



# 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>

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Contact: Michael Jones 614-255-2394

[michael.jones@oh.usda.gov](mailto:michael.jones@oh.usda.gov)

## Rural Development Funding Helps Columbiana County Address its Community Facility and Infrastructure Needs

**COLUMBUS, OHIO, Dec. 28, 2007** – Randall Hunt, state director for USDA Rural Development announced today approval of \$45,000 in grant funding to two projects located in Columbiana County, Ohio. The recipients are the Lisbon Exempted Village School District and Franklin Township. The funding is from Rural Development's Community Facility Loan and Grant Program and will be used to help with building renovation costs.

“Rural community leaders face constant pressure to provide critical services to their local residents,” said Hunt. “Incorporating our Community Facility Program into their economic planning enables them to prioritize and fund the community’s specific needs.”

The Lisbon project was awarded \$35,000 towards the construction of a 180-car parking lots and an entry plaza for the Veterans War Memorial Stadium. The total project cost was \$232,000 with \$147,000 coming from donations and in-kind services. The Village School District also contributed \$50,000 towards the project. The Franklin Township project includes \$10,000 which will be used to replace a culvert/bridge structure across Little Beaver Creek on Dodson Road. Franklin Township contributed \$20,000 to the project’s \$30,000 total cost.

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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