



NEWS RELEASE

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Rural Development's \$1.1 Million Funding Improves Medical, Dental Services for Stark County Residents

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Aug. 24, 2007 – Randall Hunt, state director for USDA Rural Development announced today approval of a \$1,125,000 financing package to the Richard D. Watkins Canton Community Clinic, Inc., in Stark County, Ohio. The funding is from Rural Development's Community Facility Loan and Grant Program and will be used to finance renovations on a building purchased last year. The renovations will include new medical, dental space as well as administrative offices.

"Improved access to health services is a crucial quality of life component that rural community leaders grapple with daily," said Hunt. "Rural Development's Community Facility Program provides funding options to help meet the healthcare needs of rural residents."

The Community Facility Program uses grants and loans to help communities develop essential facilities for public use. These facilities include libraries, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation.

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.

Further information on rural programs is available by calling 614-255-2400, visiting a local USDA Rural Development office or by viewing USDA Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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