



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA Rural Development Participates in Groundbreaking for Little Home Childcare Center in Lowden

Project Received more than \$400,000 in Loan and Grant Funds from Rural Development

LOWDEN – Nov. 13, 2006 – John Arthur, USDA Rural Development Area Director, today participated in the groundbreaking for a new early childhood education facility in Lowden. USDA Rural Development provided \$410,850 in loan and grant funds to Lowden to support construction of the facility.

“USDA Rural Development is excited to partner with Lowden to support this project,” said Mark Reisinger, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa. “High quality childcare is a huge factor as families look at making their home in a community and businesses consider relocating to a new town. This center will help the area grow.”

Lowden received a \$330,000 loan and three grants totaling \$79,850 through Rural Development's Community Facility program, which provides assistance for the development of essential community facilities in rural towns with a population of 20,000 and less. Funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and community and public services.

The new facility will be able to serve 83 children and will be located next to the elementary school with an attached walkway. The center will provide care for infants through 5 years of age, preschool, and before and after school care.

USDA Rural Development supported community facility projects in 97 communities across the state in Fiscal Year 2006, including collaborating with 34 communities to purchase fire, rescue and public safety equipment and buildings. In total, USDA Rural Development made more than \$13 million in direct and guaranteed loans to support community facilities all around Iowa during the last fiscal year.

“At Rural Development, we are continually looking for ways to enhance the ability of rural communities to not only develop and grow, but also to thrive,” Reisinger said. “I hope other projects in the Lowden area will look to USDA Rural Development for possible assistance as they work to improve the quality of life for area residents.”

Contact USDA Rural Development

USDA Rural Development has 11 offices in Iowa serving 1.9 million Iowans living in rural areas. Office

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
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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 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 homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on rural programs is available at the local USDA Rural Development office in Tipton, which can be reached at (563) 886-6006, or by visiting Rural Development's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.

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