



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ALASKA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM LOAN AND GRANT FUNDS

PALMER, Alaska, October 17, 2008- USDA Rural Development is seeking applications from rural Alaska communities seeking water and sewer loan and grant funds, Acting Alaska State Director Chad Padgett said today.

“Priorities include projects already underway that require additional funding for completion, hardship cases and other instances where funding delays could increase the cost of projects,” said Padgett. Funding is provided through the fiscal year 2009 Continuing Resolution passed by Congress. Some “carryover” funding from fiscal year 2008 is also available.

Padgett said that funds are also available under the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant program. Those funds are used to address emergency situations where there is a demonstrated significant decline in water quality or quantity. Funds can be used by communities for well drilling, reservoir construction, water transmission lines, and treatment plant construction. Grants of up to \$500,000 are available per project. Grants of up to \$150,000 can also be provided for distribution water line extensions, distribution water line break repairs, and operation and maintenance projects that remedy an acute shortage of water or a significant decline in the quality or quantity of water supplies.

In fiscal year 2008, USDA Rural Development provided over \$12 million in water and environmental loan and grant funds for Alaska projects. Applications will be accepted at any time. Please contact USDA Rural Development for an application packet.

For more information about the availability of funds contact any USDA Rural Development Alaska office. Offices are located in Palmer, Sitka, Kenai, Fairbanks, Dillingham, Bethel and Nome. You may also visit the USDA Rural Development Alaska website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ak/>.

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