



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Provides Loan Guarantee Of \$17 Million For Critical Access Hospital In Rural Kansas

*New Building Will Help Meet Regional Healthcare Needs; Include Many
Energy-Efficient Features*

TOPEKA, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Patty Clark congratulated Community Memorial Healthcare, Inc. of Marysville, Kansas on the award of a \$17 million USDA Rural Development Community Facilities guaranteed loan to construct a 25-bed critical access hospital, recently announced by Undersecretary Dallas Tonsager.

“We are extremely pleased to receive word that USDA will guarantee the loan to construct our new hospital replacement facility,” stated Curtis R. Hawkinson, President and CEO of Community Memorial Healthcare. “This important building project will advance the way health care is delivered to our rural community for decades to come.”

Rural Development funds will be used to build a new 45,510 square-foot hospital, along with nearly 16,000 square feet of the original 54,000 square-foot building to be remodeled. This will replace the original 1958 hospital.

The existing hospital, which has 220 employees and is the third-largest employer in Marshall County, does not function well in today’s medical care environment where 80 percent of services are provided on an outpatient basis. As with most aging critical access hospitals, the current facility has numerous limitations such as non-handicapped-accessible bathrooms, insufficient private rooms, inefficient layout, an outdated HVAC system, and lack of space for rehabilitation and specialty clinics. The new building will include energy-efficient features such as a hybrid electric/gas HVAC system and a centralized control system that will not heat or cool unused rooms.

Community Memorial Healthcare operates as a critical access hospital through its affiliation with Mercy Regional Health Center in Manhattan. CMH has a large number of consulting physicians from Lincoln and Manhattan who provide specialty services including audiology, cardiology, gynecology, orthopedics, and neurology. Together, the main hospital, medical clinics, and durable medical equipment store offer a full range of services to treat the citizens of Marshall and surrounding counties.

To be completed in spring of 2011, the new facility is expected to help encourage doctors to remain in rural areas. In addition to patient care services, the hospital provides a wide array of community programs and benefits, including the Meals-on-Wheels program in which the hospital prepares over 13,000 meals each year for area residents.

The loan funds are part of USDA Rural Development’s annual budget and are not funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

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USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development 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

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

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