



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA ANNOUNCES FUNDING TO IMPROVE RURAL HOUSING

Funding will assist low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards in their homes.

BISMARCK, October 5, 2010 – USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider today announced two Housing Preservation Grants (HPG) of \$50,000 each to Red River Regional Council in Grafton, and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in Belcourt.

“Helping rural citizens obtain safe and affordable housing is one of USDA Rural Development’s major goals,” said Schneider. “I am pleased that these funds will be used to help homeowners and apartment owners make the necessary improvements to their properties. The grants will help fix problems such as leaking roofs, unsafe plumbing or crumbling foundations.”

In Grafton, the Red River Regional Council has been selected to receive a \$50,000 grant to help rural residents in the community of Thompson make health, safety and other necessary repairs to their homes. The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in Belcourt is selected to receive a \$50,000 grant to repair ten homes on the Turtle Mountain Reservation and surrounding area in Rolette County.

USDA Rural Development's Housing Preservation Grants are often combined with state and local funds to provide as much funding to help as many homeowners as possible. The \$50,000 Rural Development grant to Red River Regional Council will be leveraged by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the N.D. Dept of Commerce for \$56,433. The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians grant for \$50,000 from Rural Development will be leveraged by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for \$241,000 from the N.D. Dept of Commerce, along with a grant for \$74,000 from the Housing Improvement Program (HIP) program in Belcourt.

Housing Preservation Grants are provided to intermediaries such as town or county governments, public agencies, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and non-profit and faith-based organizations. The grants are then distributed from intermediaries to homeowners or owners of multi-family rental properties or cooperative dwellings who rent to low- and very-low-income residents. The grants may be used to make general repairs such as installing or improving plumbing or providing or enhancing access to people with disabilities. Funds can also be used to weatherize and make homes more energy-efficient.

Funding of each recipient is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

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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