



Committed to the future of rural communities.

California—Rural Business & Cooperative Service

Strategic Partners

Partnerships Support Local Development in Fresno, California

Outline Of Need:

The City of Fresno is surrounded by several small, rural communities that make up Fresno County. Although this county leads the state, and much of the nation, in agriculture production many of its communities struggle with basic needs. The City of Fresno has identified several goals to improve economic development throughout the city; yet struggled to identify appropriate funding.

How Rural Development Helped:

Fresno was recently selected to participate in the Obama Administration's new "Strong Cities, Strong Communities" (SC2) initiative, which brings together more than a dozen federal agencies to work with local governments to encourage economic growth and community development. Strategic partnerships among agencies such as the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, and others are working to



USDA Rural Development State Director Glenda Humiston standing with federal partners and Fresno Mayor to announce participation in SC2 Initiative.

break down traditional silos and identify ways to partner more effectively. Rural Development supported the initiative with three grants totaling \$324,105. Funds were provided through the Rural Community Development Initiative Program (RCDI) and the Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program (RBEG) to assist with a variety of trainings for Fresno County businesses and communities.

The Results:

The combined efforts of federal agencies working with the local government, the private sector and other organizations are expected to help Fresno implement their goals for economic growth. As Fresno redevelops its downtown, improves transportation opportunities and adult education it will also strengthen its connection to the many surrounding rural communities. As a result, the entire region will become more attractive to residents and investors, leading to more local economic development. If the pilot project works in the selected cities, it is expected to expand to other cities throughout the nation.

Fast Facts

Program: Rural Community Development Initiative and Rural Business Enterprise Grant

Investment: \$324,105 Loan and Grant

Partners: City of Fresno, USDA Rural Development, Environmental Protection Agency, Economic Development Administration, Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Health and Human Services, Minority Business Development Agency, Department of the Interior, Department of Labor.

Congressional District: CA-20

Impact:

- Partnership of 14 federal agencies
- Pilot initiative includes 6 cities to stimulate economic growth.

August 2011