



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

USDA - Fort Leavenworth Regional Initiative



Left: USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks and Colonel Tim Weathersbee, Garrison Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Leavenworth, sign a Memorandum of Understanding to pledge mutual support to assist individuals and family members residing in or are re-locating to the region.

Right: David Kramer, USDA Rural Development Business & Community Programs Specialist, informs community leaders about Agency Loan Programs during the August, 2006 outreach meeting.

What is the Fort Leavenworth Regional Initiative?

As a result of the 2005 BRAC recommendation, an opportunity has emerged for USDA Rural Development to partner with Fort Leavenworth to assist in significant community and economic development for the surrounding area. Yet, there is a need for increased affordable housing, better infrastructure, more business development opportunities and other vital community services such as day care and health care for the region.

To support the Soldiers and civilian personnel relocating to the area and assist the numerous local communities, USDA Rural Development has announced the Agency's **Fort Leavenworth Regional Initiative**. USDA Rural Development has taken the lead role among Federal agencies to support the cities and towns surrounding Fort Leavenworth. The Agency is structured to provide the necessary expertise and funding resources to meet many family and community needs.

USDA Rural Development loan and grant funds are available to:

- Purchase affordable single family housing
- Development and construct multi-family housing
- Improve building sites, including new streets and sewers
- Finance community needs such as daycare centers, medical clinics, fire stations
- Expand and develop new and existing businesses

FLRI Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

An MOU between the US Army Combined Arms Center/Fort Leavenworth and USDA Rural Development was signed May 21, 2007. The MOU pledges both Federal departments to cooperate fully in assisting Soldiers, their families and civilian personnel who are currently residing in, or are re-locating to the region.

FLRI Regional Meeting (August 2006)

USDA Rural Development in Kansas has taken the lead role to prepare neighboring communities for the anticipated growth that will occur with the personnel expansion at Fort Leavenworth. The Fort Leavenworth Regional Initiative meeting was held on August 29, 2006 to inform various business and community groups about Agency requirements for construction standards, to discuss loan guidelines and to explain the range of Agency programs. USDA staff members facilitated the sessions to help communities assess their needs and to answer questions.

A series of round table discussions were held to discuss options for:

- Lenders/Realtors
- Builders/Contractors
- Single and Multi-Family Housing Developers
- Business and Community Development Programs
- Faith Based and Community Nonprofits

Preferred Lenders:

Area lenders may apply to be certified as Preferred Lenders for the FLRI once they have completed special USDA training related to the Agency's *Guaranteed Housing Program (GRH)*. Preferred Lenders are recognized as those lenders who have demonstrated a special commitment to utilizing USDA Rural Development's programs.

The designation as a 'Preferred Lender' is in addition to regular USDA approved lender status which is already an established requirement to participate in the Agency's *Guaranteed Rural Housing Program (GRH)*. Once a lender is certified, their company name and contact information will be added to the Agency's website, as well as to the Agency's special FRI promotional materials. The 'Preferred Lender' designation is open to any financial institution who desires to fully support the Fort Leavenworth Regional Initiative through the use of the Agency's programs.

FLRI Web Site Enhancements

As an outgrowth of the planned MOU, Fort Leavenworth has incorporated USDA Rural Development links into their web sites. These links provide information about Agency programs for homeownership including: eligible cities in the region, Preferred Lenders, a Pre-Qualification Worksheet, qualifying income limits, etc.

For further information please access the following websites:

USDA Rural Development: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks/>

Fort Leavenworth: <http://www.leavenworth.army.mil/>

Special Link to USDA Rural Development from Fort Leavenworth's web site:

<http://garrison.leavenworth.army.mil/sites/newcomers/housing.asp>

USDA Rural Development Presence at Fort Leavenworth

USDA Rural Development and Fort Leavenworth officials have agreed for Agency representatives to be available the last Thursday of each month in the Post Housing Services Offices better assist Soldiers and civilian homebuyers with their off-post housing needs. The hours are from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Additional hours will be added as activity warrants. Pre-qualification screenings, homebuyer educational counseling, and home financing options will soon be available. Another series of informational meetings are planned for FLRI Soldiers and civilians to explain USDA Rural Development's homeownership programs.

FLRI: A Chance to Enhance Kansas Communities

USDA Rural Development has taken the lead role among Federal agencies to inform the public about the numerous programs available through USDA to prepare for the anticipated population growth. The Agency is eager to provide financing options to purchase homes; improve infrastructure; install waste and water systems; expand business opportunities; and provide other basic community needs.

USDA Rural Development in Kansas remains committed to assisting rural families and communities to grow and to improve their way of life. The staff of USDA Rural Development sincerely believes the Agency can provide the needed financial options and professional leadership to assist communities to face the challenges that lie ahead to make Kansas a better place for everyone to live.

USDA Rural Development Fort Leavenworth Regional Initiative Area Counties



For further information regarding USDA Rural Development's Single and Multi-Family Housing and Business & Community Programs, please access our web site at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks/>

Or you may contact:

**Manhattan Area Office
USDA Rural Development**
3705 Miller Parkway, Suite 1
Manhattan, Kansas 66503-7546
Phone 785-776-7582
Fax 785-539-2733
Richard Boyles, Area Director

**Housing Services Office
On Post at Fort Leavenworth
USDA Rural Development**
549 Kearney
Dodge Hall Building, Room 268
Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027
Phone 913-684-3055
Debra Barrett, Rural Development Specialist
*Until further notice, RD staff will be available the
last Thursday of each month
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

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