



MEDIA RELEASE

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A New Ambulance Will Be Rolling Into Town Thanks to USDA

Chewelah---Chewelah Rural Ambulance Association, Inc. recently learned that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development will provide funding for a much needed ambulance.

Jackie J. Gleason, Washington State Director of USDA Rural Development recently announced the award of loan and grant funds totaling \$60,000 for the purchase of a new ambulance, which will improve emergency response services for residents in the 750 square miles of territory covered by the ambulance association. The Chewelah Rural Ambulance Association, Inc. currently owns two ambulances. The primary response unit is five years old and has over 92,000 miles on it and has been experiencing escalating maintenance costs. The organization must lease an ambulance temporarily when the primary response unit breaks down to provide backup coverage in the event that there are simultaneous emergency responses. The lease expenses are costly additions to the operating budget for the association.

USDA Rural Development provides financial assistance for emergency response resources through the Community Facilities Program. Emergency response equipment is a basic necessity for all communities and is often inadequate for small rural populations.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development provides equity, liquidity, and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on the Community Facilities Program, and other programs administered by USDA Rural Development in Washington State, is available at the nearest USDA Service Center or by visiting their web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa>. ###