



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: 800-877-8339 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

Release # 07-07-01

Contact: Michael Jones 614-255-2394
michael.jones@oh.usda.gov

USDA Rural Development Makes \$6.2 Million Available for Rural Community Development

COLUMBUS, OHIO, July 2, 2007 – USDA Rural Development announced today the availability of more than \$6.2 million in grant funds through the Rural Community Development Initiative Program (RCDI). The deadline for submitting applications is Sept. 6, 2007.

“This funding will assist rural communities plan local development projects that will improve their quality of life,” said State Director Randy Hunt. “Rural Development has invested more than \$1.4 million in Ohio through this program since fiscal year 2002, enabling community organizations to secure the technical assistance needed to ensure success of their development initiatives.”

The RCDI program provides technical assistance and training funds to qualified intermediary organizations to help them develop increased capacities to initiate housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

The \$6,286,500 in RCDI grant funds have a dollar for dollar matching fund requirement that multiplies the impact of the grants. Qualified organizations can be public or private (including tribal organizations) that have been legally organized for at least three years and have experience working with eligible recipients. Recipients of the funds from the intermediary can be non-profit organizations, low-income communities, or federally recognized tribes.

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 has invested more than \$76.8 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. As a result, more than 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments.

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

-#-

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, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 voice or 202-720-6382 TDD.