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NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES \$9.6 MILLION TO REPAIR RURAL HOUSING

“Missouri receives \$234,647”

Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas Dorr announced selection of recipients of \$9.6 million in Housing Preservation grants to repair or rehabilitate individual housing and rental properties owned or occupied by very-low- and low-income rural citizens. The 149 awards will be distributed to community organizations in 49 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Western Pacific.

“Every citizen deserves to live in safe and affordable housing,” Dorr said. “I am pleased that these USDA Rural Development funds will help rural Americans across the nation and in U.S. territories make needed repairs to their homes. The grants will help low-income families who live in some of the nation’s poorest regions fix housing problems such as leaking roofs, unsafe plumbing or crumbling foundations.”

The grants are being awarded to intermediaries --- such as a town or county governments, Indian Tribes or nonprofit organizations which in turn provide grant funds to needy homeowners or owners of multi-family rental properties or cooperative dwellings.

“In Missouri, the four recipients are East Missouri Action Agency, Inc. for \$100,000; West Central Missouri Community Action Agency for \$75,000; North East Community Action Corp. for \$34,647 and Green Hills Community Action Agency for \$25,000;” said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. “The funding will assist forty-two families remove safety and health hazards plus other essential improvements to have adequate and safe dwellings.” A complete list of the selected recipients is posted on the USDA Rural Development web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$76.8 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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