



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA Rural Development Presents \$621,000 to Assist with Two Projects in Algona

*Funds to Assist with Remodeling Projects at
Kossuth Regional Health Center and Algona Family YMCA*

ALGONA, Iowa – October 27, 2009 – Bill Menner, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa, today presented a total of \$621,000 in grant and loan funds to assist with remodeling projects at the Kossuth Regional Health Center and the Algona Family YMCA.

“We believe community improvement efforts are important to the sustainability of rural America, and we are ready to help communities across Iowa develop these critical resources,” Menner said.

Menner presented a \$300,000 Rural Economic Development Grant to Corn Belt Power Cooperative (Humboldt, Iowa). The electric cooperative is providing these funds to Kossuth Regional Health Center as a zero-interest loan. The funds will be used to assist with the construction of a 25-room inpatient care unit which is part of a large addition project at the hospital.

USDA Rural Development also provided the Kossuth Regional Center with a \$21,000 grant from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to help purchase equipment, including hospital beds and related health equipment, for the remodeled building.

Kossuth Regional Health Center currently operates out of a three-story building that was constructed in 1949.

Later in the day Menner presented a \$300,000 Rural Economic Development Grant to the Algona Municipal Utilities. Algona Municipal Utilities is providing the funds to the Algona Family YMCA as a zero-interest loan to help fund an 18,400-square foot capital improvements project at the facility.

During the past year USDA Rural Development helped a record number of Iowans receive funding for economic development projects and quality of life improvements.

– **MORE** –

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“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).



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“Our agency’s investment in Iowa helped create or retain 2,200 jobs, aided 2,800 families in buying their own homes and assisted more than 120 communities in improving community facilities and upgrading local infrastructure,” Menner said.

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.

Since 2004, nearly 50 hospitals, rehabilitation centers, healthcare office buildings, clinics, mental health facilities, nursing homes and assisted living centers across Iowa have received more than \$95 million in financial assistance from USDA Rural Development to improve, expand or build new facilities.

Along with its regular programs, the agency has access to more than \$115 million in funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 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.

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. Rural Development’s portfolio includes assistance for 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. You can get more information by contacting Rural Development’s office in Humboldt at 515-332-4411, or by visiting Rural Development’s web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.

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