



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA Rural Development Brings Main Street Display to Iowa State Fair

DES MOINES, Iowa – August 21, 2009 – Children attending the first two days of the 2009 Iowa State Fair got a special treat as USDA Rural Development brought a special “main street” display to the fair.

The 30-foot hands-on display showcased a “main street” scene complete with a house, bank, grocery store, fire station and USDA Rural Development office. Children stopping by the outdoor area played with trucks, building blocks, and many grocery items. The very popular “fire chief” hats were a given to children as well.

“Through our loan and grant programs USDA Rural Development can actually build a community from the ground up,” said Bill Menner, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa. “Last year our agency helped create or retain 10,000 jobs in Iowa, aided 1,600 families in buying their own homes and assisted more than 120 communities in improving community facilities and upgrading local infrastructure.”

Along with its normal programs, this year USDA Rural Development has more than \$105 million available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 to assist businesses, communities and homeowners in rural Iowa.

ARRA funds will be available through USDA Rural Development until September 30, 2010, or until all funds have been awarded.

A wide variety of projects may be eligible for ARRA loans and grants including businesses and economic development organizations looking to create jobs, along with communities in need of infrastructure and facility improvements.

Additionally, low-interest, no-down-payment loans are available to assist eligible families purchase homes in rural areas or in communities with less than 20,000 residents.

In most cases a family of four with an adjusted annual income of up to \$82,450 may qualify for the agency’s guaranteed home loan program. If a family of four’s adjusted annual income is less than \$57,350 they may also qualify for a direct loan from USDA Rural Development.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

“Whether the project is a new medical clinic, hospital, fire station, fire truck, emergency equipment, community building, assisted living facility, or child care center, our agency is ready to assist,” Menner said. “We believe community improvement efforts are important to the sustainability of rural America. All of our programs are voluntary, so give us a call today.”

Information on how to apply for ARRA or other agency programs is available by calling (515) 284-4663, at any USDA Rural Development office in Albia, Atlantic, Des Moines, Humboldt, Indianola, Iowa Falls, Le Mars, Mount Pleasant, Storm Lake, Tipton and Waverly, or by visiting www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender with a variety of direct and guaranteed rural credit programs involving single and multi-family housing, community facilities, water and sewer development and business and cooperative programs.

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