



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES \$595,800 TO REPAIR RURAL HOUSING

WASHINGTON, June 30, 2008 – Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced the selection of recipients of \$595,800 in grants to repair or rehabilitate homes and rental properties occupied by very-low- and low-income rural citizens. The 11 grant awards will be distributed to community organizations in 11 states.

“Rural Development has been helping rural citizens obtain safe, affordable housing for more than 70 years,” Dorr said. “The grants announced today will enable residents to make needed repairs so their homes will meet local standards and codes. I am especially pleased to announce these grants during National Homeownership Month.”

The Housing Preservation Grant program provides funding to intermediaries – such as town or county governments, Indian Tribes or nonprofit organizations – which, in turn, provide grants to homeowners or owners of multi-family rental properties or cooperative dwellings.

For Example, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, in Belcourt, N.D., will combine its \$50,940.23 Rural Development grant with \$692,500 of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians funds to rehabilitate 12 houses. Rehabilitation will ensure compliance with local housing standards and codes, including energy efficiency heating systems, thermal windows and doors, repair or install plumbing, sewer systems and electrical wiring, and provide some relieve in overcrowded conditions.

The Community Council of Southwest Texas, Inc., in Uvalde, will combine its \$86,857 Rural Development grant with \$51,418 in outside funds to rehabilitate 20 houses. In Montezuma Creek, Utah, the Navajo Utah Commission-Navajo National Tribal Program will use a \$50,940 grant to construct 13 bathrooms and install plumbing facilities in kitchen additions. In Newport, Vt., Gilman Housing Trust, Inc. will use its \$50,940 grant to repair 10 single-family homes to ensure compliance with local housing standards and codes, including energy efficiency. The Trust will use an additional \$450,000 in leveraged funds for this project.

The grants announced today will be leveraged into a pool of more than \$2.7 million in non-USDA assistance. This allows Rural Development dollars to have an even greater impact on fixing and repairing housing for rural citizens.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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

Housing Preservation Grants

Recipient	State	Grant Amount
Desert Alliance for Community Empowerment	CA	\$50,940.23
Shawnee Development Council	IL	\$46,100.93
Mid Michigan Community Action Agency	MI	\$50,940.23
Holmes County Board of Supervisors	MS	\$71,316.23
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians	ND	\$50,940.23
Chickasaw Nation	OK	\$49,208.23
Of One Accord, Inc.	TN	\$50,940.23
Community Council of Southwest Texas, Inc.	TX	\$86,857.00
Navajo Utah Commission - Navajo National Tribal Program	UT	\$50,940.23
Gilman Housing Trust, Inc.	VT	\$50,940.23
Southern Appalachian Labor School	WV	\$36,676.23

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>.