



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$1 MILLION IN RURAL BUSINESS GRANTS

WASHINGTON, June 24, 2008 – Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced the selection of 12 rural communities in 12 states to receive nearly \$1 million in economic development grants.

“These grants will help local businesses and organizations strengthen their operations and help save or create jobs,” Dorr said. “Creating economic opportunity in rural areas will improve the quality of life for residents.”

The funds are being provided through USDA Rural Development’s Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) programs. The RBOG program finances training and technical assistance for business development in rural areas. For example, Jubilee Project Inc., in Sneedville, Tenn., will use a \$50,000 Rural Development grant to provide technical assistance and marketing services to promote locally grown crops and value-added products. The project is expected to create or save 59 jobs.

In Cordele, Ga., the Crisp County Board of Commissioners will use a \$19,000 Rural Development grant to update the county’s Unified Land Development Code. This update is expected to increase economic and residential development and improve public services for the citizens of Crisp County.

The following organizations have been selected to receive Rural Business Opportunity Grants. Funding of individual projects and recipients is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

Rural Business Opportunity Grant Recipients

Recipient	State	Grant Amount
The Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation	AZ	\$48,865
Desert Alliance for Community Empowerment	CA	\$50,000
Crisp County Board of Commissioners	GA	\$19,000
County of Alexander	IL	\$126,630
Northern Maine Development Commission	ME	\$165,000
Holmes County Board of Supervisors	MS	\$126,630
Impact Foundation	ND	\$50,000
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	NJ	\$200,000
Fay-Penn Economic Development Council	PA	\$50,000

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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

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Allendale County	SC	\$12,000
Jubilee Project, Inc.	TN	\$50,000
Northeastern Vermont Development Association	VT	\$91,875
Total		\$990,000

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$90 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> .

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