

Michael W. Aube, State Director

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An Informational Newsletter of Rural Development's Community Programs Division

About Community Facilities

Rural Development Community Facilities programs provide financial assistance for a variety of essential community projects. These Direct and Guaranteed loans and grants can be used for almost any community service infrastructure.

Examples of projects include town offices, libraries, fire stations, daycare centers, and assisted living facilities. Priority is given to first responders, with many small grants funding ambulances, fire trucks, and necessary equipment. Some basic eligibility requirements include being an eligible area according to the 2000 Census and being unable to provide the needed finances from a commercial bank or private resources. All projects must be located in a community with a population of 20,000 or less.

Rural Development Announces RCDI Grant Recipients



Pictured from left to right are Bob Thompson, Executive Director, Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments; Jonathan Daniels, President, Eastern Maine Development Corporation; Michael W. Aube, State Director, Rural Development; Helen Scalia, Project Manager, Coastal Enterprises, Inc.; Dianne Tilton, Executive Director, Sunrise County Economic Council; and Susan Hammond, Executive Director, Four Directions Development Corporation

At a ceremony in Bangor on March 18, Michael W. Aube, State Director of Rural Development, announced three development organizations receiving grants totaling \$462,284. The recipient non-profit organizations focus on rural economic development throughout the state. Maine was fortunate to receive \$462,284 of \$6.8 million available nationwide.

Recipients of Rural Community Development Initiative Grants were Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI), in the amount of \$289,784; Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC), in the amount of \$108,000; and Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), in the amount of \$64,500. Projects will provide a variety of technical and financial assistance for programs to support economic development, housing, small business development, small business revolving loan funds, data analysis, and capacity building in several rural areas.

State Director Aube commented on the importance of the grants, "These grants will assist organizations in a variety of activities, including helping businesses and communities in rural Maine to expand and grow. The positive impact will undoubtedly result in the creation of jobs and opportunities for rural Maine citizens."

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Adoption of the 2000 Census Figures

Implementation of the new 2000 Census figures has been completed. The new state of Maine non-metropolitan median household income is \$35,178. For Community Facility loans this figure determines if a community is eligible for subsidized interest rates and grants. To look up an individual community please go to our website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/me>.



\$\$\$ An Update on Funding \$\$\$

The Community Facilities program received significant increases in funding for FY 2004. Because of this, and an expected significant funding pool in Washington, we expect to meet Maine's funding needs this year.

FY 2004

Direct Loans	\$5,160,530
Guaranteed Loan	\$2,424,000
Grants	\$170,000

Compare to:

FY 2003

Direct Loans	\$2,267,000
Guaranteed Loans	\$1,480,000
Grants	\$ 92,000

Rural Development Celebrates Highlight on Healthcare Month

Rural Development has been a partner in the success of rural fire and rescue services for many years. In an effort to highlight our accomplishments, April is Highlight on Healthcare Month. Several events have been scheduled to showcase the agency's activities in healthcare.

The first event was held at Bucksport Regional Health Care Center on April 13. The Community Facility Direct Loan in the amount of \$300,000 will be used for the renovation of 1,500 square feet of existing exam rooms, laboratory areas, nurses' stations, and construction of a small addition of approximately 200 feet, which will increase the size of the patient waiting area. This project is important to the hospital, as it will increase efficiency of the medical staff and improve the quality of patient services.

Other events were held on April 16, at Dennys River Volunteer Fire Department at 11 a.m.; April 16, at Tri-Town Ambulance at 10 a.m.. Another event is planned for Northern Oxford Regional Ambulance Service on April 30, at 11 a.m.



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