



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

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Ben Higgins, State Director

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AID TRIBES

Funds will assist tribes with business, community and housing projects

DAVIS, Calif., December 17, 2007 – USDA Rural Development awarded grants totaling over \$350,000 today to four California organizations to support economic development efforts among several tribes throughout the state. The funding is being provided through USDA Rural Development's Rural Community Development Initiative Program.

“The funds provided today aren't a quick fix, but will help hundreds of tribal members develop important skills in economic, community and housing development,” said USDA Rural Development State Director Ben Higgins. “Initiatives such as these are a crucial component of USDA Rural Development efforts to give rural residents the same opportunities their urban counterparts have long taken for granted.”

Organizations receiving today's grant funds include:

\$131,098 to Bishop Paiute Development Corporation to assist Bishop Paiute Tribe with training in business development and homeownership.

\$125,000 to California Coalition for Rural Housing to assist four Mendocino County tribes including Sherwood Valley Rancheria, Redwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Laytonville Rancheria and Round Valley Reservation with assistance and training on housing development.

\$234,643 to Rural Community Assistance Corporation to assist Proteus, Inc., Ocean View Community Association (Hawaii) and Confederate Tribes of the Goshute Reservation (Utah) with leadership and economic development training

\$66,000 to Walking Shield, Inc. to assist San Pasqual Band of Indians, Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians (Minn.), Crow Nation (Mont.) and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (N.D.) with community development training.

USDA Rural Development's Rural Community Development Initiative helps community based development organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes and other groups promote economic growth in low-income, rural communities. Recipients are required to obtain matching funds, doubling the value of the grants. The grants are awarded to public or nonprofit intermediary organizations. The funds are then provided to recipients, which must be located in eligible rural areas.

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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 \$91 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 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at one of California's 18 local USDA Rural Development offices or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>.

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