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NEWS RELEASE

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SMALL BUSINESSES BENEFIT FROM RECOVERY ACT FUNDING Acadiana Regional Development District Receives Grant to Provide Training

ALEXANDRIA, July 28, 2009 – Entrepreneurs and small businesses in seven Acadiana parishes (Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Vermilion Parishes) will have access to expert business development training and assistance thanks to Recovery Act funding. Acadiana Regional Development District received \$49,900 in Recovery Act funds to provide technical assistance and training workshops geared to foster small business development in rural communities.

The Acadiana funding was part of an announcement made by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack spotlighting the selection of 145 recipients for more than \$15.3 million in Recovery Act funds to finance and facilitate the development of small and emerging private business enterprises.

“These Recovery Act grants represent the Obama administration’s ongoing efforts to ensure strategic investments and increase economic opportunities in rural America,” said Vilsack. “Small businesses play an important role in building strong communities while providing vital products and services to local residents. This funding will help spur important economic development and strengthen communities in dozens of states around the country.”

\$139,432 in Recovery Act funds were also announced for the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury to reconstruct a road to provide improved access to local businesses.

The funding announced today is being provided through [USDA Rural Development’s Rural Business Enterprise Program \(RBEG\)](#), which helps finance new and existing businesses as well as employment-related adult education programs. RBEG funds can be used for start-up and working capital loans, building and plant renovations, transportation improvements, project planning and other business needs. Additional information on the RBEG program may be found at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbeg.htm>.

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**SMALL BUSINESSES BENEFIT
FROM RECOVERY ACT FUNDING**

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USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. Area Offices are located in Monroe, Natchitoches, Lafayette, and Amite; and the State Office is located in Alexandria. For more information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs, visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la>.

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