



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Announces Kansas Housing Grants

Dodge City & Three Other Non-Profits Receives Federal Grants to Assist with Home Repairs for Lower Income Homeowners

Dodge City, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks was joined by representatives from Great Plains Development, Inc., Rush and Clark County Commissioners and Economic Development representatives from both counties in presenting Great Plains Development of Dodge City, Kansas, a ceremonial check for \$45,000 from the Agency's *Housing Preservation Grant Program*. The USDA grant funds will be used to help provide financial assistance for the repair and rehabilitation of eight lower income owner-occupied homes in communities located within Rush and Clark Counties.

State Director Banks, in comments at the presentation ceremony remarked, "The availability of affordable housing in our rural areas continues to be a major factor contributing to needed economic development in rural Kansas. These USDA grant funds will be used to provide much needed assistance for homes in Rush and Clark Counties. The Agency appreciates the opportunity to help support affordable housing opportunities across the State of Kansas.

Albert R. Hatch, President of Great Plains Development commented, "Each year, Great Plains outlines a Program of Work that sets forth all the major goals of our organization in striving to assist with the economic development plans for Rush and Clark Counties. The Housing Preservation Grant from USDA Rural Development is an important contribution to these efforts and is a significant part of our strategy to preserve and improve rural housing for both counties."

USDA's *Housing Preservation Grant Program* funds are provided to local non-profits to help correct health and safety hazards; to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities; and to improve the general living conditions for the homeowners who otherwise could not afford to repair their homes. Today's Dodge City presentation represents one of four Kansas grant funding approval. The other three approved Kansas non-profits follow:

Coffey County Housing Authority - \$45,000. The USDA grant funds will be used to help provide financial assistance for the repair and rehabilitation of thirty lower income owner-occupied homes in communities located within Coffey County.

North Central Regional Planning Commission - \$48,000. The USDA grant funds will be used to help provide financial assistance for the repair and rehabilitation of eight lower income owner-occupied homes in communities located within Clay and Washington Counties.

South Central Kansas Economic Development District, Inc. - \$48,000. The USDA grant funds will be used to help provide financial assistance for the repair and rehabilitation of sixteen lower income owner-occupied homes in communities located within Cowley and Reno Counties.

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USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life of the State's rural residents. The Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. During Fiscal Year 2008, USDA Rural Development has provided over \$146 million in funding for affordable housing across rural Kansas. Individuals who have an interest in learning more about USDA Rural Development programs may contact the Agency's office in Topeka at 785-271-2700, or may 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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