



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 # 1-08-02

Contact: Michael Jones 614-255-2394

michael.jones@oh.usda.gov

Rural Development Funding Supports Jefferson County Maintenance Equipment Purchase

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Jan. 16, 2008 – Randall Hunt, state director for USDA Rural Development announced today approval of a \$40,000 financing package to Smithfield Township in Jefferson County, Ohio. The funding is from Rural Development's Community Facility Loan and Grant Program and will be used to purchase a new dump truck to help with maintenance of the township's roads.

"Maintaining necessary maintenance equipment is challenging for small rural communities as they prioritize their budgets," said Hunt. "Our Community Facility Program helps to fill in some of the financial gaps that occur when local needs outpace available funding."

Rural Development provided \$13,000 in previous funding which was combined with approximately \$800 from the township to help complete the purchase.

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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