

## HIGHLIGHTS

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### HELPING TO MAKE RURAL MISSOURI A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

A record \$1,126,083,749 was invested in rural Missouri during fiscal year 2009 through the USDA Rural Development programs. These federal funds were expended through a variety of loan and grant programs to provide quality housing, good jobs, clean drinking water, renewal energy alternatives, broadband service plus reliable modern essential community facilities and services.

Some of the Rural Development fiscal year 2009 investment highlights contributing toward improving the quality of life in rural Missouri into the 21<sup>st</sup> century include the following:

In the Rural Development Single Family Housing Program, \$578.2 million was provided to individuals and families for homeownership and/or rehabilitation of their homes in Missouri. Of this amount, \$542.4 million of loan guarantees to 5,337 individuals or families were provided through partnerships with private sector lenders. The other \$35.6 million was provided to 847 deserving individuals or families through the direct housing programs. Through the Housing Preservation Grant Program, two grants totaling \$150,000 were provided to organizations that then assisted 26 additional families to repair their homes.

In the Multi-Family Housing Programs, over \$23.5 million in assistance was made available. A substantial portion of this amount, \$19.8 million assisted over 8,700 residents that were residing in Rural Development financed apartment complexes with their rental payments. Currently, Missouri Rural Development finances 739 apartment complexes that provide affordable housing to approximately 17,334 elderly and

family households in rural communities across the state. In addition to providing this rental assistance, Missouri provided \$421,032 in voucher assistance to assist those residents that were residing in 55 RD financed properties that are no longer in the Rural Development portfolio. This assistance helped 265 residents find suitable housing to avoid being displaced or even the possibility of becoming homeless.

Four Multi-Family Housing complexes received Preservation and Revitalization loans and grants in the amount of \$2,298,403 and loan deferrals in the amount of \$1,016,933. The purpose of this program is to preserve and revitalize existing multi-family housing apartment complexes in rural communities for another 20 years. The borrowers that were selected will be allowed to defer their payments which will in turn be used to make much needed capital improvements to their property. This program will be preserving affordable housing for 126 very-low and low income households.

Through the Community Facilities program over \$32 million in funds were provided to 138 projects including 49 fire and rescue projects, 35 first responders and early warning systems, six health care facilities, four food banks and Head Start facilities.

In Rural Development's Business and Cooperative Programs a grand total of \$42.7 million was delivered to rural Missouri. Of this amount, over \$36.6 million in guaranteed loans was made with our commercial lending partners, which provided assistance to 14 businesses across the state. Guaranteed loan funds were used to provide financing to businesses including manufacturing, grain handling facilities, farm equipment dealers, hotels, health and dental care, and assisted

living facilities. These loan guarantees resulted in a total of 258 jobs being created or saved in Missouri's rural areas.

Several cities, communities, counties and organizations were recipients of more than \$6.1 million through other Rural Development loan and grant programs. These included over \$1.35 million for 20 Rural Business Enterprise Grants, 13 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grants for \$487,334, two Rural Economic Development Grants for \$1,040,000 and one Intermediary Relending Program loan for \$500,000. In the energy program six recipients benefited with \$2.55 million in the advanced biofuels program, and \$200,000 for energy audits to two electric providers. All of these programs allowed rural Missourians to benefit from new jobs, access to essential public infrastructure and facilities, reduced energy consumption, feasibility studies, and training in support of economic and community development activities in rural areas.

In the Rural Development Rural Utilities Services program, a grand total of \$449.6 million of assistance was provided to communities, including water and wastewater, telephone and electrical distribution.

In the water and wastewater area, \$93.4 million was made available. The direct program totaled \$93.2 million with 45 direct loans and 40 grants, assisting over 29,399 families with adequate drinking water and new or improved waste disposal systems. USDA funds were leveraged with \$10.6 million of other federal, state, and local funds to fund these accomplishments. Six communities benefited with \$36,000 in Predevelopment Planning Grants. These funds will be used for preliminary Engineering and Environmental Reports. One Technical Assistance Training grant was awarded for \$80,000 and one Solid Waste Management grant was awarded for \$50,000.

In the Telephone programs, a total of \$1.5 million in financing was made available to assist Missouri rural areas. Four rural communities benefited from the Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants for a little over \$1 million including two that were to health related entities and two that were awarded to schools for additional educational opportunities. Another \$471,905 was provided for a Community Connect Broadband grant to provide internet services for rural communities.

In the Electric programs, a total of \$354.7 million was provided to two power supply cooperatives and 10 distribution electric cooperatives to expand and improve assistance to several communities and rural residents.

We extend appreciation to the many partners that assisted Missouri USDA Rural Development staff with these accomplishments. We also acknowledge the strong support that we received from the Missouri Congressional delegation. With continued cooperation, we look forward to helping more individuals, families, businesses and communities with their needs in the year ahead.

Anyone seeking more information about USDA Rural Development or any of the programs may visit the USDA Rural Development Web Site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting any of the Missouri USDA Rural Development offices.



**Committed to the future of rural communities.**