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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT FUNDS PRESENTED TO ALLEN PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION, TOWN OF ELIZABETH, AND TOWN OF MERRYVILLE FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

OAKDALE, ELIZABETH, and MERRYVILLE - September 17, 2007 – USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde Holloway visited three central Louisiana communities today to present USDA Rural Development grant funds for important community projects. Funding was presented to:

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>For</b>
Allen Parish Tourist Commission	\$47,520 Grant	An elevator for the Leatherwood Museum House in Oakdale—making the museum more accessible for visitors
Town of Elizabeth	\$30,500 Grant	A new pumper truck and fire-related equipment for the Town of Elizabeth's Fire Department
Town of Merryville	\$27,500 Grant	Two new patrol cars and equipment

These grants were awarded through the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Program, which offers grants, loans, and loan guarantees to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns up to 20,000 in population.

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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