



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$4 MILLION IN RURAL BUSINESS GRANTS Nebraska Receives More Than \$235,000

LINCOLN, NEB., July 17, 2008 – Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced the selection of 25 rural communities in 9 states to receive \$4 million in economic development grants.

“These grants reflect USDA’s ongoing commitment to supporting America’s rural communities,” Dorr said. “While USDA provides the funding, it is the local community that turns these funds into new job opportunities to generate economic vitality for their community. Our commitment is to support these local economic development efforts.”

The funds are being provided through USDA Rural Development’s [Rural Business Enterprise Grant \(RBEG\)](#) program. Examples of eligible fund use include: Acquisition or development of land, easements, or rights of way; construction, conversion, renovation, of buildings, plants, machinery, equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas, utilities; pollution control and abatement; capitalization of revolving loan funds including funds that will make loans for start ups and working capital; training and technical assistance; distance adult learning for job training and advancement; rural transportation improvement; and project planning.

Two Nebraska recipients will utilize \$235,170 to assist small businesses impacted recently by storms, tornados and flooding. The Northeast Economic Development, Inc. (NED) of Norfolk, Nebraska will create a \$200,000 Revolving Loan Fund to assist small businesses within Butler, Colfax and Platte counties to rebuild. Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD) in Lincoln, Nebraska will use \$35,170 to focus primarily on assisting with technical assistance and loan packaging to small and emerging private business enterprises in Gage, Jefferson, Richardson and Saunders counties.

A complete list of grant recipients is available on the USDA Rural Development web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov. Funding for individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
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1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410,
or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

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 \$90 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 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. For further information on rural programs, contact the USDA Rural Development State Office at (402) 437-5551 or your local USDA Rural Development office in Nebraska by visiting: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne>.

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