



NEWS RELEASE

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Release # 09-06-01

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS CREATE OHIO OPPORTUNITIES *More Than \$500,000 Targeted to Improve State's Rural Economic Climate*

COLUMBUS, OHIO, SEPT. 8, 2006 – USDA Rural Housing and Community Facilities Administrator Russell Davis joined Ohio State University South Centers Director Tom Worley in announcing \$519,960 in Rural Development funding in Community Facilities and Housing Program funds. The funds will be used to provide needed emergency equipment and infrastructure for rural Ohio communities. Funds will also be allocated to assist a dozen families as they construct their own homes under Rural Development's Self Help Housing program.

"Today's announcement is indicative of the tireless efforts the Ohio Rural Development staff exercise on behalf of rural Ohioans," said Davis. "Increasing the capacity of Ohio's first responders helps address the safety and security concerns while the addition of a new housing partner helps to bring the dream of home ownership closer to reality to more Ohioans."

Funding recipients included: The Noble Learning Center, Inc., Noble County, \$50,000 towards the construction of a childcare center building, equipment and furniture; the Village of Bethesda, Belmont County, \$50,000 to purchase an aerial ladder fire truck; the Village of Fairport Harbor, Lake County, \$35,000 to make emergency repairs to a flooded senior citizens/community center; Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District, Knox County, \$40,000 to purchase a fire truck; the Village of Quaker City, Guernsey County, \$38,000 to be used for Village improvements; Holmes County Fire District #1, Holmes County, \$20,000 to purchase a medic unit; the Village of Empire, Jefferson County, \$19,000 to purchase two police cruisers; the Adena Fire Company, Jefferson County, \$17,000 to pay for the pavement of a fire station access road and parking lot. The Three Rivers Housing Corporation, Inc. is a partner to Rural Development's Self-Help Housing Program and received \$250,960 to help 12 limited income families build new homes.

During fiscal year 2005 Rural Development invested more than \$260 million throughout Ohio. Spread across the state's 88 counties, this funding helped strengthen Ohio's business climate through job creation, increased the capacity of local communities to improve services and added more than 2,000 families to the ranks of Ohio homeowners.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs, and administers program assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Program, Rural Business-Cooperative Program, and Rural Utilities Program. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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