilities, manufacturing plants, hotels, retail stores, and entertainment centers. These loan guarantees resulted in more than 1,600 jobs being created or saved in Missouri's rural areas.

Several cities, communities, counties and organizations were recipients of over \$13.1 million through other Rural Development loan and grant programs. These included over \$1.1 million in 25 Rural Business Enterprise Grants, 63 Renewable Energy Loans and Grants for \$7.9 million, one Energy Audit Grant for \$100,000, two Rural Economic Development Grants for \$600,000, three Rural Economic Development Loans for \$2.2 million, and two Intermediary Relending Program Loans for \$675,000. Missouri was also very fortunate to receive four Value Added Producer Grants totaling \$618,000 to fund a variety of projects across the state. All of these programs allowed rural Missourians to benefit with assistance in planning, feasibility studies, training, conducting surveys, and essential infrastructure in support of economic and community development activities in rural areas.

In the Rural Development Rural Utilities Services program, a grand total of almost \$281.2 million of assistance was provided to communities, including water and wastewater, electrical, and telecommunication services.

Through the water and wastewater area, \$89.2 million was made available including 79 loans and grants which assisted over 9,000 families with adequate drinking water and new or improved waste disposal systems. The USDA funds were leveraged with \$15.3 million of other federal, state, and local funds to accomplish these results.

Seven communities benefited with \$45,000 in Predevelopment Planning Grants (PPG). Most of this money will be used for preliminary Engineering and Environmental Reports.

The telecommunication programs provided a total of \$180 million in financing for 15 projects to assist Missouri rural areas with new or improved broadband services.

The electrical programs provided a total of \$641 million in financial assistance. This included \$151 million to eight electric cooperatives to expand and improve electric assistance to several communities and rural residents. Another \$490 million went for expansion of power generation and transmission.

These investments in rural Missouri were through three sources of funds including: regular allocations, disaster assistance available to Missouri due to a variety of recent natural disasters, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) which was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The ARRA funds were only available from the date of signing through September 30, 2010. During this time Missouri received \$764, 205,537 through the ARRA program which benefited in the creation of jobs; improving electric, water and wastewater infrastructure; assisting with essential community facilities; improving broadband access; helping many individuals and families with homeownership plus supporting local businesses.

Dunning added, "I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the many partners that assisted the Missouri USDA Rural Development staff with these record accomplishments. It is definitely a TEAM effort. Special thanks to the many volunteers, the non-profit organizations, other partner financial organizations plus the local and state governments. I especially appreciate the strong support that we received from the Missouri Congressional delegation in serving the rural areas of Missouri. With continued cooperation, we look forward to helping more individuals, families, businesses and communities with enhanced economic opportunity and improved quality of life."

Additional information on any of these rural programs is available at an USDA Rural Development office or visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting the Rural Development State Office at (573) 876-0976.

"Committed to the future of rural communities."

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).