



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **USDA Rural Development Providing \$16.9 Million in Loan Funds to Help Renovate and Expand Guttenberg Municipal Hospital**

*Groundbreaking for Expansion Expected Later this Year*

DES MOINES, Iowa – September 23, 2009 – Bill Menner, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa, today announced USDA Rural Development is providing \$16,910,000 in loan funds to assist with renovation and expansion plans at Guttenberg Municipal Hospital.

“We are pleased to be assisting the hospital in Guttenberg with this exciting project,” Menner said. “As the baby boom generation continues to age, access to high quality health care is an issue of growing concern, especially in many of our state’s rural communities.”

USDA Rural Development is providing the City of Guttenberg with a \$8,455,000 loan for the project, and is also issuing a \$8,455,000 guarantee to ArborOne ACA on the project.

Guttenberg Municipal Hospital was established in 1961 and was designated a critical access hospital in 2001. When completed, the renovated and expanded facility will offer 18 acute-care medical beds, two labor, delivery and postpartum beds, along with outpatient care through a physician clinic. Other services such as emergency room, surgical, radiology, laboratory, pharmacy, speech, occupational and cardiac rehab will be enhanced with the new building and equipment.

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.

Of Iowa’s 117 hospitals, 82 are classified as Critical Access Hospitals. These critical access facilities are located in rural communities more than 35 miles from another hospital, have no more than 25 beds, provide emergency care 24 hours a day, and provide both inpatient and outpatient care.

“Hospitals play an important role in the life of a community and many times they are a community’s largest employer,” Menner said. “The availability of quality and accessible health care plays an important role in attracting new businesses to a community.”

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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).

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.

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.

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.

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. The agency's portfolio includes assistance for homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

"At USDA Rural Development we are constantly looking to partner with rural businesses and communities to advance our mission of ensuring the best possible quality of life for all rural Americans," Menner said. "Give us a call today."

#### **Contact USDA Rural Development**

Eleven USDA Rural Development offices in Iowa serve the 1.9 million Iowans living in rural communities. For more information contact USDA Rural Development's office in Waverly at 319-352-1715, or by visit [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia).