



Local Contact:  
Jane Grant (800) 582-7584, Ext. 2037

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SCHNEIDER ANNOUNCES \$5.8 MILLION FOR ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL IN CROSBY**

*Financing will provide modern health care services to over 3,800 North Dakotans*

BISMARCK, January 26, 2010 – USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider today announced that St. Luke's Hospital in Crosby, North Dakota has been selected to receive a \$5,842,000 loan through The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The financing will provide for health care services to be delivered in a modern facility designed to treat patients effectively in both the inpatient and outpatient settings. Improvements will be made to allow enhanced emergency room services, improved patient flow, increased efficiency in their heating and cooling system and better patient safety and security.

“I am very excited for the people of Crosby and Divide County,” State Director USDA Rural Development Jasper Schneider said. “By having a modern health care facility, it will help recruit and retain population to live, work, raise families and start businesses in rural North Dakota.”

The St. Luke's Hospital financing is one of many projects announced today by USDA. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the selection of \$140.4 million in community facilities projects that are being funded with federal funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. USDA has announced \$477.6 million in Recovery Act funding for community facility projects to date.

“The Recovery Act funds we are announcing today further demonstrate the Obama Administration's unyielding efforts to improve the quality of life for rural residents by ensuring that rural communities benefit from quality public facilities such as hospitals, courthouses, and health centers,” Vilsack said.

In addition to the \$140.4 million that USDA Rural Development is providing to fund the 14 projects announced today, recipients will combine that funding with \$56 million from other sources. Funding of each loan and grant recipient is contingent upon meeting the conditions of the agreement.

The funding announced today is being provided through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities program, which helps finance essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include childcare centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Through this program, USDA ensures that such facilities are available to all rural residents. These funds are available to public bodies, non-profit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes. More information about USDA Rural Development can be found at [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov).

#

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800)795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).