

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WASHINGTON, D.C.

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### **USDA ANNOUNCES \$47.5 MILLION IN COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANTS FOR DEPRESSED RURAL AREAS**

WASHINGTON, March 30, 2001 – USDA Secretary Ann Veneman announced on March 23<sup>rd</sup> that \$47.5 million in grants are available to develop essential community facilities – including schools, libraries, fire and rescue, public safety, hospitals, clinics, and multipurpose community centers – in rural areas experiencing severe unemployment and economic depression.

The community facilities grants are made available through USDA's Rural Housing Service and earmarked for rural communities where the "not employed" rate is greater than 19.5 percent. Rural Development offers assistance to develop essential community facilities and services for public use in rural communities with populations of less than 20,000.

Authorized by the U.S. Congress, the special grant initiative, is administered through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities program. Applications will be considered competitively, with communities having the lowest populations and lowest median incomes given selection priority. Other selection criteria include each project's economic feasibility and the program's goal of distributing program funds throughout all regions of the United States. Selections will be made on a month to month basis.

Applications may be submitted at any time throughout FY 2001 until the funds are exhausted. Further information and help in preparing an application are available at any USDA Rural Development office serving your community. Information can also be obtained by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/nofas>. USDA Rural Development offices are listed in telephone books under United States Government, Department of Agriculture. In Nebraska, contact the USDA Rural Development Lincoln State Office at Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 or phone 402-437-5551.

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