



NEWS RELEASE

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REGIONAL COUNCIL RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT

GRAFTON, October 23, 2008 – State Director for Rural Development Clare Carlson today presented a ceremonial check for a \$50,000 housing preservation grant to the Red River Regional Council, during their monthly board meeting.



“Rural Development has been helping rural citizens obtain safe, affordable housing for more than 70 years,” Carlson said. “The grant announced today will help homeowners make the necessary improvements to their properties.”

The \$50,000 Rural Development grant will be matched with a N.D. Dept. of Commerce Community Development Block Grant for \$50,000 along with additional funding from the city of Drayton. Both programs will be administered through the Red River Regional Council.

The monies will assist qualified home owners rehabilitate their properties located in the city of Drayton, Walsh County. Currently there are 15 applicants. Examples of eligible projects include repair/replacement of storm doors, windows, steps, furnaces, water heaters or roofs. Funds can also be used for insulation, electrical, plumbing and septic and water systems, and to provide accessibility for persons with disabilities. Homes repaired with these funds must be located in communities of less than 20,000 people or in rural areas.

Housing Preservation Grants are awarded to intermediaries – such as town or county governments, Indian Tribes, housing authorities or nonprofit organizations, faith-based and community organizations – which, in turn, give the money to homeowners or owners of multi-family rental properties or cooperative dwellings.

In Fiscal Year 2008, USDA Rural Development provided **\$38.1 million** in housing programs, **\$54.7 million** in business and community programs, **\$577.5 million** in electric programs, and **\$85.9 million** in telecom programs to North Dakota residents.

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 \$91 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

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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