



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USDA Commits \$105,825, Builds Community Capacity** *Rural Development, Ohio State University Partner to Support Ohio Business*

**COLUMBUS, OHIO, March 21, 2006** - Ohio's USDA Rural Development office announced the award of \$105,825 to the Ohio State University Research Foundation through its Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) Grant program. The funding is part of a \$6.7 million national RCDI program to provide financial and technical assistance to communities with economic development projects. Nationally, funding was provided to 31 nonprofit development organizations to improve housing, technology, economic development and community facilities.

"I am thrilled to see The Ohio State University's expertise harnessed to create jobs in Ohio," said Congresswoman Deborah Pryce. "The new economy brings new economic challenges, and it is imperative that all of Ohio be positioned to create high-paying jobs and to drive economic development. I applaud USDA's continued investment in entrepreneurship and its commitment to improving the quality of life for rural Ohioans."

The Ohio State University will use its \$105,825 award to enhance capacity in creating and sustaining community development by encouraging entrepreneur development. OSU will work with the Villages of Carrolton and Gallipolis to build local capacity among their business communities. This increased capacity will help leaders identify and address specific infrastructure needs directly impacting business development within their communities.

"This is a program that truly cultivates community development," said Rural Development State Director Randy Hunt. "The key component of this program lies in the philosophy of teaching business entrepreneurs how to be successful. OSU's educational program, coupled with the spirit of rural businessmen, will help produce more sustainable business development in rural Ohio."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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