



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS \$66,351 GRANT TO REGION 6 PLANNING COMMISSION**

*Funds Will Be Used To Assist Low-Income Families in Iowa Falls Make Housing Repairs*

IOWA FALLS, Iowa – October 31, 2006 – Sandy Johnson, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Multi-Family Housing Specialist, today presented a \$66,351 Housing Preservation Grant to Region 6 Planning Commission to assist between 10 to 20 low-income families in Iowa Falls in making housing repairs.

“Ensuring that all Iowans living in rural communities have decent, safe and affordable housing has been a top priority of USDA Rural Development for many years,” said Mark Reisinger, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa. “It is through housing projects such as this one that we can ensure as many rural Iowans as possible have access to adequate housing.”

Region 6 Planning Commission provides a wide variety of services including housing programs and planning services for such things as economic development, parks, emergency preparedness, and energy, to residents in nearly 40 communities in Hardin, Poweshiek, Marshall and Tama Counties.

The grant funds from USDA Rural Development will be used to eliminate health and safety hazards in homes in Iowa Falls, as well as increase energy efficiency. Examples of housing improvements include repairs to roofs, windows and furnaces.

Three non-profit organizations in Iowa received a total of more than \$203,000 in Housing Preservation Grant funds from USDA Rural Development in 2006. The grant program is available to nonprofit groups assisting low-income homeowners or renters make essential repairs.

Each year in Iowa USDA Rural Development invests more than \$100 million in loans and grants that provide rural residents with decent, safe and sanitary single or multi-family housing.

“We are very pleased to partner with Region 6 Planning Commission to assist qualified families with their housing repairs,” Reisinger said. “This is a wonderful example of how the U.S. government, through USDA Rural Development, can partner with a local community to do what that community deems as important and vital to its rural residents.”

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”  
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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.

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.

Further information on rural programs is available at the local USDA Rural Development office in Iowa Falls, which can be reached at (641) 648-5181, or by visiting Rural Development's web site at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia).

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