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# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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## USDA ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR TRINITY HEALTH

*Schneider: stimulus funds used to expand access to health care in energy-impacted area*

**WILLISTON**, September 2, 2010 – USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider today announced that Trinity Health in Williston has been selected to receive \$5.5 million in financing to construct a medical services building. The project is being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act).

“The Recovery Act continues to have a positive impact in advancing infrastructure projects and continues Rural Development’s efforts to improve the quality of life for North Dakota communities” said Schneider. “Energy production has led to a growing population in the region and the new facility will provide better access to vital medical services.”

The funding will be used to construct a new 42,400 square foot, two-story medical office building. The existing clinic buildings are located in two different areas of the community and are inefficient and inadequate with no handicap accessibility. By consolidating the two clinics into one new building, Trinity Health will be able to provide better health care with easier access, lower costs and better energy savings.

“Trinity Health is proud to partner with USDA Rural Development and the Williston medical community to make this state-of-the-art facility a reality,” said Trinity Health CEO John Kutch. “Today’s announcement will allow us to respond to the needs and expectations of the greater Williston community while reinvesting into the city of Williston.”

The clinic space will consist of offices and consultation space for seven general practice physicians, three ophthalmologists, and five optometrists. Forty exam rooms will be provided with additional space allocated for testing, nurse and technician work stations and general supplies. A retail vision center, radiology, laboratory services and special procedure rooms will also be included in the building.

The service area for the clinic includes a six county region for a population of over 52,000 people. The facility will be located on four acres of land within the city limits of Williston along Highway 2 Bypass, northwest of 14<sup>th</sup> Street West and the Highway 2 frontage road. The total estimated project cost is \$8,823,312 with Trinity Health providing \$3,323,312.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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