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NEWS RELEASE

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**OVER \$1.5 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS AWARDED FOR
COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROJECTS
Congressman Rodney Alexander and State Director Clyde Holloway
Present Funds in Farmerville, Start, and Winnfield**

FARMERVILLE, START, and WINNFIELD, August 24, 2007 – Congressman Rodney Alexander joined USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde Holloway today in Farmerville, Start, and Winnfield to present over \$1.5 million in USDA Rural Development funding for area projects.

In Farmerville, \$1.1 million in loan and grant funds were presented to the Union Parish Law Enforcement District to construct a multi-purpose building to accommodate the Sheriff's Office, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Wildlife and Fisheries Department, Dare 9-1-1, the Coroner's Office, and provide additional space for emergency vehicle storage (\$600,000 in loan funds and \$500,000 in grant funds).

In Start, \$155,000 in loan funds were presented to the Start-Girard Fire Protection District to purchase a new tanker truck for the fire protection district. The new truck will replace a 20-year old tanker truck.

In Winnfield, \$329,505 in loan and grant funds were presented to Winn Parish to repair and widen 4,230 feet of Tannehill Road and construct 780 feet of a new access road that will connect a manufacturing facility to Tannehill Road (\$284,000 in loan funds and \$45,505 in grant funds).

“Rural Development funding is targeted to rural communities—to make sure rural residents enjoy the same quality of life as their urban neighbors,” said Holloway. “The new emergency response offices in Farmerville and tanker truck in Start will ensure the safety of local residents, while the new road in Winn Parish will encourage economic development and growth.”

The funds were awarded through 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.

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8/24/07

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The USDA Rural Development State Office is located in Alexandria, and Area Offices are located in Monroe, Natchitoches, Lafayette, and Amite. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs may be obtained by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at:
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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