



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES \$13.7 MILLION IN RURAL BUSINESS GRANTS

WASHINGTON, August 29, 2007 – Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced \$13.7 million in economic development grants for rural communities and Native American organizations in 48 states.

“These grant funds will help rural communities save or create approximately 3,000 jobs and spur economic development,” Dorr said. “USDA Rural Development provides these grants to ensure strategic investments and increase economic opportunities in rural America. They represent USDA Rural Development’s ongoing mission to bring increased economic opportunity to citizens.”

The funds are being provided through the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) and Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) programs. The RBEG program provides funding to schools, businesses and local organizations to help them conduct economic development activities, finance business expansions and make infrastructure improvements. The RBOG program finances training and technical assistance for business development.

In Ohio, two organizations received RBOG funding. Hocking-Athens Perry Community Action received \$48,000 and will use the funding to conduct a feasibility study for a regional Technology and Commerce Park. The Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission received \$37,500. They will use the funding to conduct a feasibility study for a shared use hardwood kiln.

A complete list of grant recipients is available on the USDA Rural Development web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

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USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$76.8 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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