



NEWS RELEASE

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\$2.16 Million For Kansas Economic Development Projects Funded By USDA Rural Development **Five Kansas Businesses, Rural Jobs Benefited**

Greensburg, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks announced today that the Agency has approved applications totaling over \$2.16 million under the Agency's *Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program* for five projects through local rural utility cooperatives. The funding assistance will result in over 44 jobs created or saved.

Today's announcement was made following the Agency's ceremonial check presentations of \$740,000 to Ninnescah Electric Cooperative Assoc., Inc. for re-building the John Deere dealership in Greensburg and \$740,000 to Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc. to support the construction of a new 38 unit J-Hawk Motel, also in Greensburg.

State Director Banks, in comments during the funding ceremony at Greensburg's John Deere BTI dealership, remarked, "These business development funds will help support important local efforts to bring added economic growth and employment opportunities to Greensburg and this region. The loans, also supported by the technical assistance from the rural utility cooperatives and our Agency, underscores USDA's continued commitment to promote community and economic development for Greensburg and the entire State of Kansas."

Today's funding announcement, split between \$1,765,000 in loans and \$391,660 in grants, will support the construction of five important community projects that will provide long-term benefits to these communities and service areas. Three additional projects approved for funding by USDA Rural Development follow:

Heartland Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., Crawford County – \$285,000 loan

Funds will be used to construct the expansion of four new double occupancy rooms, two single occupancy rooms, a sitting area, landscaping and parking for JLMS Properties, LLC (d/b/a Oakview Estates). JLMS Properties, LLC operate a residential health care facility in Frontenac, KS.

Midwest Energy, Inc., Thomas County – \$300,000 grant Funds will be used to establish a revolving loan fund (RLF) for Midwest Energy, Inc.. The initial loan from the RLF will be made to the City of Colby for the construction of a new fire station. The total project is expected to be \$2,767,000.

KanOkla Telephone Association, Inc., Sumner County – \$91,660 grant Funds will be used to establish a revolving loan fund (RLF) for KanOkla Telephone. The initial loan from the RLF will be made to the City of Caldwell to help renovate a building for a new library. The existing library is not large enough to provide adequate book space or to provide modern technical attributes and is not adequately accessible.

Since 1998, USDA Rural Development has invested over \$31 million in funding for rural economic development projects, programs which have helped support an estimated \$77 million in rural economic development for Kansas and benefited 90 businesses with over 2,200 jobs created or saved in the State.

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Under the USDA Rural Development *Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program*, the Agency will make a zero-interest loan to a local rural utility cooperative. Upon receipt of the loan proceeds, following execution of loan documentation and meeting the conditions of the Program, the cooperative will then pass the proceeds on to a local business to finance local job creation efforts.

Banks, in comments during the ceremony in Greensburg, stated, "USDA Rural Development will continue to work vigorously with our state's rural utility cooperatives and local officials to support efforts in bringing new business investment and job opportunities to their communities. I want to thank the rural utility cooperatives for their continued participation in this excellent economic development program that assists rural Kansas. This program is good for our communities, it is good for the Kansas economy, and it is good for rural Kansans working to create a better life for themselves and their families".

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural Americans. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has delivered over \$1.2 billion for Kansas covering all Agency programs, supporting well over \$6 billion in future economic development for the Sunflower State.

For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, individuals may call the Agency's state headquarters at 785-271-2701 or log onto the state's Agency website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.*

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