



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Rural Development Funds Portage County Head Start Initiative

**COLUMBUS, OHIO, Jan. 15, 2008** – Randall Hunt, state director for USDA Rural Development announced today approval of a \$201,000 financing package to the Portage Private Industry Council, Inc. in Portage County, Ohio. The funding is from Rural Development's Community Facility Loan and Grant Program and will be used to make building improvements to the facility that houses their head start program.

"Rural families face an on-going task of securing safe child care options," said Hunt. "Our programs help strengthen communities by financing essential services such as this local head start program."

Portage Private Industry Council, Inc. will contribute \$40,000 and Portage County will add \$60,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds. The total project will cost \$301,000.

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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