

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$17.5 MILLION IN RECOVERY ACT FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS

Wrangell Medical Center Receives \$500,000 for Equipment, Yakutat Gets \$300,000 for a building to Shelter Emergency Gear

WASHINGTON, Sept., 10, 2009 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the selection of \$17.5 million in community facilities projects that are being funded immediately with federal funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that President Obama signed into law in February. Altogether, USDA has announced nearly \$252.5 million in Recovery Act funding for community facility projects to date.

"Facilities such as libraries, public buildings and community centers bring vitality to small towns and cities and these Recovery Act investments will benefit people throughout the country," Vilsack said. "The Obama Administration is committed to strengthening communities in rural areas and these investments will help further that goal."

In Alaska, the Wrangell Medical Center will receive a \$500,000 grant to purchase a CT scanner and critical care equipment. The center will also purchase new hospital room equipment.

Yakutat will receive a \$200,000 grant and a \$100,000 loan to construct a building to house fire engines and equipment trailers.

In addition to the \$17.5 million that USDA Rural Development is providing to fund the 27 projects announced today, recipients will invest \$8.2 million from other sources.

Funding of each loan and grant recipient is contingent upon meeting the conditions of the agreement.

More information about USDA's Recovery Act efforts, including a complete list of the recipients by state is available at www.usda.gov/recovery. More information about the Federal government's efforts on the Recovery Act is available at www.recovery.gov.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development, and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

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