



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>

Dane Henshall (202) 260-0996

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$1 MILLION IN RURAL BUSINESS GRANTS

WASHINGTON, June 24, 2008 – Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced the selection of 12 rural communities in 12 states to receive nearly \$1 million in economic development grants.

“These grants will help local businesses and organizations strengthen their operations and help save or create jobs,” Dorr said. “Creating economic opportunity in rural areas will improve the quality of life for residents.”

The funds are being provided through USDA Rural Development’s Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) programs. The RBOG program finances training and technical assistance for business development in rural areas.

For example, Impact Foundation, Fargo, ND, will use a \$50,000 Rural Development grant to provide technical assistance to the West River Medical Center in Hettinger, N.D., to improve its operational efficiency and fundraising capabilities. Once the West River Medical Center has an effective strategic plan and an established fundraising system, it will support economic development by sustaining its 300 current employees and potentially adding new ones.

The following organizations have been selected to receive Rural Business Opportunity Grants. Funding of individual projects and recipients is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

Rural Business Opportunity Grant Recipients

Recipient	State	Grant Amount
The Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation	AZ	\$48,865
Desert Alliance for Community Empowerment	CA	\$50,000
Crisp County Board of Commissioners	GA	\$19,000
County of Alexander	IL	\$126,630
Northern Maine Development Commission	ME	\$165,000
Holmes County Board of Supervisors	MS	\$126,630
<u><i>Impact Foundation</i></u>	<u><i>ND</i></u>	<u><i>\$50,000</i></u>
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	NJ	\$200,000
Fay-Penn Economic Development Council	PA	\$50,000
Allendale County	SC	\$12,000
Jubilee Project, Inc.	TN	\$50,000
Northeastern Vermont Development Association	VT	\$91,875
Total		\$990,000

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>

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