



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development  
San Juan, PR

## NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Miguel A. Ramírez  
Phone: (787) 766-5095 X232  
E-Mail: [miguel.ramirez@pr.usda.gov](mailto:miguel.ramirez@pr.usda.gov)

### AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$9.8 MILLION IN GRANTS TO PRESERVE RURAL HOUSING: PUERTO RICO RECEIVES \$417,438.39

Washington, October 4, 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.”

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.

José A. Otero-García State Director for Puerto Rico indicated that seven municipalities and one non-profit organization in Puerto Rico received \$417,438.39 to repair 203 houses for. Cayey received \$40,487.60 to rehabilitate 30 houses; Ceiba received \$40,487.60 to rehabilitate 25 houses; Guanica received \$70,000.00 to repair 20 houses; Las Marías received \$70,000.00 to repair 8 houses; Maunabo received \$75,000.00 to repair 20 houses, Loiza received \$40,487.60 to repair 30 houses, San Lorenzo received \$40,487.60 to repair 30 houses and Ceiba Housing and Economic Development received \$40,487.99 to repair 40 houses.. A complete list of the selected recipient’s nation wide is posted on the USDA Rural Development web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

654 Plaza, Muñoz Rivera Ave., Hato Rey PR 00918  
PO Box 366106 - San Juan, PR 00936-6106  
Phone: (787)766-5095 • Fax: (787) 766-5844 • TDD: (787) 766-5332

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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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 contacting Arlene Zambrana, Rural Housing Program Director at (787) 766-5095 ext. 236 or Miguel Ramírez, Public Affairs Coordinator at (787) 766-5095 ext. 232.

USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.