

UNDER SECRETARY DORR PARTICIPATES IN CHECK PRESENTATION

BISMARCK, August 26 - Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today is presenting a ceremonial check in the amount of a \$750,000 grant to CommunityWorks North Dakota (CWND) during the Governor's Rural Community Summit, in Bismarck.

The grant funds are administered through Rural Development's Intermediary Relending Program (IRP). CommunityWorks North Dakota will use the funds to promote community and economic development and provide financial assistance for land acquisition and development and construction of housing projects targeted in 14 North Dakota counties to include: Adams, Billings, Bowman Burke, Divide, Dunn, Grand Forks, (excluding the city of Grand Forks) Hettinger, McKenzie, Morton, Mountrail, Sioux, Stark, and Williams.



CommunityWorks North Dakota was created to address the housing and economic needs and improve the standard of living in rural North Dakota. The nonprofit offers a variety of programs and services designed to address these issues. Several traditionally underserved populations that don't have access to financial resources have benefited from CommunityWorks North Dakota programs. For example, low-income families that fall below 80 percent of the median income, approximately two-thirds, are families with disabilities.

Incorporated in 1995 and chartered by NeighborWorks America (NWA) in 2000, CommunityWorks North Dakota is a local independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and is the only NeighborWorks America-chartered affiliate in North Dakota. In 2004, CommunityWorks North Dakota was certified as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) by the U.S. Treasury Department.

In Fiscal Year 2007, USDA Rural Development provided over **\$298 million** in loan and grant financing to North Dakota citizens.

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 \$76.8 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 1.5 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>.