



NEWS RELEASE

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EIGHT HOMES TO RECEIVE REPAIRS OR REHABILITATION THANKS TO USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLATTE VALLEY NATIONAL BANK

Gering, Neb., July 26, 2004—Panhandle Community Services of Gering, Neb. is the recipient of \$50,000 in Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) funds from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development. These funds leveraged with matching funds from the Platte Valley National Bank will assist up to eight eligible homeowners in Morrill and Scottsbluff counties to repair or rehabilitate their homes.

“The \$100,000 will help the households to make health and safety related improvements such as wiring, plumbing, heating and structural items,” stated Linda Anders, rural development specialist for USDA Rural Development. “Housing preservation grant funds assist homeowners to make needed home improvements that would cause a monetary hardship on the household if they had to withstand the cost on their own.”

Housing Preservation Grants (HPG) are provided annually to eligible entities (i.e. non-profit public or private organizations, public bodies, Indian Tribes, etc.), who have applied for HPG funding through a Notice of Funding Availability competitive application process and have been deemed an approved grantee. These grants enable the grantees to develop programs to assist eligible homeowners with needed home repairs or rehabilitation work. Individual homeowners can make application to the grantees.

Criteria for eligible homeowners include meeting certain income guidelines, being the owner of an individual dwelling in a rural area or community at least one year prior to the time of assistance and intending to occupy the dwelling after the repairs are completed.

Authorized repairs include: installation or repair of sanitary water and waste disposal systems, insulation, combination screen-storms windows and doors, repair or replacement of heating systems, electrical wiring, foundation repair, roof repair and replacement, handicap accessibility features, additions to dwellings to alleviate overcrowding, and other necessary repairs.

For more information contact Linda Anders in the USDA Rural Development Office, 1202 S. Cottonwood North Platte, NE 69101, linda.anders@ne.usda.gov or phone (308) 534-2360. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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