



NEWS RELEASE

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Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Support to Create Jobs, Repair or Build Community Centers, Health Care Facilities, and Bring Public Safety Vehicles to Rural Communities

WASHINGTON, Oct.4, 2011 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced investments in 32 states and one territory that will create jobs and improve the quality of life in rural communities across the nation.

"These projects not only provide needed infrastructure in rural communities, they contribute to the Obama administration's continued efforts to create quality jobs and improve the nation's economy," Vilsack said. "The projects announced today will help strengthen facilities and amenities in rural towns and small cities."

For example, McDowell County Redevelopment Authority/McDowell County Health Department, located in McDowell County, W.Va., was selected to receive a \$7,700 grant that will be used to assist in the purchase of a new heating unit for the health department. Also in The Mountain State, Pretera Center for Mental Health Services, Inc., Clay County, was selected to receive a \$7,500 grant that will be used to assist in the purchase of a generator for the facility.

The city of Blockton, Iowa, was selected to receive a \$50,000 grant that will be used to purchase a fire truck. Currently, the fire department has just one pumper truck to cover a 70 square mile area. Also in Iowa, the city of Akron was selected to receive a \$4 million direct loan that will be used to help build a 45-bed nursing home. In addition to the jobs created as a result of the construction, the project will save 60 existing, permanent jobs.

In Gray, KY., KCEOC Community Action Partnership, Inc. was selected to receive a \$50,000 grant to replace a roof on a child development and community center in Harland County, a persistent poverty county. The center has 88 children enrolled in its programs and community groups use the center for community, educational and recreational activities.

Great Plains Health Alliance Inc, in Phillipsburg, Kan., was selected to receive a \$3 million loan and a \$2.2 million loan guarantee to purchase health records equipment and software for rural hospitals. When completed, the project will offer clinical telemedicine services, including real-time virtual consultations, diagnostic examinations, digital diagnostic imaging, remote monitoring and other specialty services. The project is expected to create or save an estimated 41 jobs.

The \$46.8 million announced today is being funded through the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Program. Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon meeting the

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terms of the loan or grant agreement. USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities Program helps finance essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include child care centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted-living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Through this program, USDA ensures that such facilities are available to all rural residents. These funds are available to public bodies, non-profit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes.

Below is a complete list of projects announced today by Secretary Vilsack.

Alaska

- Yokon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation – To purchase medical emergency service equipment; \$25,400 grant
- North End Port Authority – To purchase a ferry vessel for public transportation in Southeast Alaska; \$2,996,200 direct loan
- Iisagvik Tribal College – To modernize on-campus cultural and educational facilities; \$205,000 grant

Alabama

- Escambia County Health Care Authority – To renovate an existing health care facility; \$3,500,000 direct loan

American Samoa

- American Samoa Medical Center dba LBJ Tropical Medical Center – To purchase microbial identification and antibiotic testing equipment for the laboratory division; \$35,605 grant

Arkansas

- City of Cotton Plant – To renovate an existing building to be used as a food bank; \$75,000 grant
- Chicot County – To purchase hospital equipment; \$50,000 grant
- City of Prescott – To purchase computers for the public library; \$15,000 grant
- City of Hughes – To purchase police cars and equipment; \$50,000 grant
- City of McGehee – To purchase police cars and equipment; \$48,000 grant
- M.M. Tate CDC – To replace the roof on a community center; \$50,000 grant
- City of Parkin – To purchase a police car and equipment; \$23,000 grant

Arizona

- Tohono O'odham Community College – To build/repair a college water tower; \$215,000 grant
- Dine College – To install a new water system for the college's demonstration farm and purchase a heating and cooling system for the college's greenhouse; \$215,000 grant

California

- City of Willows – To purchase a K-9 unit; \$22,890 grant
- Williams Fire Protection Authority – To purchase a heavy rescue vehicle; \$50,000 grant
- Round Valley Unified School District – To purchase kitchen equipment; \$50,000 grant

- First 5 Del Norte, Children and Families Commission – To purchase an existing building; \$500,000 direct loan and \$500,000 guaranteed loan

Colorado

Burlington Fire Protection District – To purchase new fire rescue equipment; \$7,500 grant

Delaware

- City of Delaware City – To construct a new trailhead and trail connector to the C&D Canal Trail; \$50,000 grant

Iowa

- City of Blockton – To purchase a fire truck and related equipment; \$50,000 grant
- City of Akron – To construct a new health care facility; \$4,000,000 direct loan

Idaho

- Downey Volunteer Fire District – To construct a fire station; \$22,700 grant

Illinois

- Savanna Public Library District – To replace existing aluminum windows with energy efficient windows; \$50,000 grant
- Middle Fork Township – To construct a new township building; \$178,000 direct loan
- Benton Civic Center Authority – To renovate a multi-purpose public facility; \$1,000,000 Guaranteed Loan

Kansas

- City of McFarland – To make improvements to a flood dam; \$47,400 direct loan
- Great Plains Health Alliance Inc. – To purchase, install and active equipment and software for an electronic health records system; \$3,000,000 direct loan and a \$2,200,000 guaranteed loan

Kentucky

- KCEOC – To replace the roof on a child development and community center; \$50,000 grant
- City of Warfield – To purchase a utility vehicle equipped with a snow plow and salt spreader; \$24,746 grant
- City of Inez – To purchase a utility truck with a snow blade and salt spreader; \$20,283 grant
- New Horizons Health Systems, Inc. – To rehabilitate and repair a leaky roof; \$38,257 direct loan and a \$46,758 grant
- Caverna Memorial Hospital – To construct a free-standing physicians clinic; \$2,100,000 direct loan

Maryland

- Town of Westernport – To replace the roof on a city building and a senior citizens building; \$26,200 grant

- Cecilton Volunteer Fire Company – To purchase new fire and rescue equipment; \$48,500 grant

Michigan

- Gogebic County – To purchase a new patrol car and related equipment; 10,000 grant
- City of Beaverton – To purchase a Department of Public Works vehicle; \$34,000 grant
- City of Beaverton – Patrol vehicle replacement; \$20,000 grant
- Summerfield Township – To purchase and install a Homeland Security Emergency Siren System; \$14,000 grant
- Richfield Township – To purchase a new 4WD truck with snow blade for the Department of Public Safety's Fire Division; \$23,000 grant
- Clare County – To purchase a patrol car and related equipment; \$15,000 grant
- Clare County – To purchase a patrol car and related equipment; \$15,000 grant
- Gladwin County – To purchase a new SUV patrol vehicle for the Sheriff's Department; \$11,000 grant
- Gladwin County – To purchase a new patrol vehicle for the Sheriff's Department; \$10,000 grant
- Bay Mills Community College – To make improvements to the EMT/Paramedic Training Center, and for site development of the Ag-Science building & Administration building; \$170,000 grant

Minnesota

- White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians – To purchase electric boilers to replace oil tanks; \$50,000 grant
- Tri-County EMS District Inc. – To purchase a new ambulance; \$120,000 direct loan
- City of Hewitt – To purchase a used pumper truck with associated equipment; \$25,000 direct loan and a \$25,000 grant
- White Earth Tribal and Community College – To construct a new cultural learning center; \$204,500 grant
- Leech Lake Tribal College – To purchase computer equipment; \$185,000 grant

Missouri

- Flame of Hope Food Pantry, Inc. – To purchase and install an emergency generator; \$18,040 grant
- City of Bell City – To purchase equipment for the fire department; \$13,280 grant
- City of Wardell – To purchase an emergency warning system; \$13,350 grant
- Mississippi County – To purchase two police vehicles; \$49,950 grant
- City of Williamsville – To purchase a tractor; \$26,925 grant
- Dunklin County – To purchase communications equipment for the Sheriff's Department; \$9,080 grant
- City of Charleston – To purchase base and hand-held communications equipment; \$49,950 grant
- Stoddard County Development Corporation – To purchase two SUV's for the Sheriff's Department; \$30,582 direct loan and a \$37,378 grant

Mississippi

- Yalobusha County Public Library System – To purchase library equipment ; \$18,750 grant
- Town of Bruce – To renovate the library; \$36,569 grant
- Kemper County Board of Supervisors – To repair the roof of the county-owned health department building; \$17,500 grant
- Mississippi Delta Community College – To purchase dental equipment; \$40,927 grant
- Montgomery County Board of Supervisors – To purchase two police vehicles; \$42,513 grant
- Mississippi Delta Community College – To purchase medical laboratory equipment; \$17,294 grant
- Town of Ethel – To purchase a rotary cutter for town maintenance; \$12,375 grant

Montana

- Stone Child College – To purchase a van, various maintenance equipment/truck equipment and supplies for the Early Childhood Center; \$215,000 grant
- Fort Belknap College – To replace the roof on four existing buildings; \$215,000 grant
- Blackfeet Community College – To perform site and infrastructure work for the Community Agriculture Education Center; \$215,000 grant
- Fort Peck Community College – To purchase and install geothermal wells, add landscaping and flooring for the 1st phase of the new Library/IT Learning Center; \$215,000 grant
- Chief Dull Knife College – To construct a new maintenance facility and buy a four-door sedan; \$215,000 grant
- Confederated Salish & Kootenai College – To replace heating units with energy efficient heating pumps in several buildings, and pave the parking lot and access road on campus; \$215,000 grant

Nebraska

- Mullen Hospital District – To purchase a handicap accessible van; \$14,650 grant

Nevada

- City of Caliente – To purchase a pumper truck and mini-pumper rescue vehicle; \$120,000 direct loan and a \$15,000 grant

New Mexico

- Institute of American Indian Arts – To construct administration offices, a conference center and classrooms; \$215,000 grant

North Carolina

- Town of Fletcher – To construct a town hall /public safety building; \$5,000,000 direct loan

North Dakota

- Powers Fire Protection District – To purchase a new fire truck; \$34,000 direct loan and a \$50,000 grant
- Sitting Bull College – To build offices; \$210,000 grant
- Turtle Mountain Community College – To complete structural repairs; \$215,000 grant
- Fort Berthold Community College – To expand a parking lot, install a security fence, install campus surveillance system, and purchase classroom equipment; \$204,500 grant

Oklahoma

- Eastern Oklahoma State College – To expand and update a meat processing plant; \$36,310 grant

Pennsylvania

- Texas No. 4 Fire Company – To purchase a fire truck; \$261,400 direct loan and a \$50,000 grant

South Carolina

- Richburg Fire Protection District – To construct a new main fire station; \$150,000 direct loan
- New Destiny Center, Inc. – To construct a residential care facility; \$15,000 grant
- Hampton County – To expand the library; \$524,570 direct loan and a \$50,000 grant
- Orangeburg County – To renovate a facility to serve as a municipal center; \$2,200,000 direct loan

South Dakota

- Mobridge Regional Hospital – To make accessibility improvements; \$2,975,000 direct loan
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- Eureka Community Benevolent Hospital Association – To purchase medical equipment; \$14,000 direct loan and a \$42,000 grant
- Sisseton Wahpeton College – To purchase equipment and furniture for the library; \$215,000 grant
- Oglala Lakota College – To construct a garage to house the college's vehicle fleet and replace nine instructional centers; \$215,000 grant

Tennessee

- Hancock County – To replace the roof on the county courthouse; \$50,000 grant

Texas

- Reeves County Hospital – To purchase a boiler for a hospital; \$50,000 grant
- San Diego Independent School District – To purchase technology equipment, including virtual desktop computers and a server; \$35,000 grant
- Duval County – To purchase four new public safety/emergency responder vehicles for the Sheriff's Department; \$35,000 grant

- City of Hempstead – To purchase a police vehicle; \$35,000 grant
- City of Rice – To construct a new municipal/public safety building and emergency command center; \$2,940,000 direct loan and a \$50,000 grant
- City of Jourdanton – To construct a new municipal building and install solar panels for energy efficiency; \$3,160,000 direct loan
- City of Bremond – To purchase a patrol vehicle; \$20,000 direct loan and a \$10,000 grant
- City of Cotulla – To make street improvements at a public facility; \$1,527,000 direct loan
- Presidio County Health Services, Inc. – To construct a health clinic; \$100,000 direct loan
- City of Gorman – To purchase a dump truck and a police vehicle; \$46,368 direct loan and a \$35,000 grant

Virginia

- Town of Orange – To purchase a police vehicle; \$25,000 grant
- Harman Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. – To purchase firefighting equipment; \$25,000 grant
- Town of Blackstone – To purchase two police vehicles; \$25,000 direct loan and a \$25,000 grant
- Russell Prater Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. – To purchase firefighting equipment; \$5,000 grant
- Russell Prater Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. – To purchase firefighting equipment; \$20,000 grant
- Southside Training, Employment and Placement Services, Inc. – To purchase production line equipment; \$25,000 grant
- Town of Onley – To purchase a police vehicle and equipment; \$18,500 direct loan and a \$9,960 grant
- Rockbridge Area Community Services Board – To construction an adult day care facility; \$1,200,000 direct loan

Vermont

- Town of Groton – To make accessibility improvements to the bathrooms in the Municipal Building; \$3,700 grant
- Village of Barton – To make accessibility improvements to the bathrooms in the Memorial Hall; \$13,200 grant

Wisconsin

- College of Menominee Nation – To construct a building addition to include classrooms/shops, a new lobby, staff offices and bathrooms with showers; \$215,000 grant

West Virginia

- Pretera Center for Mental Health Services, Inc. – To purchase a generator; \$7,500 grant
- McDowell County Redevelopment Authority/Health Department – To purchase a new roof-top heating unit; \$7,700 grant

On September 8, President Obama presented the [American Jobs Act](#) in an address to Congress. The purpose of the American Jobs Act is simple: put more people back to work and put more money in the pockets of working Americans. The American Jobs Act is specific. It will put people back to work right now, and it will not add to the deficit. Through a combination of direct spending, such as infrastructure investments, and tax relief, such as an extension of the payroll tax cuts, it will lead to new American jobs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 21 direct or indirect jobs are created for each \$1 million invested in infrastructure.

Since taking office, President Obama's Administration has taken significant steps to improve the lives of rural Americans and has provided broad support for rural communities. The Obama Administration has set goals of modernizing infrastructure by providing broadband access to 10 million Americans, expanding educational opportunities for students in rural areas, and providing affordable health care. In the long term, these unparalleled rural investments will help ensure that America's rural communities are repopulating, self-sustaining and thriving economically.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a national network of state and local offices. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of more than \$155 billion in loans and loan guarantees. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. More information about USDA Rural Development can be found at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

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