



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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CONGRESSMAN SMITH AND USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT DELIVER NEARLY \$517,000 TO RURAL NEBRASKA

HOLDREGE, Neb., August 12, 2008 – United States Congressman Adrian Smith and USDA Rural Development Nebraska State Director Scot Blehm presented ceremonial checks today to 8 recipients totaling \$516,800. Funds will help stimulate economic development in rural areas of Nebraska, provide disaster assistance to affected small businesses, and support wind energy education and essential community infrastructure.

“Nebraska has tremendous potential, and the future of our rural communities will be formed by hard work and innovation of community leaders. These projects will help strengthen our rural communities, and I commend all involved for their efforts to improve Nebraska,” Smith said.

Rural business enterprise grant recipients are:

Arnold Economic Development Corporation-Arnold, Neb. to utilize \$50,700 joined by \$26,502 from the Corporation to purchase and renovate an existing building into a technology-rich classroom with private consultation rooms that will assist businesses and create and retain jobs in Custer County.

Cedar Rapids Public Schools-Cedar Rapids, Neb. received \$10,500 that, leveraged with \$5,066 from other sources, will install wind turbine equipment. The equipment will provide educational and generation purposes for the school and foster future job opportunities within the renewable energy field.

Central Plains Foundation Inc. DBA Grow Nebraska-Holbrook, Neb. will utilize \$39,500 joined by \$55,000 from other sources to develop a strategic plan to form an interactive web map, that will highlight small-scale rural tourism attractions in order to increase business for GROW participants.

City of Curtis-Curtis, Neb. received \$58,100 that joined with other funding of \$85,600 will conduct a feasibility study for the best use of holographic imaging in the food industry. Project will be conducted in partnership with Frontier Technologies, a small business in Curtis.

South Central Economic Development District-Holdrege, Neb. received \$200,000 joined by \$300,000 in ultimate recipient equity and other sources to establish a revolving loan fund to provide assistance to small and emerging private business enterprises in Buffalo, Hamilton and

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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Kearney counties. Efforts will focus on working with businesses impacted by recent severe storms, tornados and flooding. SCEDD also received \$50,000 leveraged with \$71,352 from SCEDD and other sources to hire a part-time facilitator to provide one-on-one assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs in their 12 county service area.

Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Education Foundation-Red Cloud, Neb. will utilize \$20,000, joined by \$1,000 from a private source, to enhance the foundation's existing web site into a state of the art site that will promote tourism to Red Cloud and the surrounding area.

Community Facility Grant and Economic Impact Initiative Grant recipients are:

Curtis Memorial Community Center, Inc.-Curtis, Neb. received \$73,000 that leveraged with \$1,699,952 from the Center will assist in the construction of a community center in Curtis that will accommodate City offices, a senior center, teen center, meeting rooms, community kitchen, stage and a collegiate regulation gymnasium.

Hayes Center School District 79-Hayes Center, Neb. will use \$15,000 joined with \$12,574 from the District to purchase and install a wind turbine as part of the Department of Energy-National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Wind Powering American program known as Wind for Schools. Project will provide education on wind energy to students.

“USDA Rural Development is committed to delivering the funding needed to help rural communities to succeed and remain viable,” stated Blehm. “I commend the recipients here today for their foresight in the economic development of rural Nebraska and their dedication to securing the funding needed.”

Contact USDA Rural Development (402) 437-5551, toll free 800-670-6553, or (402) 437-5093 (TDY).

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