



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

World Wide Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>

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Release No. 42.07

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GRANT SUPPORTS ENTREPRENEURSHIP, ECONOMY

USDA Rural Development grant will provide assistance and training to rural entrepreneurs in Siskiyou County.

MOUNT SHASTA, Calif., August 15, 2007 – Jefferson Economic Development Institute (JEDI) is assisting several small and emerging businesses in rural Siskiyou County with help from a \$45,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) from USDA Rural Development. The grant will help fund JEDI's Small Business, Big Impact Program aimed at supporting rural entrepreneurs through training and technical assistance. USDA Rural Development State Director Ben Higgins presented JEDI Executive Director Nancy Swift and area business owners with a check for the grant funds at a ceremony today held at JEDI headquarters in Mount Shasta.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our rural economy. Their entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to their community is helping to create jobs and bring economic stability to rural communities across the Golden State,” said Higgins. “Today’s funds will help ensure that those who are working hard to help themselves will have the tools they need to succeed.”

USDA Rural Development’s RBEG funds are available to rural communities, non-profit corporations and tribes for projects that strengthen the economic conditions of rural areas through business and job development and training as well as project planning. JEDI will use funds to help new and emerging businesses with training and technical assistance resulting in additional jobs and prosperity for the local economy.

“Our goal at JEDI is to assist Siskiyou County businesses to grow and build networks in their industries,” said Swift. “The investment from USDA Rural Development has made a significant difference in our ability to continue to provide effective business development services to entrepreneurs in this county.”

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$76 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. As a result, over 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at one of California’s 25 local USDA Rural Development offices or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>.

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“Committed to the future of rural communities”
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