



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-0700
Phone: (202) 260-0996 • Fax: (202) 690-4083 TDD: (202) 720-6382 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

Jane Grant (800) 582-7584, Ext. 2037

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES \$11.5 MILLION IN RURAL BUSINESS GRANTS

BISMARCK, June 18, 2008 – Recently, Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr announced the selection of 70 rural communities and Native American organizations in 24 states to receive \$11.5 million in economic development grants.

“These grants will help rural communities save or create more than 1,726 jobs and spur economic development,” Dorr said. “USDA is proud to work with local community leaders to help fund enterprises that improve the quality of life for rural residents.”

The funds are being provided through USDA Rural Development’s Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) and Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) programs. The RBEG program provides funding to finance or develop small and emerging private businesses. The RBOG program finances training and technical assistance for business development.

In North Dakota, for example, Achievements Unlimited Foundation received funds of \$193,100 to provide technical assistance to further the growth and development of veteran-owned small businesses in the Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zone and the Griggs-Steele Empowerment Zone in eastern N.D.

In Maddock, N.D., the Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zone received funds of \$99,000 to conduct a feasibility and nutritional study, and a business plan for products derived from a local livestock feed mill

Prairie West Development Foundation in Beach, N.D. received funds of \$86,975 to provide new equipment toward the future development and growth of Bijou Theatre in Beach.

In Fort Yates, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe plans to use the grant of \$150,000 to provide technical assistance and support to existing and potential entrepreneurs throughout the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

A complete list of grant recipients is available on the USDA Rural Development web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov. Funding for individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$90 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> . #

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).