



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***Oberlin-Decatur Area Economic Development Corporation Project Selected For Funding By USDA Rural Development***

### **Community Center Will Serve City of Oberlin and Surrounding Areas**

**Topeka, KS** – USDA Rural Development Acting State Director Darla Buckman announced today that the Agency has approved a conditional commitment for a guaranteed loan of \$150,000, under the Agency’s Community Facilities Program, to Oberlin-Decatur Area Economic Development Corporation.

The funding will be used to construct a new community center for the City of Oberlin and the surrounding areas. The new facility will include a senior center with meals provided. There will also be a theatre for community and school plays and other arts training. The center will serve approximately 3,120 residents.

The facility will be located in downtown Oberlin within easy walking distance to both the grade school and high school. Additional funds for this project include State of Kansas Tax Credits, Decatur County, Dane G. Hansen Grant, donations and an applicant contribution.

“This loan and grant program is a tremendous tool available to rural communities to assist in developing new or enhancing existing facilities for public service, public safety, and health care,” commented Gary Smith, Director, Business and Community Programs.

USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities Program is designed to develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include schools, libraries, courthouses, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue facilities and equipment, police and emergency vehicles and services, community centers, public buildings and transportation.

Through its Community Facilities Program, the Department of Agriculture is striving to ensure that such facilities are readily available to all rural communities. Community Facilities Programs utilizes three flexible financial tools to achieve this goal: the Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program, the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program, and the Community Facilities Grant Program.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. USDA Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. For further information on rural programs, interested parties may call 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](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks) .

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