



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Ohio—Rural Housing Service

# Regional Collaboration

## Community Facility Funding Constructs Early Learning Center and Head Start Program

### Outline Of Need:

Availability of early childhood development was lacking in the Warren County, Ohio area. There was a need for Early Head Start to serve low-income infants, toddlers, and pregnant women.

### How Rural Development Helped:

The new facility was financed with \$1.8 million USDA Rural Development Community Facilities (CF) direct loan funds as well as \$50,000 of CF grant funds. These funds were made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Other funding partners include private donations, grants, and loans. The Village of South Lebanon donated the land and waived fees to tap nearby utility liens. Grant assistance was also provided by the Warren County Board of Commissioners, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Jacob G. Schmid-



lapp Trust, and The Andrew Jergens Foundation. James D. Smith, Mayor of the Village of South Lebanon, said the learning center provides multi-faceted benefits to the community.

### The Results:

The future of youngsters in South Lebanon is looking brighter as they get an early start on their future success, thanks to the South Lebanon Early Learning Center (ELC). The 14,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility will offer full day education/child care, half-day preschool, and a new option for infants, toddlers, and expectant parents. There is also a multi-purpose space for family and community activities.

“What’s nice about the Early Learning Center is you have the school and child care plus community access to the building,” he said. “It gives our youngsters the opportunity to get a head start on an excellent education before they enter kindergarten and bring permanent jobs to the community.

It is a great investment for the village and for the future of our kids.” In addition to classroom space, the facility features therapy rooms, play areas, and workrooms. Password protected cameras are in place so parents can view activities online from their home or office. The \$2.3 million facility brings with it 4 new, permanent jobs. Once all classrooms are staffed, employment is projected to double.

## Fast Facts

**Program:** Community Facilities

**Investment:** \$1.8 million direct loan; \$50,000 grant

**Partners:** Village of South Lebanon; Warren County Board of Commissioners; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trust; and The Andrew Jergens Foundation; private donations, grants, and loans.

**Congressional District:** OH-02

### Impact:

- 4 new permanent jobs, total employment projected to double.

**Contact:** [Heather.Hartley@oh.usda.gov](mailto:Heather.Hartley@oh.usda.gov)

April 2011