



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$4 MILLION IN RECOVERY ACT FUNDING FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS**

### *KETCHIKAN TO RECEIVE FUNDS FOR REVOLVING LOANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES*

WASHINGTON, January 22, 2010 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the selection of 44 recipients for more than \$4 million in grants to create jobs by starting or expanding businesses in rural communities. Through funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), businesses will be able to access critical capital that will help with start-up and working capital loans, building and plant renovations, transportation improvements, project planning and other business needs.

“These Recovery Act grants are part of the Obama Administration’s ongoing effort to promote job development by ensuring that strategic investments are made in rural America,” said Vilsack. “Small businesses drive community revitalization by providing products and services to local residents. This funding will help spur important economic development and strengthen communities around the country.”

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough will receive \$99,000 in Federal Recovery Act funds that will be leveraged with an additional \$100,000 to start a revolving loan fund to create and start small businesses. The program is expected to diversify the community’s economy and allow the Borough to boost the shellfish industry, develop an industrial park at Ward Cove, and promote renewable energy projects.

The funding announced today is being provided by ARRA through [USDA Rural Development’s Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program \(RBEG\)](#), which helps finance new and existing businesses as well as employment-related adult education programs. RBEG funds can be used for start-up and working capital loans, building and plant renovations, transportation improvements, project planning and other business needs. Additional information on the RBEG program may be found at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbeg.htm>.

Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of their grant agreement. More information about USDA Rural Development and a complete list of the recipients can be found at [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov).

President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on Feb. 17, 2009. It is designed to jumpstart the nation’s economy, create or save millions of jobs and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act includes measures to modernize our nation’s infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

More information about USDA's Recovery Act efforts is available at [www.usda.gov/recovery](http://www.usda.gov/recovery). More information about the Federal government's efforts on the Recovery Act is available at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

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