

Energy Efficiency Program Helps Small Business

ENDERLIN, September 19 – Rural Development State Director Clare Carlson today presented a ceremonial check for a \$12,801 grant to Family Chiropractic & Massage - Organic Cupboard during their grand opening, in Enderlin, N.D.

The grant is administered through USDA's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (Section 9006) program which provides financial assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to install renewable energy projects or make energy efficiency improvements.



“This grant program compliments the Bush Administration's overall effort to increase America's energy independence through the development of renewable energy resources as well as increasing the efficiency of existing systems,” said Carlson. “Investments such as these help conserve energy as well as help small businesses.”

Family Chiropractic and Massage used the grant to install a geothermal heating and cooling system, increased the wall and ceiling insulation, and replaced the windows to the building that houses Family Chiropractic and Massage and Organic Cupboard. The improvements will result in 38 percent savings a year.



The Energy Efficiency Improvements Program was created as part of the 2002 Farm Bill to assist farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses to develop renewable-energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements to their operations. Eligible projects include those that derive energy from a wind, solar, biomass, or geothermal source, or hydrogen derived from biomass or water using wind, solar, or geothermal energy sources.

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>.