



NEWS RELEASE

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Nearly \$267 Million In USDA Funds Delivered To Kansas **Record Affordable Housing Funds Benefit Kansans in 2008 Fiscal Year**

Topeka, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks today announced the Agency provided an all-time record level of annual funding of over \$266,845 million in program funds benefiting Kansas during the recently completed 2008 Fiscal Year. Highlighting the Agency's 2008 Fiscal Year record level funding was also a record \$161.9 million for affordable housing program financing delivered for Kansans and their rural communities.

“USDA Rural Development appreciates the opportunity to provide another year of record funding for much needed community and economic development programming for Kansas. These programs result in more desirable jobs, better housing and an improved quality of life for Kansans. To more effectively leverage these important taxpayer-supported programs, the Agency also partners with the private, non-profit and faith-based sectors to more efficiently delivery this important assistance to our State. Outstanding partnerships enjoyed by the Agency allows more taxpayer dollars to return to Kansas, allowing more vital funding to be invested in our State to benefit all Kansans,” remarked State Director Banks

Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has invested over \$1.5 billion in funding to expand affordable housing, community facilities, business development, water and waste disposal, renewable energy and energy efficiency, telecommunications, and value-added producer programs across Kansas. Agency funding has benefited well over one million Kansans during this period, and will support more than \$7 billion in future economic development in Kansas.

USDA Rural Development programming during FY 2008 assisted Kansas rural communities in supporting over 315 jobs, with more than 119,000 Kansans benefiting from various Agency-financed community development projects. Additionally, USDA's rural housing program area helped nearly 1,800 Kansas families purchase a new single-family residence or renovate their existing home; another 7,200 families also were provided access to safe and affordable rental housing. Thousands more rural Kansans are being served daily by Agency programming through essential community facilities, rural hospitals, water service, and electric or telecommunications projects.

Senator Roberts said, “The USDA Rural Development office in Kansas continually sets the bar for success. I am proud of Chuck Banks and his team and their remarkable accomplishments in administering and delivering programs that help promote rural homeownership, economic development, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and businesses in Kansas. These programs provide true momentum in ensuring the viability and quality of life found in our rural communities in Kansas.”

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U.S. Senator Sam Brownback also commented, “I wish to congratulate USDA Rural Development for another outstanding year of service to the rural parts of our state. I am particularly glad to see a record of nearly \$162 million was set in affordable housing funding. With a spike in foreclosures this year, we have all been reminded of how critical adequate housing is for families. I am proud to see so much effort went to helping those in need in our state. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which funds USDA and its various agencies, I am familiar with all the great programs Rural Development has for rural Kansans and proud of their success.”

“The record funding distributed in Kansas by USDA Rural Development is great news. It is vitally important to our state’s rural businesses and communities that these programs are available. I congratulate Chuck Banks and his staff at USDA Rural Development for their tremendous efforts. Their hard work delivered record housing funding for the state of Kansas for the second year in a row,” Congressman Jerry Moran said.

During today’s announcement, State Director Banks thanked the Kansas Congressional Delegation for their continued support of the Agency’s USDA Rural Development programs. We should all thank our U.S. Senators and Representatives for supporting this benefit for the entire State,” remarked Banks.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life of rural Americans. 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.

Additional information regarding USDA Rural Development’s programs can be obtained by contacting the Agency’s state headquarters at 785-271-2700 or log onto the state’s USDA Rural Development website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

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