

HIGHLIGHTS

HELPING TO MAKE RURAL MISSOURI A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

USDA Rural Development assisted rural Missouri with nearly \$670 million in financial assistance during Fiscal Year 2008. The assistance was through a variety of loan and grant programs to thousands of individuals, families, businesses and communities. These funds were used to provide quality housing, good jobs, clean drinking water plus reliable modern essential community facilities and services. The number more than doubles the amount of financial support provided last year in all programs despite reduced staffing. These accomplishments were in support of President George Bush's initiatives for rural America and USDA Rural Development's overall vision statement --- *Committed to the future of rural communities!*

"USDA Rural Development (RD) is extremely pleased to help rural Missouri with this financial assistance," said Morris Westfall, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Missouri. "I sincerely appreciate the hard work of the Missouri Rural Development staff, the applicants that worked through the necessary paperwork, the strong support that we received from the Missouri Congressional delegation, and national leadership.

The USDA Rural Development mission goal is to provide or partner with others in providing the financial and technical resources to assist private citizens, small businesses, nonprofit organizations, communities, cities and counties in assuring that each rural community has what it takes to improve the quality of life and be successful in the 21st century.

In the Rural Development Single Family Housing Programs a grand total of \$308.2 million of financial service was provided in Missouri. Of this amount, \$277 million of loan guarantees was provided through partnerships with private sector lenders. The guaranteed housing program assisted 3,003 individuals or families. Another \$30.8 million was provided to 783 deserving individuals or families with the 502 and 504 direct housing program. Missouri Housing Development Commission provided

\$223,850 grant funds to 35 of the 502 borrowers as a grant for down payment assistance and closing costs.

Three grants helped thirty-one families by providing \$197,792 of repairs through the Housing Preservation Grant program. One Self-Help Technical Assistance grant for \$179,070 was issued to assist eleven families with housing assistance. Through countless hours of hard work, they combined a Rural Development housing loan with their own "sweat equity" to build a home and realize the American Dream of homeownership. RD also partnered with local cities and with World Changers, a faith-based organization, which provides youth labor to for repairs combined with our 504 loan and grants.

The Multi-Family Housing Program provided over \$21.3 Million in assistance in 2008. A substantial portion of this amount, \$18,851,129 assisted over 14,856 very-low income residents that were residing in RD financed apartment complexes with their rental payment. Currently Missouri has 758 apartment complexes located in rural communities which provide affordable housing to approximately 17,768 elderly and family households. In addition to providing this rental assistance, Missouri provided \$585,612 in voucher assistance to assist those residents that were residing in 52 RD financed properties that were either paid-off or foreclosed. This assistance will help 273 residents find suitable housing to avoid being displaced or even the possibility of becoming homeless.

Two Multi-Family Housing complexes in Missouri received Preservation and Revitalization loans in the amount of \$616,500 and loan deferrals in the amount \$1,298,198. 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

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program will be preserving affordable housing for 135 very-low and low income households.

Through the Community Facilities program almost \$12 million in funds were provided to 101 projects financed including 23 fire and rescue projects, 40 first responders and early warning systems, 8 health care facilities, 2 food banks and a Head Start facility.

In Rural Development's Business and Cooperative Programs a grand total of \$47.2 million was delivered to rural Missouri. Of this amount, over \$40.3 million in guaranteed loans were made with our commercial lending partners, which provided assistance to 16 businesses across the state. Funds were used to provide financing to businesses including a livestock auction facility, a soybean crush and bio diesel plant, assisted living facilities, a seed company, a hotel, retail stores, and entertainment centers. These loan guarantees resulted in a total of 279 jobs being created or saved in Missouri's rural areas.

Several cities, communities, counties and organizations were recipients of almost \$4.3 million through other Rural Development loan and grant programs. These included over \$1 million in 23 Rural Business Enterprise Grants, one Rural Business Opportunity Grants for \$50,000, 14 Renewable Energy Grants for \$628,000, one Rural Economic Development Grant for \$300,000, six Rural Economic Development Loans for \$2,907,000 and one Intermediary Relending Program Loan for \$500,000. Missouri was also very fortunate to receive 8 Value Added Producer Grants totaling almost \$1.2 million 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 waste, electrical, and telephone distribution.

In the water and waste area, \$33.8 million was made available through 38 direct loans, 1 guaranteed loan, and 24 grants which assisted over 16,788 families with adequate drinking water and new or improved waste disposal systems. The USDA funds were leveraged with \$23.6 million of other federal, state, and local funds to accomplish these results.

Six communities benefited with \$44,700 in Predevelopment Planning Grants (PPG). Most of this money will be used for preliminary Engineering and Environmental Reports.

In the Telephone programs, a total of \$679,543 in financing was made available to assist Missouri rural areas. Four rural communities benefited from the Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants. Two were to health related entities and two to the schools. One region of the state benefited with a public TV grant.

In the Electrical programs, a total of \$246.7 was provided to two power supply cooperatives and ten distribution electric cooperatives to expand and improve assistance to several communities and rural residents.

Westfall added, "I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the many partners that assisted Missouri USDA Rural Development staff with these accomplishments. With continued cooperation, we look forward to helping more individuals, families, businesses and communities with their needs in the year ahead."

Anyone seeking more information about USDA Rural Development or any of the programs may visit the USDA Rural Development Web Site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting any of the Missouri USDA Rural Development offices.



Committed to the future of rural communities.