



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM TO RECEIVE OVER \$1.2 MILLION LOW INTEREST LOAN



Hatfield, MA – USDA Rural Development State Director David Tuttle was joined today by State Senator Stanley C. Rosenberg, State Representatives Andrea Nuciforo, John Scibak, Donald Humason Jr., Ellen Story, and Stephen Kulik for a presentation of federal funds to the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System (WMRLS). Mr. John Ramsay, Regional Administrator for the WMRLS and Ms. Connie Clancy, President of the WMRLS Board of Directors accepted the \$1,226,748 ceremonial check at WMRLS's current facility in Hatfield.

The USDA Rural Development low-interest loan will be used for the construction of a new facility in the Whately Industrial Park in Whately, Massachusetts.

The Western Massachusetts Regional Library System was the very first regional library system in Massachusetts and was formed in 1961. WMRLS is a state, and now federally funded non-profit organization that provides support services to the libraries and residents of Hampden, Hampshire, Berkshire, and Franklin counties. Membership in WMRLS is open to any library within Western Massachusetts that meets the basic requirements set by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. WMRLS offers workshops and courses designed for library trustees and school committees, reference support and bookmobile services, advisory and technical assistance to member libraries so that they may address local issues and policies, as well as assistance and planning for Summer Reading Programs.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

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