



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development  
Federal Bldg. 200 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: (614) 255-2394 • Fax: (614) 255-2559 • TDD: (614) 255-2554 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.govohj>

Release # 02-07-02

Contact: Michael Jones 614-255-2394  
[michael.jones@oh.usda.gov](mailto:michael.jones@oh.usda.gov)

## USDA Rural Development Awards Community Development Grant

**COLUMBUS, OHIO, Feb. 5, 2007** — Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today announced that more than \$6.4 million in grant funds will be provided to 33 organizations in 21 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to support rural economic development efforts. The funding is being provided through USDA Rural Development's Rural Community Development Initiative Program (RCDI).

"The Wood, Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky (WSOS) Community Action Commission will receive a \$175,000 RCDI grant, their third since becoming involved with the Rural Development program," said Ohio Rural Development State Director Randy Hunt. "WSOS has nurtured their capacity to integrate our programs into their daily operations, tapping the RCDI program for more than \$1 million. Our partnership with WSOS truly exemplifies how cooperation and creativity generates more local economic benefits while delivering critical services to rural Ohioans."

WSOS will use the RCDI funding to assist Morgan County and the Village of New London in identifying and correcting infrastructure deficiencies and developing plans for follow-up assistance. RCDI funding helps nonprofit, community-based development organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes and low-income communities improve their ability to develop rural housing and community facilities and to improve economic growth. A complete list of the grant recipients is available at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to continue expanding our efforts in community and economic development to benefit Ohio's rural communities," said WSOS Community Development Director Deb Martin. "We appreciate the tremendous support that we get from Rural Development. Having access to their range of programs allows us to tackle the issues that rural communities face in the most comprehensive way possible."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that supports increased economic opportunity and improves the quality of life for 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's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).



(From left) Chris Strumsky, representative from Congressman Paul Gillmor's office, Neil McCabe, WSOS president, Randy Hunt, USDA Rural Development state director and Dennis Fligor, representative from Sen. George Voinovich's office participate in the presentation of \$175,000 in Rural Community Development Initiative grant funding to WSOS. This is the third RCDI grant awarded to WSOS and boosts their RCDI funding from Rural Development to more than \$1 million.

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