



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-0700

Phone: (202) 260-0996 • Fax: (202) 720-0483 TDD: (202) 720-6382 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

Weldon Freeman (202) 690-1384

Nebraska: Denise Meeks (402) 437-5559

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS \$6.3 MILLION IN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

--Nebraska Community Foundation, Inc. Receives \$124,000--

WASHINGTON, September 9, 2008 -- Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced that 35 groups in 25 states have been selected to receive \$6.3 million in training and technical assistance grants through the Rural Community Development Initiative program.

“These grants help people attract and retain investments in rural communities,” Dorr said. “They fund entrepreneurship training, leadership development and other efforts to help business and community leaders expand their local economies and create jobs.”

The grants will be awarded to intermediaries to develop their capacity to undertake housing, community facilities and economic development projects. For example, the **Nebraska Community Foundation, Inc. in Lincoln, Neb.** has been selected to receive a \$124,000 grant to be used for the Garden County Hometown Competitiveness (HTC) Capacity building initiative. This project will build capacity countywide with focus on the mobilization of local leaders and building civic capacity, encouraging local entrepreneurs to build a stronger economy, capturing wealth transfer to raise development dollars and attracting youth to strengthen community demographics. The YouthBuild USA Inc. office in Somerville, Mass., has been selected to receive a \$261,475 grant to provide technical counseling, education and vocational training to at-risk youth in 14 rural communities in 10 states. In Monticello, Utah, the San Juan County Economic Development Office has been selected for a \$105,700 grant to help the Four Corners School of Outdoor Education train its board and staff. The training is expected to improve the school’s ability to access alternative funding sources and train community members for jobs in education, tourism, public land management and scientific research fields. In Frankfort, Ky., Community Action Kentucky has been selected for a \$75,000 grant to train leaders in six low-income communities on four training modules: “Understanding Leadership”, “Communicating

--more--

Effectively”, “Building Communities Through Collaboration” and “Leading Community Change”.

Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the award agreement. Below is a complete list of grant recipients.

Rural Community Development Initiative grants

State	Recipient	Grant Amount
CA	California Coalition for Rural Housing	\$136,000
CA	Rural Community Assistance Corp.	\$200,000
CA	Siskiyou County Economic Development Council	\$150,000
DC	Housing Assistance Council	\$261,475
DE	NeighborWorks America	\$109,976
DE	National Council on Agricultural Life & Labor Research Fund Inc.	\$247,217
GA	The University of Georgia	\$85,000
HI	Myerberg Shain & Associates	\$261,475
IA	Iowa Department of Economic Development	\$261,475
IA	Iowa League of RC&Ds Inc.	\$261,475
ID	Ida-Ore Planning and Development Associations Inc.	\$52,660
IL	Office of Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn	\$219,800
IN	Indiana Association for Community Economic Development	\$200,000
KS	Kansas State University Center for Engagement and Community Development	\$81,484
KY	Community Action Kentucky Inc.	\$75,000
LA	Northeast Louisiana Economic Alliance	\$261,475
MA	Capital Link Inc.	\$261,475
MA	YouthBuild USA Inc.	\$261,475
ME	Penquis CAP Inc.	\$57,860
ME	Western Maine Community Action Inc.	\$261,475
ME	Piscataquis County Economic Development Council	\$137,769
MN	Minnesota Housing Partnership	\$200,000
MN	Greater Minnesota Housing Fund	\$261,475
NE	Nebraska Community Foundation	124,000
NH	North County Council Inc.	\$105,000
NY	Local Initiatives Support Corp.	\$156,000
OH	WSOS Community Action Commission Inc.	\$261,475
OK	Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma Inc.	\$125,000
OH	Ohio ValleyRegional Development Commission	\$108,000
SD	Northeast South Dakota Community Action Program	\$261,475
TN	Technology 2020	\$261,475
UT	San Juan County Economic Development Office	\$105,700
VA	Virginia Economic Development Partnership	\$120,000
WA	Hamilton Public Development Authority	\$60,000
WI	Northwoods Nijii Enterprise Community	\$261,475

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. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at <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).