



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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USDA ANNOUNCES \$7.4 MILLION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

WASHINGTON, July 24, 2008 — Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced that 13 recipients in 11 states have been selected to receive \$7.4 million in loans and grants to spur economic development. Rural Development calculates that as many as 713 jobs will be created or saved as a result.

“These funds support rural communities as they seek to build stronger local economies,” Dorr said. The Bush administration is committed to working with local community leaders to increase economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for rural Americans.”

The funding is being provided through the [Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant](#) program, which provides zero-interest loans and grants to lenders and community-based development groups who in turn re-lend the money at zero interest to local entities to promote economic development and create jobs.

For example, the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative in Paxton, Ill., has been selected to receive a \$1,040,000 loan/grant combination to expand a nursing home in Gifford, Ill. This project is expected to create 10 new jobs and save 82 existing jobs. In Lewistown, Mo., the Lewis County Rural Electric Cooperative Association has been selected for a \$575,000 loan to finance the expansion of Cardwell Lumber’s barrel manufacturing operation. These funds are expected to retain 102 jobs and create 10 new jobs.

In North Dakota, the Northern Plains Cooperative, Carrington/Cando, ND, has been selected to receive a \$500,000 loan to finance the expansion of Mid-Mac Marketing, Inc d/b/a Midwestern Machine, a manufacturing plant, near Jamestown, ND. This project is expected to create 11 new jobs.

The following is a complete list of groups selected to receive Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant awards. Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the loan or grant agreement.

Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program

| Recipient/Borrower | State | Grant Amount | Loan Amount |
|---|-------|--------------|-------------|
| Three Notch Electric Membership Corporation | GA | | \$740,000 |
| Kaua’i Island Utility Cooperative | HI | \$300,000 | |
| Central Iowa Power Cooperative | IA | | \$740,000 |

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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|---|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| Lenox Municipal Utilities | IA | | \$740,000 |
| Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative | IL | \$300,000 | \$740,000 |
| Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative, Inc. | KS | | \$307,200 |
| Federated Rural Electric Association | MN | \$300,000 | |
| Southern Pine Electric Power Association | MS | | \$740,000 |
| Lewis County Rural Electric Cooperative Association | MO | | \$575,000 |
| Tideland Electric Membership Corporation | NC | | \$740,000 |
| Roanoke Electric Cooperative | NC | | \$350,000 |
| Northern Plains Electric Cooperative | ND | | \$500,000 |
| Wyrulec Company | WY | \$300,000 | |

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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