



NEWS RELEASE

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AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$9.8 MILLION IN GRANTS TO PRESERVE RURAL HOUSING

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2, 2009 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the selection of 154 recipients for \$9.8 million in grants to repair rural housing and make energy efficiency improvements in 48 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

“The Obama Administration and I believe that every citizen deserves to live in safe and affordable housing,” Vilsack said. “These grants will help rural residents and rental property owners repair leaking roofs, plumbing or crumbling foundations, as well as add insulation, caulking and energy-saving windows and doors.”

The grants are being awarded through the USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grants program. The following is a list of recipients that will receive Housing Preservation Grants in Pennsylvania. Funding is contingent upon the recipient meeting the conditions of the grant agreement. The grants are not part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Huntingdon County -- \$60,000
Redevelopment Authority of the County of Monroe -- \$70,000
Redevelopment Authority of the County of Wayne -- \$70,000
Redevelopment Authority of the County of Somerset -- \$40,000
Redevelopment Authority of the County of Cambria -- \$40,000
City of Bradford -- \$32,634

Rural Development’s housing preservation grants help ensure that rural single- and multi-family housing is adequate, meets current safety standards and is accessible to people with disabilities. Grants are awarded to non-profits, (including faith-based organizations), local governments and Native American tribes, who in turn provide loans, grants or loan/grant combinations to individuals who need home repairs.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting www.rurdev.usda.gov.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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