



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

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

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AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$60 MILLION FOR RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROJECTS

Communities to Buy More than 120 Fire, Police, and Rescue Vehicles

Ludowici, Ga., May 18, 2009 — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the selection of more than \$60 million in essential community facilities and emergency responder projects that are being funded immediately with federal funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The 280 projects will help communities in 39 states.

“The Recovery Act funds provided today will help support rural communities’ efforts to protect and serve their residents by providing essential public safety services,” said Vilsack. “These projects are the first of many that are expected to create or save more than 1,350 jobs and help rural communities provide expanded access to health care, support first responder efforts, and finance libraries, schools and day care centers.”

Approximately \$19 million of the \$60 million being announced today will be leveraged with \$6.9 million from other sources to help local communities with the purchase of emergency services and systems, and fire and rescue equipment, including more than 120 fire, medical and police vehicles.

All of the funding is being provided through USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities program, which helps finance and develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include childcare centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Through its Community Facilities program, USDA ensures that such facilities are available to all rural residents. These funds are available to public bodies, non-profit organizations, and recognized Indian tribes.

In California, Rural Development is providing a total of \$6,752,945 to fund 31 projects throughout the Golden State. Of that, \$162,935 in grant funds was announced for the Fresno County Fire Protection District to help purchase new breathing apparatus equipment for firefighters at the Del Rey, Huron, Mendota and Parlier stations. The District provides fire and emergency medical services to approximately 2,600 square miles of unincorporated Fresno County. The funds will allow the District to replace out-dated equipment and help ensure the safety of firefighters.

Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement. More information about USDA Rural Development can be found at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

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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.

More information about USDA's Recovery Act efforts 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.

State, Total Number of Projects, Total Rural Development ARRA Funding

Alabama, 2, \$743,480
Arkansas, 32, \$1,450,000
Arizona, 2, \$79,077
California, 31, \$6,752,945
Colorado, 2, \$33,025
Connecticut, 1, \$1,400,000
Delaware, 2, \$160,000
Georgia, 4, \$524,500
Illinois, 4, \$6,121,000
Indiana, 4, \$2,454,020
Kentucky, 5, \$412,270
Louisiana, 3, \$962,458
Massachusetts, 1, \$907,000
Maryland, 8, \$692,200
Maine, 3, \$3,176,000
Michigan, 14, \$4,795,000
Minnesota, 3, \$72,700
Missouri, 26, \$1,424,098
Montana, 3, \$1,359,025
North Carolina, 13, \$3,878,810
North Dakota, 7, \$1,071,450
Nebraska, 3, \$170,250
New Hampshire, 11, \$284,320
New Mexico, 1, \$29,250
Nevada, 2, \$26,742
New York, 1, \$110,000
Ohio, 10, \$5,216,000
Oklahoma, 3, \$801,011
Oregon, 1, \$27,692
Pennsylvania, 3, \$1,405,000
South Carolina, 1, \$787,200
South Dakota, 1, \$16,380

Recovery Act – Community Facilities

Tennessee, 7, \$4,463,200

Utah, 4, \$254,550

Virginia, 31, \$1,179,070

Vermont, 11, \$2,295,669

Washington, 1, \$8,400

Wisconsin, 6, \$3,108,500

West Virginia, 1, \$25,200

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