

Contact: Dave Clarkson 660-646-6222---ext. 4

RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS MERCER LEPC FUND WARNING SIREN FOR THE CITY OF MERCER

Janie Dunning, Missouri Rural Development State Director, announced an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Community Facility Grant in the amount of \$10,010 to the Mercer County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC.) The announcement was made at a funding celebration held Wednesday, June 23 at the Mercer Public Water Supply District #1 office in Mercer, Mo.

The funds go towards the purchase of an \$18,200 outdoor emergency warning siren for the City of Mercer. A Certificate of Appreciation representing the funding was presented to the LEPC during the event. The remainder of the cost of the siren (\$8,190) will be provided by the LEPC in the form of applicant contribution including donations from the County, Mercer County Fire Protection Association District and the City of Mercer. An in-kind donation of \$250 will be contributed by Grundy Electric cooperative, Inc., the local electric cooperative.

"Ensuring the citizens of Mercer County have the proper equipment for emergency preparedness is crucial to the everyday needs of the community," said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. "I am pleased to hear that with the help of competitive grant funds provided by the USDA, Mercer County will have an up-to-date warning siren in the event of an emergency."

Dunning said "Rural Development is pleased to be able to help provide funding assistance for the cost of the siren. The siren," she said, "is vital to help protect Mercer residents during storms and other emergencies."



Pictured above is Missouri Rural Development State Director Janie Dunning presenting a Certificate of Appreciation.

The grant was funded from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and were administered by Rural Development's Community Facility Grant Program. Community facility grants provide funding for essential public improvements to public bodies and non-profit corporations with substantial ties to the local community.

Rural Development worked with the Mercer County Commission and the Mercer LEPC in the application phase of funding for the project. The siren will be installed within the Mercer City Limits.

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. Rural Development provides loan, loan/guarantee and grant financial assistance and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Danny L. Jackson, at the Chillicothe Rural Development office, 1100 Morton Parkway, Chillicothe, Missouri 64601 or by calling 660-646-6222 ext. 4.

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