



# MEDIA RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Suite B, Olympia, WA 98512-5715  
Contact: **Tuana L. Jones, 360-704-7709, [tuana.jones@wa.usda.gov](mailto:tuana.jones@wa.usda.gov)**

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## **VENEMAN ANNOUNCES \$6.3 MILLION IN RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS TO FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN 20 STATES**

### *Northwest Cooperative Development Center is Washington State Recipient*

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16, 2003 – Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced today \$6.3 million in economic development grants in 20 states.

“The Bush Administration is committed to enhancing job opportunities in America’s rural economies,” said Veneman. “These grants will strengthen rural community cooperatives, which will facilitate the retention of jobs in rural areas.”

The [cooperative development grant](#) program is administered through USDA Rural Development. The grants were awarded on a competitive basis and are intended to foster rural cooperative development through projects that provide rural residents with education and technical assistance in areas of cooperative startup, marketing and managing, and other self-help tools.

Recipient states and the grant amounts are the following:

<b>Alabama</b> - \$321,104	<b>Arkansas</b> - \$325,253	<b>California</b> - \$327,748
<b>Colorado</b> - \$324,500	<b>Iowa</b> - \$272,382	<b>Illinois</b> - \$209,992
<b>Indiana</b> - \$175,000	<b>Kentucky</b> - \$314,575	<b>Massachusetts</b> - \$324,811
<b>Minnesota</b> - \$347,372	<b>Missouri</b> - \$624,400	<b>Mississippi</b> - \$324,240
<b>Montana</b> - \$186,015	<b>North Dakota</b> - \$325,000	<b>Nebraska</b> - \$328,826
<b>Ohio</b> - \$346,258	<b>Texas</b> - \$294,260	<b>Virginia</b> - \$349,800
<b>Washington</b> - \$285,282	<b>Wisconsin</b> - \$325,000	

**In Washington State, the Northwest Cooperative Development Center will utilize the funding to create cooperate frameworks on which rural communities can build viable, sustainable futures. More specifically they plan to promote and coordinate the development of cooperatives, develop new partnerships and reinforce existing collaborative efforts for cooperative education and development, and improve the capacity of their direct delivery of development services through education and training. The Northwest Cooperative Development Center is located in Olympia and serves the entire state, along with northwest regional efforts.**

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. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov). #