

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$6,300 GRANT TO CITY OF NIANGUA FOR STORM WARNING SIREN

U.S. Representative Ike Skelton joined USDA Rural Development officials at the Community Center in Niangua on Wednesday, July 3, 2007 to present a Mock Check for \$6,300. The Rural Development Community Facilities Grant funds coupled with \$5,200 from the City will finance the \$11,500 to purchase and install a storm warning siren to help protect Niangua's 455 residents. Mayor Roger Mephram accepted the mock check on behalf of the city.



Pictured: Left to Right: Ike Skelton, Missouri's 4th District Congressman; Tim Rickabaugh, Rural Development Area Director; Austin Owens, Field Representative for U.S. Senator Kit Bond; Cindy Vasher, Niangua City Councilwoman; Roger Mephram, Mayor of Niangua; Ray Root, Niangua City Councilman; Tim Petty; City of Niangua Councilman; Joyce Thornhill, Niangua City Clerk

"The new sirens that have been purchased with this funding will improve the emergency warning system for

the residents of Niangua," said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. "Where the federal government can help make people safer, we should and that is what has happened here today. I commend the local leadership and the USDA Rural Development staff for their dedication and hard work to make this project a reality."

U.S. Representative Ike Skelton stated, "As Missouri's Fourth District Congressman, I am pleased that USDA Rural Development funds have been dedicated to this storm warning siren in Niangua. Missourians are all too familiar with Mother Nature's fury. We have seen devastating thunderstorms claim property and lives. This siren will provide critical advanced warning to citizens of Niangua during tornadoes and other emergencies."

Mayor Roger Mephram expressed his appreciation, "The city would like to thank Rural Development for the Community Facility (CF) Grant which helped purchase the first storm siren for our community. We appreciate having this added protection during severe weather to ensure advance warning for our residents."

"This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," said Greg Branum,

Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. “Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Mike Monger, Rural Development Manager, at 1242 Deadra Drive, Lebanon, MO, 65536-4669 or by calling (417) 532-5741 extension 4 or by email to mike.monger@mo.usda.gov.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer.”
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W.,
Washington, D. C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).