



# NEWS RELEASE

**United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development**

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

**Dr. Glenda Humiston, State Director**

---

Release No. 14.09

Contact: Sarah Pursley

Office: (530) 792-5801

Cell: (916) 798-9295

## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF FINANCING HOUSING PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT RURAL AMERICA**

Pacific Grove, Calif., October 26, 2009 – Rural Housing Service Administrator Tammye Treviño today commemorated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rural Development’s housing programs and highlighted the agency’s accomplishments in helping rural Americans realize the dream of homeownership.

“As we look back over the last 60 years, it is clear that providing housing services to rural communities has played a fundamental part in shaping rural California and the whole United States,” Treviño said at the Rural Housing Summit, which is sponsored by the California Coalition for Rural Housing. “The Obama Administration and I are proud to celebrate this great milestone in America’s history. Ensuring that rural communities have safe, sanitary rental housing and that families have the ability to realize the dream of homeownership will make all parts of our country stronger.”

The Housing Act of 1949 provided federal aid for home purchases and home repairs on farms. USDA’s Farmer’s Home Administration, now called USDA Rural Development, later expanded the home loan and grant programs to include all rural areas. Since 1949, these housing programs have provided more than 3 million rural Americans with \$124.6 billion in loans, grants and loan guarantees to purchase, refinance or repair single- and multi-family dwellings. Last year alone, USDA Rural Development’s housing investments to California exceeded \$690 million.

Treviño will continue to celebrate this historic milestone with a series of 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary events later this week. On Oct. 28 in Woodburn, Ore., she will tour a newly renovated farm labor housing project. And on Oct. 29, Treviño will make stops in Washington including a groundbreaking ceremony for a new housing project in Yakima.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development, and supports creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. 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>.

#

USDA is an equal opportunity lender, provider and employer  
“Committed to the future of rural communities”  
United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development  
430 G Street, Agency 4169, Davis, CA 95616-4169  
Telephone (530) 792-5801 Fax (530) 792-5837  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca/>