



NEWS RELEASE

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SMALL BUSINESSES BENEFIT FROM RECOVERY ACT FUNDING Sage Community Resources Receives Grant to Provide Business Incubator Equipment

BOISE, July 29, 2009 – Two small canyon county wineries will have access to federally compliant climate controlled storage required to sell their products, thanks in part to funding provided by the Recovery Act through [USDA Rural Development's Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program \(RBEG\)](#). Ida-Ore Planning and Development Association dba Sage Community Resources was selected to receive \$9,000 in Recovery Act funds to provide a cooling system unit for the new viticulture facility co-located with University of Idaho's (UofI) Business and Technology Incubator in Caldwell.

Idaho's developing wine industry continues to grow with rural Canyon and Owyhee Counties being the home of the majority of the wineries and vineyards in the state. While the region has the ideal climate, soil, and topography for growing grapes, a significant obstacle for starting a winery is the high start-up costs associated with a bonded storage facility approved by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau required to obtain permits to sell their products.

In collaboration with Treasure Valley Community College's (TVCC) new viticulture program, the University of Idaho, and Caldwell/Canyon Economic Development Council have teamed up with Sage Community Resources to assist Idaho's developing wine industry by establishing a Winery Incubator where start-up wineries can receive industry specific technical assistance and also now have access to climate controlled storage necessary for their permit process.

"I am pleased to partner in collaborative job creating projects", stated Wally Hedrick, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Idaho. "I commend the agencies involved for their vision, cooperation, and commitment to increasing economic opportunities for rural Idaho."

In addition to directly supporting two small and emerging business enterprises where it is estimated 2 jobs will be saved and another 7 jobs will be created, this project supports a broader effort to leverage Idaho's emerging wine industry to attract tourism dollars and provide increased opportunities for other businesses in the area to grow.

Caldwell/Canyon Economic Development Council is contributing \$13,000 to the project.

Sage Community Resources is designated as the economic development district for the ten southwest Idaho counties by the governor of Idaho and the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

The Sage funding was part of an announcement made by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack spotlighting the selection of 145 recipients for more than \$15.3 million in Recovery Act funds to finance and facilitate the development of small and emerging private business enterprises. Funding of recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement.

“These Recovery Act grants represent the Obama administration’s ongoing efforts to ensure strategic investments and increase economic opportunities in rural America,” said Vilsack. “Small businesses play an important role in building strong communities while providing vital products and services to local residents. This funding will help spur important economic development and strengthen communities in dozens of states around the country.”

[USDA Rural Development’s Rural Business Enterprise Program \(RBEG\)](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbeg.htm) provides grants to public agencies, private non-profit corporations or Indian groups for financing and facilitating development of small and emerging private business enterprises. RBEG funds can be used for start-up and working capital loans, building and plant renovations, transportation improvements, project planning and other business needs. More information is available at Idaho’s local offices located in Caldwell, Twin Falls, Blackfoot, Coeur d’Alene or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbeg.htm>.

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USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development, and supports creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.