



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Investments In Essential Rural Community Facilities

WASHINGTON, February 11, 2011 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced investments in projects in 24 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to improve rural community facilities such as schools, health care facilities, libraries, and first responder services and equipment.

“These projects will bring lasting improvements that are essential to maintaining strong rural economies and vibrant communities as we work to win the future,” Vilsack said. “Preserving the infrastructure in rural areas is one of many ways that USDA assistance helps create and retain jobs.”

For example, McDowell County Commission, McDowell County, WV, has been selected to receive a \$78,750 grant to assist with the purchase of a new ambulance for the McDowell Emergency Ambulance Authority. A new ambulance is needed to replace two ambulances that were taken out of commission in September 2010. The Ambulance Authority lost one ambulance in a fire and a few days later a second ambulance was involved in a traffic accident.

The City of Mineral Point, Wis., has been selected for a loan and a grant to renovate a library. A preliminary architectural report has indicated that mold in the building is a health and safety concern and is jeopardizing some of the oldest documents in the state of Wisconsin. In Albany, Ky., the Foothills Academy, Inc. has been selected to receive a grant to purchase equipment to operate and maintain two residential facilities for at-risk youth.

A list of borrowers receiving awards is shown below. Funding is contingent upon borrowers meeting conditions in the funding agreement.

Alaska

- Kenai Peninsula Food Bank. Renovations to food bank; \$327,000 loan

Arkansas

- Arkansas Methodist Hospital Corp. Purchase a new ambulance and equipment for the Rector Ambulance Substation; \$50,000 grant
- St. Francis County Community Development Corp. Construct a 40-bed, assisted-living facility; \$4,525,000 loan

California

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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- Penn Valley Fire Protection District. Purchase a pumper with enclosed cab seating; \$237,568 loan
- Private Industry Council of Butte County, Inc. Purchase a building for research/training; \$2,850,000 loan
- Hayfork Fire Protection District. Construct an engine barn; \$43,700 grant

Colorado

- Rural Communities Resource Center. Purchase and renovate building and equipment; \$140,000 loan; \$10,000 grant
- Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado. Purchase a facility for administrative staff; \$147,500 loan; \$50,000 grant
- Southwest Colorado Mental Health Center. Construct a medical office building; \$1,867,500 guaranteed loan

Idaho

- City of Payette. Build an addition onto the existing library; \$1,100,000 loan; \$80,000 grant

Iowa

- Van Buren County Hospital. Construct a child-care and community services center; \$744,000 loan
- Lucas County. Construct and purchase an E911 radio communications tower and equipment; \$23,450 grant
- City of Grand River. Purchase city equipment; \$9,450 grant

Illinois

- City of McLeansboro. Replace leaking roof on the public library and tuck point bricks; \$30,000 grant

Kentucky

- Hospice of Hope, Inc. Construct a 29,687-square-foot assisted-living facility and an 18,543-square-foot inpatient facility for the terminally ill; \$3,000,000 loan
- Foothills Academy, Inc. Purchase computers/transport vehicle for at-risk youth; \$100,000 grant

Maine

- Katahdin Valley Health Center. Construct a dental clinic; \$1,800,000 guaranteed loan
- The LifeFlight Foundation/Washington County. Construct an automated weather observing system station to assist with emergency medical helicopters; \$8,750 grant
- The LifeFlight Foundation/Aroostook County. Construct an automated weather observing system station to assist with emergency medical helicopters; \$8,250 grant
- The LifeFlight Foundation/Carrabassett Valley. Construct an automated weather observing system station to assist with emergency medical helicopters; \$10,500 grant

Massachusetts

- Wellfleet Preservation Hall. Renovate and rehabilitate an historic church building into a community center; \$600,000 loan; \$50,000 grant

Michigan

- Baldwin Family Health Center. Construct a health care facility that will replace two buildings; \$1,835,000 loan

Minnesota

- City of Clearbrook. Replace the roof, window, doors and add insulation to a community building; \$227,000 loan
- Northern Pines Medical Center. Construct a clinic and remodel part of a hospital; \$7,500,000 guaranteed loan; \$2,500,000 direct loan

Missouri

- Wolverines School Supporters. Building repairs/construction; \$421,350 loan; \$20,000 grant
- Fordland Clinic, Inc. Purchase equipment, fixtures, and furniture; \$160,000 guaranteed loan
- Steelville Volunteer Firefighters. Purchase a lot and construct a new fire station; \$284,000 loan
- SE MO Network Against Sexual Violence. Purchase and rehabilitate a building to house a child advocacy center; \$300,000 loan

Nebraska

- CAPstone. Develop new space for a child advocacy center; \$120,000 loan
- Memorial Community Health, Inc. Construct a new emergency department and trauma rooms; renovate the cafeteria, replace nursing home; \$2,250,000 guaranteed loan; \$2,250,000 direct loan
- Gothenburg Memorial Hospital, Inc. Construct a new clinic; \$2,500,000 loan, \$500,000 guaranteed loan

New York

- Elizabethtown-Lewis Emergency Squad, Inc. Purchase a new ambulance; \$40,000 loan and \$30,000 grant
- Keuka College. Purchase and install new computer software; \$2,000,000 loan
- Village of Norwood. Complete village hall renovations; \$158,000 loan
- Town of Portland. Purchase a snow plow; \$145,000 loan
- Town of Troupsburg. Purchase an ambulance; \$83,000 loan; \$25,000 grant

Ohio

- Seneca County. Renovate the courthouse; \$5,000,000 loan

Pennsylvania

- Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18. Renovate the existing classroom building; \$4,000,000 loan
- Youngstown Volunteer Fire Department and Relief Association. Purchase a combination rescue-service truck; \$300,000 loan; \$50,000 grant
- Conyngham Township. Purchase a police vehicle; \$14,000 grant

Puerto Rico

- Municipality of Vega Baja. Construct a library; \$3,500,000 loan

South Carolina

- Academy for Teaching and Learning of the Chester County School District. Purchase an existing 38,880-square-foot building; \$2,100,000 guaranteed loan
- New Destiny Center, Inc. Purchase and renovate residential group boys' home; \$344,000 loan

South Dakota

- Bethany Lutheran Home for the Aged, Inc. Construct a partial replacement nursing facility; \$7,750,000 guaranteed loan; \$2,500,000 direct loan

Texas

- Bremond Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Construct a fire station; \$20,000 grant

Utah

- Manti City. Install an elevator for city hall building; \$17,196 grant

Virginia

- Middle Peninsula Regional Airport Authority. Construct a hangar for the LifeEvac helicopter; \$716,000 loan; \$50,000 grant

West Virginia

- McDowell County Commission/Ambulance Authority. Purchase a new ambulance; \$78,750 grant

Wisconsin

- City of Mineral Point. Renovate an existing library; \$1,000,000 loan; \$100,000 grant

The Community Facilities projects to be funded by USDA Rural Development total nearly \$70 million. The program funds facilities for public use in rural areas. These include health and child care centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted-living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, libraries, 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. More information about USDA Rural Development can be found at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages more than 40 housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a national network of employees located in Washington, D.C., and state and local offices. 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. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of nearly \$146 billion in loans and loan guarantees.

Rural Development serves as the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers program assistance through its housing, business, community and infrastructure programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Further information on USDA Rural Development may be obtained by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. In West Virginia, call 1-800-295-8228 to be put in touch with the appropriate personnel serving your county. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202.720.2600 (voice and TDD).

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