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**OVER \$12.5 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING PRESENTED
FOR MOREHOUSE GENERAL HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
Congressman Rodney Alexander and State Director Clyde Holloway Present
USDA Rural Development Funding**

BASTROP, August 14, 2008 – Congressman Rodney Alexander and USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde Holloway visited Bastrop today to present over \$12.5 million in federal funding to Morehouse Parish Hospital Service District 1.

“This funding marks a new beginning for Morehouse General Hospital,” said Holloway. “In recent days, we have issued a letter of conditions for a \$7,874,000 direct community facilities loan and a conditional commitment for \$4,643,050 in guaranteed business and industry loan funds. This funding will improve the services offered by the hospital, as well as give the hospital a solid foundation for growth.”

The direct loan funds were awarded through the USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities Program, which offers grants, loans, and loan guarantees to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. This funding will be used for emergency department and rural health clinic improvements, an MRI/CT build out, second floor air handling unit replacement, exterior and main entry improvements and additions, laundry modifications, and replacement of smaller needed equipment.

The guaranteed business and industry loan funds were awarded through USDA Rural Development’s Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program. Lenders work with USDA Rural Development through this program to secure federally-guaranteed loans for projects that will improve the economy in rural areas. The guaranteed funds will be provided to Morehouse Parish Hospital Service District 1 by BizCapital BIDCO II, LLC, of New Orleans, Louisiana. These funds will be used to purchase equipment, pay fees, and refinance debt.

“The hospital service district will have to meet our conditions and requirements to receive the Rural Development funding presented today,” said Holloway. “But, from what we have seen during the application process, the community’s commitment to make this project work will ensure its success.”

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The USDA Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, telephone (318) 473-7921. There are four area offices located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development’s loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting USDA Rural Development’s web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

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