



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **USDA Rural Development Awards Nearly \$400,000 to Seven Organizations Through Housing Preservation Grant Program**

*Funds Support Organizations' Efforts to Improve Housing Conditions in Rural Iowa*

DES MOINES, Iowa – September 29, 2009 – Bill Menner, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa, today announced that seven nonprofit organizations in rural Iowa are receiving a total of \$397,684 in Housing Preservation Grants from USDA Rural Development.

The grant program is available to organizations that assist low-income homeowners or renters make essential repairs to their homes. It is estimated that repairs will be made to around 130 homes or apartments with these funds.

“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 this one that we can ensure as many rural Iowans as possible have access to adequate housing.”

Receiving funds this year are Fayette County Local Housing Trust Fund (Oelwein, Iowa), Charles City Area Development Corporation (Charles City, Iowa), South Central Iowa Community Action (Leon, Iowa), Region XII Council of Governments (Carroll, Iowa), Iowa Northland Regional Council of Government (Waterloo, Iowa), Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (Sioux City, Iowa) and the City of Ainsworth.

All recipients are receiving a \$56,812 Housing Preservation Grant.

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.

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

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”  
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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 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 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](http://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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