



# NEWS RELEASE

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**USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS \$22.1 MILLION IN BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT LOANS, GRANTS**  
*An Estimated 2,500 Jobs To Be Created Or Saved In 37 States And Two Territories—  
Nebraska Receives \$296,200*

WASHINGTON, September 9, 2008 -- Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr announced the selection of 71 recipients in 37 states and two territories to receive \$22.1 million in business development loans and grants. The funds are provided through the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program, the Intermediary Relending Program and the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program.

“These funds represent a continuation of the working partnership between USDA Rural Development and local community leaders to promote business development and create jobs in rural America,” Dorr said. “These loans and grants are expected to create and save an estimated 2,500 jobs by improving economic conditions for rural Americans.”

For example, the **Center for Rural Affairs of Lyons, Neb.**, has been selected to receive a \$99,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant to assist in a two-state project (Ks. and Neb.) that will expand the focus of the Center’s MarketPlace: Opening Doors to Success, which encourages the growth of small business and micro-business. Monies will be used to encompass a broader focus that targets youth entrepreneurship and youth small business development as well as building the awareness for youth about opportunities entrepreneurship presents. The dollars will also expand the event, as a pilot, into Kansas. This grant is expected to assist 4 businesses and to create 10 jobs.

**In Scribner, Neb., the Scribner Improvement and Industrial Corporation** has been selected

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to receive a \$197,200 Rural Business Enterprise Grant to improve the opportunity for businesses to relocate or startup in the Scribner Industrial Park through streets, curbs and gutting. This grant is anticipated to assist two businesses, save four jobs and to create five jobs. Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative in Allison, Iowa, has been selected to receive a \$300,000 Rural Economic Development Grant to help build a new medical clinic and buy medical equipment. This project is expected to create three jobs and save 124. Community Works in Charleston, W.Va., has been selected to receive a \$750,000 loan through the Intermediary Relending Program to establish a statewide revolving loan fund to assist member organizations with economic development projects. The loan is expected to create 70 jobs and assist nine businesses.

The Rural Business Enterprise Grant program provides grants to facilitate the development of small and emerging rural businesses, fund distance learning networks and fund employment-related adult education programs. Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants are provided to electric or telecommunications borrowers to provide economic development and job-creation projects. The Intermediary Relending Program's purpose is to alleviate poverty and increase economic activity and employment in rural communities by establishing revolving loan funds to help finance businesses and promote economic development.

A complete list of the grant and loan recipients is available at:

[http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/newsroom/2008/09-08-2008\\_rri-rl.pdf](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/newsroom/2008/09-08-2008_rri-rl.pdf).

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> .