



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department Of Agriculture Rural Development
Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USDA Provides \$85 Million to Rural Nebraska --Fiscal Year 2004 Funding Available

Lincoln, Neb., March 16, 2004 -- USDA Rural Development in Nebraska released its Fiscal Year 2003 Annual Report today revealing close to \$85 million being provided to rural Nebraska.

"Fiscal Year 2003 has been a great year for USDA Rural Development in Nebraska," stated Nebraska State Director Jim Barr, USDA Rural Development. "We assisted rural residents, communities, businesses and cooperatives with over \$55 million for housing, \$19.5 million for utilities, \$6.7 million towards business and cooperatives along with nearly \$3.5 million for community facilities. This funding provides rural Nebraska an opportunity for growth, strength, sustainability and a better way of life."

The Annual Report discloses the use of USDA's financial assistance for the fiscal year. Noted accomplishments include:

- ✓ \$45.8 million assisted 720 households to become rural homeowners.
- ✓ \$10.5 million provided for 16 water and 4 sewer projects.
- ✓ \$5.9 million in rental subsidies provided 2,388 rural tenants with affordable rental housing.
- ✓ \$3.5 million provided for 31 essential community facility projects assisting over 26 rural communities.
- ✓ \$3 million helped 5 businesses via business acquisition, expansion and refinancing.
- ✓ \$2.3 million allowed for 72 units of new rural rental housing for rural residents.
- ✓ \$1.6 million assisted 12 producer groups in agricultural ventures.
- ✓ \$751,000 helped 140 rural homeowners make essential home repairs.
- ✓ \$750,000 provided for working capital, inventory, equipment, franchise fees, fixed assets, business expansion or startup in an 11 county area.
- ✓ \$668,000 assisted with 14 business projects in areas of training, technical assistance, business incubation, microenterprise, business centers, computer technology, identification of markets and product opportunities and business feasibility.
- ✓ \$178,000 allowed for 3 renewable energy and 3 energy efficiency projects.
- ✓ \$153,000 provided for distance learning.

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USDA Rural Development Nebraska funding allocations for Fiscal Year 2004 (October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004) are as follows: (*Funds competed for on nationwide basis.)

Business and Cooperative Programs: Business and Industry Loan Guarantee \$5.9 million, \$122.6 million*; Rural Business Enterprise Grant \$248,000, \$2.4 million*; Rural Business Opportunity Grant \$1.1 million*; Rural Economic Development Loan \$14.9 million*; Rural Economic Development Grant \$4 million*; Intermediary Relending Loan Program \$22.3 million*; Renewable Energy \$22.9 million*; Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant \$14.9 million*; Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas \$2.5 million*. Contact Deborah Drbal, (402) 437-5558, deborah.drbal@ne.usda.gov or Dan Laska, (402) 437-5554, dan.laska@ne.usda.gov.

Community and Utility Programs: Water and Wastewater Loan \$7.7 million; Water and Wastewater Grant \$3.3 million; Guaranteed Water and Wastewater \$955,000; Predevelopment Planning Grant \$16,400; Native American 306C Grant \$15.9 million*; Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant (ECWAG) \$18 million*; Solid Waste Management Grant \$3.5 million*; Technical Assistance Training Grant \$17.6 million*; Nonprofit Individually Owned Water Well Grants \$994,000*; Water and Wastewater Revolving Funds \$497,000*; Community Facilities Direct \$3.6 million; Community Facilities Guaranteed \$1.9 million; Community Facilities Grant \$136,000; Economic Impact Initiative Grants (EII) \$20.8 million*; Economic Impact Initiative Administrative Funds \$1.1 million*; Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) \$6 million*; Tribal College Grant Initiative \$4 million*; Rural Cooperative Home-Based Health Care \$1 million*; Distance Learning and Telemedicine \$300 million Loan* and \$39 million Grant*. Contact Denise Brosius-Meeks, (402) 437-5559, denise.meeks@ne.usda.gov.

Housing Programs: Single Family Direct and Guaranteed Loan \$22.2 million; Single Family Housing Direct Repair Loans \$231,000; Single Family Housing Repair Grants \$247,000; Multi Family Rural Rental Housing Direct Loan \$116.5 million*; Multi Family Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing \$100 million*; Farm Labor Housing Loan \$42 million*; Farm Labor Housing Grant \$17 million*; Housing Preservation Grant \$8.9 million*; Supervisory and Technical Assistance \$1.5 million*; Mutual Self Help Housing Grant \$34 million*; Mutual Self Help Housing Site Loan \$2.4 million*; Housing Site Loan \$5 million*. Contact Byron Fischer, (402) 437-5567, byron.fischer@ne.usda.gov.

For further program information or a copy of the Annual Report, contact your local USDA Rural Development Office or the Lincoln State Office at (402) 437-5551, USDA Rural Development Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3888. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/> for program information and to locate an USDA Rural Development Office nearest you. A copy of the Annual Report can be located at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/annual_reports.htm.

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