



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA Rural Development Recognizes 10th Anniversary of Iowa Home Ownership Education Project

Organization has Helped Provide Valuable Education to Thousands of Iowans

DES MOINES, Iowa – October 8, 2009 – Bill Menner, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa, today congratulated the Iowa Home Ownership Education Project (IHOEP) on reaching 10 years of helping educate Iowans about the responsibilities that come with homeownership.

“We congratulate the leadership and member organizations of the Iowa Home Ownership Education Project for providing such wonderful services to Iowans during the past decade,” Menner said. “While homeownership is part of the American Dream, it is a commitment that should not be made without sufficient planning and education.”

USDA Rural Development has been a participating member in IHOEP since 2004.

One of the key programs established by IHOEP has been the Iowa Mortgage Help Hotline to help provide services to homeowners facing possible foreclosure including counseling, negotiating loan modifications and other forms of loss mitigation. Homeowners concerned about staying current with their mortgage payments may contact the Hotline at 1-877-622-4866 or visit www.IowaMortgageHelp.com.

Another popular program IHOEP’s members provide is home buyer education. USDA Rural Development requires home buyer education for applicants seeking direct loan financing. Home buyer education is also strongly encouraged for those wanting a guaranteed loan through USDA Rural Development.

“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,” Menner said. “It is through housing programs such as the Iowa Home Ownership Education Project that we can ensure as many rural Iowans as possible are prepared for homeownership responsibilities.”

Each year Rural Development invests around \$100 million in loans and grants that provide rural residents with decent, safe and sanitary single or multi-family housing. Housing loans can be obtained directly with Rural Development or from a private financial institution.

– More –

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).

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender with a variety of grant and direct and guaranteed loan programs for single and multi-family housing, community facilities, water and sewer development and business and industry programs.

During the past year USDA Rural Development helped a record number of Iowans receive funding for economic development projects and quality of life improvements. The agency's investment in Iowa helped create or retain 10,000 jobs, 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 regular programs, the agency has access to more than \$115 million in funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to be used in Iowa.

Deadline to apply for this special funding is September 30, 2010. Eligible uses of the funds include home mortgages, improvements to community facility and infrastructure projects such health clinics, community centers, public safety buildings and water and wastewater systems, as well as businesses and economic organizations looking to create jobs in rural communities.

“Whether the project is mortgage loan, 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 added. “We believe homeownership and community improvement efforts are important to the sustainability of rural America. All of our programs are voluntary, so give us a call today.”

Contact USDA Rural Development

Further information on programs available through USDA Rural Development is available by calling (515) 284-4663 or by visiting the agency's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.

USDA Rural Development has 11 offices across the state to 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.

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