



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces \$54 Million for 46 Community Facilities Projects in Rural Areas

## Projects in 24 States Include Libraries, Food Distribution Centers, Equipment for First Responders

WASHINGTON - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the selection of \$54 million in community facilities projects that are being funded immediately with federal funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that President Obama signed into law in February. Altogether, USDA has announced nearly \$234 million in Recovery Act funding for community facility projects to date. "The Obama administration is committed to revitalizing rural communities and bringing quality facilities such as hospitals, public buildings and community centers to small towns and cities that can benefit from new construction or upgrades to existing facilities," Vilsack said. "The Recovery Act funds we are announcing today will help create jobs and improve services available in rural communities throughout the country."

In addition to the \$54 million that USDA Rural Development is providing for the 46 projects announced today, recipients have raised \$9.1 million from other sources.

For example, in Renessalaer, Ind., the Jasper County Hospital was selected to receive a loan for \$15 million to modernize the critical access hospital. Currently, the facility functions with original 1960's operating rooms and lacks modern medical equipment and very limited space for physicians. The funding will be used to construct a new 24,000 square feet addition and renovate the current facility. In addition, the hospital will be equipped with a permanent MRI scan room and equipment, six new Operating Room Surgical Suites and other services such as a Sleep Lab, Oncology Treatment Area, Medical Records and office space.

Meanwhile, the Friends of the Library of Philipsburg Project in Centre County, Penn., will receive a \$200,000 loan and \$100,000 grant for the acquisition and renovations of a permanent library site. The relocation and renovation of the library will assist in creating an anchor for the revitalization of the town's main street area potentially attracting additional businesses to the area. The 9,000 square foot library site which will now be large enough to meet the needs of the community will meet all current codes and ADA standards.

The funding announced today is being provided through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities program, which helps finance essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities

include childcare centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Through this program, USDA ensures that such facilities are available to all rural residents. These funds are available to public bodies, non-profit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes.

More information about USDA Rural Development can be found at [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov) .

Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement.