



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES \$9.2 MILLION IN COMMUNITY FACILITY GRANTS TO ASSIST RURAL COMMUNITIES

“Missouri receives \$545,172 for 20 projects”

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced the award of \$9.2 million in Community Facilities grants to improve public safety, health care and educational services in rural communities.

“These grants will enhance the quality of life for rural citizens and communities across the country,” Johanns said. “Most of these grants will fund projects that address public safety needs in rural areas, such as purchasing first responder vehicles and medical equipment.”

Community Facilities grants help finance essential public services in rural areas, such as schools, libraries, child care, hospitals, court houses, fire and rescue facilities and equipment, police and emergency vehicles, police stations, community centers plus other community focused facilities and services. Part of the money is being awarded under the Economic Impact Initiative grants program, which is targeted to rural communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression.

There were 291 projects selected for funding in 30 different states. A complete list of grant recipients is available at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. Funding of selected applicants will be contingent upon meeting the conditions of the grant agreements.

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, announced that Missouri again led the nation with twenty projects in Missouri benefiting from this Community Facility Economic Impact Initiative Grant program.

“Missourians are really fortunate to receive funding of nearly 7% of the total awards,” said Branum. “This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

The benefiting Missouri applicants include: Purnam Community Fire Department; Mississippi County Commission; Mississippi County Rescue Squad; plus the Cities of Charleston, Malden, Mountain View, Willow Springs, Eminence, Campbell, East Prairie, Parma, Williamsville, Jameson, Clarkton and Southwest City.

The funds announced are a major investment in the lives and security of rural citizens and are part of the Bush Administration’s ongoing support of rural communities and their ability to promote economic development, gain access to better community services and enhanced preparations for emergency situations.

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.mo/> or by contacting any of the USDA Service Centers across Missouri.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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