



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development  
San Juan, PR

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$15.3 MILLIONS FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (PUERTO RICO RECEIVES \$50,000)**

WASHINGTON, July 17, 2009 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the selection of 145 recipients for more than \$15.3 million in grants to start or expand businesses in rural communities. Through Recovery Act funding, businesses will be able to access to critical capital that will help with start-up and working capital loans, building and plant renovations, transportation improvements, project planning and other business needs.

“These Recovery Act grants represent the Obama administration’s ongoing effort to ensure strategic investments and increase economic opportunities in rural America,” said Vilsack. “Small businesses play an important role in building strong communities while providing vital products and services to local residents. This funding will help spur important economic development and strengthen communities in dozens of states around the country.”

In addition to the \$15.3 million that USDA Rural Development is providing for the 145 projects announced today, recipients have raised \$16 million from other sources.

Pedro Gómez, USDA Rural Development Acting State Director for Puerto Rico, indicated that Puerto Rico received \$50,000 the award goes to the Universidad del Sagrado Corazón that thru the Women Business Institute, promotes the creation of business in rural areas of Puerto Rico.

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on February 17, 2009. It is designed to jumpstart the nation’s economy, create or save millions of jobs and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Act includes measures to modernize our

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

More information about USDA's Recovery Act efforts is available at [www.usda.gov/recovery](http://www.usda.gov/recovery). More information about the Federal government's effort on the Recovery Act is available at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

Additional information on the Rural Development's Programs can be obtained by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> or by calling Dana Quiles at (787) 766-5095 X 240 or Miguel A. Ramírez at X 232. USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.