



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

Rm. 152 Federal Building • 100 Centennial Mall North • Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: (402) 437-5563 • Toll Free: (800) 670-6553 • Fax: (402) 437-5408 • TDY: (402) 437-5093 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne>

---

Vicki Schurman (402) 437-5563

## **FORTENBERRY AND USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT DELIVER NEARLY \$421,000 TO RURAL NEBRASKA**

**LINCOLN, Neb., August 5, 2008** – United States Congressman Jeff Fortenberry and USDA Rural Development Nebraska State Director Scot Blehm presented ceremonial checks today to 5 recipients totaling \$420,832. Funds will help stimulate economic development in rural areas of Nebraska, provide disaster assistance to affected small businesses and support wind energy education.

“Vibrant small businesses are vital to the health of rural Nebraska and our small towns,” Congressman Fortenberry said. “Public policy support can play an important role in the development of small business entrepreneurship in rural areas. I commend USDA Rural Development and each of the grant recipients for their partnerships to help strengthen rural communities.”

Rural business enterprise grant recipients are:

**Diller Odell Public School**-Odell, Neb. will utilize \$10,500 joined by \$5,066 from the school and other sources to 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.

**Indian Center, Inc.**-Lincoln, Neb. received \$87,162 that, leveraged with \$35,215 from the Center, will establish a Native American Business Support Center in Scottsbluff, Neb. This Center will provide one-on-one technical assistance to existing and potential Native American businesses in Scotts Bluff County and in a group setting, will present a program entitled “Worlds of Work” in Scottsbluff, Santee, Dakota City, Valentine, Wahoo, Fairbury, McCook and Norfolk.

**Northeast Economic Development (NED), Inc.**-Norfolk, Neb. to utilize \$200,000 joined by \$54,000 from NED, Inc. and other sources to establish a revolving loan fund for businesses in Butler, Colfax and Platte counties. These counties have been declared disaster counties due to severe storms, tornados and flooding. NED, Inc. also received \$33,000 to which \$12,000 will be added for a feasibility study of a proposed new company in Stanton County.

**Renaissance Nebraska Project, Inc.**-Lincoln, Neb. received \$55,000 to which they will contribute \$29,000 to promote job creation, entrepreneurial assistance, population growth and workforce development in rural Nebraska.

--more--

---

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity provider, employer and lender.”  
To file a complaint of discrimination write to 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).

---

**Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD)**-Lincoln, Neb. will utilize \$35,170, leveraged with \$35,380 from SENDD, to provide technical assistance to small and emerging private business enterprises in Gage, Jefferson, Richardson and Saunders counties impacted by recent severe storms, tornados and flooding.

“USDA Rural Development is committed to delivering the funding needed to help rural communities to succeed and remain viable,” stated Blehm. “The recipients here today are visionary. I applaud their planning for the future economic development of rural Nebraska and their active participation in securing the funding needed.”

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

#