



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA Rural Development Recognizes East Central Intergovernmental Association for its Key Role in Helping Rural Iowans Achieve Homeownership

Event is Part of Rural Development's Efforts to Celebrate Homeownership Month

DUBUQUE – June 14 – USDA Rural Development today presented East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) with a plaque recognizing the key role the organization plays in helping rural Iowans achieve the dream of homeownership.

“East Central Intergovernmental Association has been a great partner for Rural Development and we are excited to continue working with them to help as many rural Iowans as possible become homeowners,” said Mark Reisinger, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa. “ECIA plays a key role in helping families secure homeownership opportunities, which provide security for children, stabilize neighborhoods and help create stronger communities.”

ECIA is a membership-supported organization of local governmental bodies in Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson Counties and is a key homeownership partner with USDA Rural Development.

ECIA currently administers the Homeownership Assistance Programs in Maquoketa and Dewitt. The Maquoketa program offers \$24,999 grants to help homeowners make needed repairs and the Dewitt program targets home-buyers with a \$24,999 grant for repairs and \$10,000 for closing costs or down payment assistance.

This recognition event is one of more than 15 activities Rural Development is organizing in Iowa during June to celebrate National Homeownership Month. Other events include lender recognitions, housing fairs, housing workshops and lender trainings.

Last year USDA Rural Development provided \$109 million in housing assistance to rural Iowans living in communities of less than 20,000 residents. Rural Development helped more than 1,250 Iowa families in becoming homeowners in 2005.

Rural Development has both guaranteed and direct homeownership loans that are designed to give low-income families access to affordable, decent, safe and sanitary housing opportunities. In addition to helping with homeownership, loans and grants available to help qualifying families and the elderly make needed house repairs so that they can remain in their own home.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
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“Providing rural housing opportunities is just another way the federal government, through USDA Rural Development, is enhancing the ability of rural communities to develop and to grow, ensuring the best possible quality of life for rural residents,” Reisinger said.

Eleven USDA Rural Development offices in Iowa serve the 1.9 million Iowans living in rural communities. Office locations include a State Office in Des Moines, along with Area Offices in Albia, Atlantic, Humboldt, Indianola, Iowa Falls, Le Mars, Mount Pleasant, Storm Lake, Tipton and Waverly.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver quality 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 provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in home ownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on rural programs is available by calling (515) 284-4663, at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting Rural Development's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.

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