



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

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Ben Higgins, State Director

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS DELIVERED TO LAKE COUNTY

Funds will assist five Lake county tribes with housing projects

DAVIS, Calif., March 15, 2007 – USDA Rural Development has awarded California Coalition for Rural Housing (CCRH) funds to assist five Lake county tribes. USDA Rural Development State Director Ben Higgins presented a \$100,000 Rural Community Development Initiative grant to CCRH today at Big Valley Rancheria.

“The funds provided today aren’t a quick fix, but will help hundreds of tribal members on their paths to homeownership,” said 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.”

Grant funds will be used to provide training and technical support to assist tribes in acquiring and developing land for housing projects and related infrastructure, rehabilitating and building housing, and operating housing assistance programs. Tribes being assisted include Big Valley Rancheria, Lakeport; Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Lakeport; Habematole Pomo of Upper Lake Rancheria, Upper Lake; Robinson Rancheria, Nice; Elem Indian Colony, Clearlake.

“Our organization is very excited about this opportunity to help tribal members improve their housing and quality of life. Through community needs assessments and hands-on training and technical assistance, we hope to build the capacity of tribes to identify and access resources and manage housing improvement efforts,” said Rob Wiener, CCRH Executive Director.

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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