



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **USDA Rural Development Funds Assist Pioneer Terrace in Mechanicsville with Major Renovation Project**

*Buildings at 25-Unit Apartment Complex Originally Constructed in 1975 and 1980*

MECHANICSVILLE, Iowa – September 9, 2009 – Residents at Pioneer Terrace, an elderly apartment complex in Mechanicsville, had to adjust to some new sounds this summer as a constant buzz of hammering, nailing and sawing replaced the normal peace and quite.

These residents are now enjoying many new updates to their apartments and the complex as the major renovation project recently wrapped up.

USDA Rural Development provided the senior living complex with \$185,000 in loan funds to assist with the renovation of the complex. The funds were used to repair or replace roofs, windows, siding, doors and to convert two apartments into handicap-accessible units.

“Ensuring that elderly and disabled Iowans living in rural communities have decent, safe and affordable housing has been a top priority of USDA Rural Development for many years,” said Bill Menner, USDA Rural Development State Director. “We have been very pleased to partner with Pioneer Terrace on this remodeling project.”

The renovation work was completed by Don Hogan Construction from Marion, Iowa. Pioneer Terrace is managed by Right Way Management Services in Stanwood, Iowa. The board of director president is JoAnn Ahrendsen.

USDA Rural Development currently provides financing for nearly 550 multi-family housing projects located in 370 communities in rural Iowa. These projects provide rural Iowans with access to more than 10,000 apartments. Rent in the apartments is based on income, and rental assistance is available depending on the income of the tenant.

“Apartment complexes play an important role in the sustainability of rural communities,” Menner said. “They allow residents to continue to live in their home community, many times close to family and friends. Apartments also offer numerous opportunities for social activities with friends and others in the same age group and with the same interests, as well as provide a great opportunity for young adults to build up equity so they can some day become homeowners.”

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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, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

**USDA Rural Development Provides \$185,000 to Assist with Renovation at Pioneer Terrace ... Page 2**

Each year USDA 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.

USDA Rural Development has 11 offices in Iowa serving 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.

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 industry programs.

Further information on rural programs is available at the USDA Rural Development office in Tipton, by phone (563) 886-6006 or by visiting the agency's web site at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia).