



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
One Credit Union Place, Suite 330, Harrisburg, PA 17110

Phone: (717) 237-2299, Fax: (717) 237-2191, TTY/TDD & Voice: 711; TTY/TDD only: 1-800-654-5984, Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/pa>

Contact: Rosemarie Massa (717) 237-2269

USDA Rural Development Awards Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation \$99,000 Rural Business Grant

Carlisle, PA – August 5, 2008 – Congressman Todd Platts and USDA Rural Development Area Director George Klaus presented a \$99,000 ceremonial check to Gary Eichelberger, Cumberland County Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC) Board Member and Chair of the Cumberland County Commissioners at a ceremony at the Good Life Café. Others attending included CAEDC’s Board Member Chris Gulotta and Executive Director, Omar Shute and local officials. Cumberland County Economic Development Corporation’s Omar A. Shute, Executive Director. The check represents a Rural Business Enterprise Grant which CCEDC will use to fund a small business revolving loan fund.

“Ninety percent of all businesses in Cumberland County are small businesses,” said Congressman Todd Platts. “These funds will target small businesses in Cumberland County and will help promote entrepreneurial activity to substantially improve the economic opportunities for rural residents, self-employed workers, and small business owners.”

“The Rural Development grant award will help stimulate much-needed economic development in Cumberland County,” said Gary H. Groves, Rural Development State Director. “It demonstrates the commitment Rural Development is making to the future of our rural communities,” added Groves.

The Rural Development funds will be used to provide revolving loan funds to the Cumberland Small Business Fund’s revolving loan pool which has targeted funds to 16 Cumberland County municipalities, including Carlisle Borough, that are most rural and in need of economic development. Small businesses will benefit by the much-needed capital to succeed and develop in these rural areas. An additional \$200,000 is provided by the recipient.

The Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program offers grants to public bodies, nonprofit corporations and federally recognized Indian tribal groups to finance and facilitate development of small and emerging businesses located in rural areas. The grant funds may be used for: 1) acquisition and development of land and the construction of buildings, plants and equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas and utility and service extensions; 2) revolving loan funds; and 3) fees for professional services, technical assistance, etc.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal agency for rural development needs by offering financial and technical assistance to individuals, businesses and communities. USDA Rural Development programs include funding for day care centers, fire trucks and other community facility projects; the purchase, construction or repair of homes; loans and guarantees to rural businesses to save or create jobs and renewable energy; and loans and grants for water and sewer utility projects. For more information on programs offered by USDA Rural Development, contact the Pennsylvania State Office at (717) 237-2299 or visit its website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/pa.

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