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# NEWS RELEASE

## **Over \$348 Million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds Awarded in Missouri through USDA Rural Development in First Year**

*“Funds Have Helped Create Jobs, Improve Community Facilities and Assist Families in Purchasing Homes”*

Since being signed into law in February 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has made a big impact in rural Missouri with over \$348 million in loans and grants awarded so far through USDA Rural Development.

“President Obama’s Recovery Act has helped create jobs and lay a new foundation for economic growth during the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “USDA has used Recovery Act funding to create badly-needed jobs and stimulate local economies, help farmers and rural businesses make it through tough times, ensure that struggling families can put food on the table, and build and revitalize critical infrastructure in rural communities across America.”

“The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has given our agency an unprecedented opportunity to create jobs and invest millions of dollars in rural Missouri,” said Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, USDA Rural Development State Director in Missouri. “We have been able to help fund projects and programs at levels never seen before.”

Additional ARRA loans and grants for housing, businesses, community facilities plus water and sewer infrastructure will continue to be available through USDA Rural Development until September 30, 2010, or until all funds have been awarded.

Special ARRA funds administered by the agency during the past year have helped 2,852 families purchase or refinance homes through \$277,658,834 in guaranteed and/or direct home loans. In the water and wastewater program, an investment of \$64,450,394 has assisted 16,871 rural residents with improved water quality or waste treatment facilities. Four businesses in rural communities have received a total of \$2,089,000 million in guaranteed loan funds to help with such things as debt refinancing and expansion.

Finally, more than \$4,106,829 million has been provided to help 77 communities improve vital community facilities such as health clinics, nursing homes, nutrition centers, food banks, fire stations, early warning sirens and first responder facilities and equipment.

### **Funds for Housing Assistance**

“Residents looking to purchase a home in rural Missouri may be surprised to learn that the only no-down-payment programs still available are offered through USDA Rural Development,” Dunning

said. “USDA Rural Development has two low-interest, no-down-payment loan programs to help eligible families living in rural areas or rural communities to purchase new homes.”

Eligible homes must be located in a community of 20,000 persons or less. The home can be existing or new construction. Existing homes must be structurally sound. Also, the property cannot have any income-producing outbuildings.

In most cases, a family of four with an adjusted annual income of up to \$73,600 may qualify for the agency’s guaranteed home loan program. If that same family of four’s adjusted annual income is less than \$50,800 they may also qualify for a direct loan from the agency. These income limits increase in communities located near metro areas.

USDA Rural Development’s guarantee loan program is administered by a local lender who takes the application, processes it and determines the acceptability of the home to be financed. Under the direct loan program an applicant may be eligible for payment assistance, which would subsidize the interest portion of the house payment down to as low as 1 percent, lowering the overall monthly payment.

### **Special ARRA Funds Remain Only Until September 30**

USDA Rural Development has an additional \$130 million available in 2010 through ARRA to assist businesses, communities and homeowners in rural Missouri. Loan and grants will be available through September 30, or until all funds have been awarded.

“The application process for ARRA direct loans, guaranteed loans and grants is essentially the same as requesting regular program assistance from our agency,” Dunning said. “Now is the time to review your needs and complete your applications.”

A wide variety of projects may be eligible for ARRA funding including businesses and economic development organizations looking to create jobs, along with communities in need of infrastructure and facility improvements.

### **Contact USDA Rural Development**

USDA Rural Development has six Area Offices and twenty-two Sub Area Offices across the state serving the Missourians living in rural areas and communities. USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender with a variety of direct and guaranteed rural credit programs involving single and multi-family housing, community facilities, water and sewer development and business and industry programs.

More information about USDA’s Recovery Act efforts is available at [www.usda.gov/recovery](http://www.usda.gov/recovery). More information about the Federal government's efforts on the Recovery Act is available at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

Further information on the ARRA financing and other programs offered by USDA Rural Development is available by visiting [www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo) or at any area or sub area office

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**“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).