



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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CONGRESSMAN SMITH AND USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT DELIVER FUNDS TO CRAWFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CRAWFORD, Neb., October 27, 2008 – United States Congressman Adrian Smith and USDA Rural Development Nebraska State Director Scot Blehm presented a ceremonial check today for \$216,825 to Crawford Public Schools. The funds will be used for synchronous distance learning technology.

“Nebraska has long been known as the home of the Good Life,” Smith said. “The future of our rural communities will be formed by the hard work and innovation of our community leaders. I commend Crawford Public Schools for their efforts to improve education opportunities in rural Nebraska.”

Twenty-eight hub/end-user sites will be participating in the project. Distance learning will include advanced placement courses for high-achieving students and remedial courses for students with deficits. Electives such as journalism, short-story writing, psychology, micro-economics, and a variety of foreign languages will also be offered.

“Congratulations to Crawford Public Schools for securing the funding needed to provide distance learning opportunities in rural Nebraska,” stated Blehm. “USDA Rural Development is committed to delivering the funding needed to help rural communities to succeed and remain strong. We are pleased to report a record year in project funding which means more dollars pumped into Nebraska to keep its’ rural communities viable.”

In Fiscal Year 2008, USDA Rural Development delivered more than \$189.8 million to rural Nebraska. Housing funds delivered totaled \$70.6 million, community facilities \$11 million, utilities \$22.4 million, business \$18.9 million, telecommunications \$51.3 million and electric \$15.6 million.

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

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