

Thomas Dorr
Agriculture Under Secretary for
Rural Development



The face of rural America continues to change, and USDA Rural Development is changing with it. No longer the "lender of last resort," we are rural America's

investment bank, a venture capital entity that creates jobs, promotes business development, and provides community facilities and affordable housing. Our goal is to build viable and sustainable rural communities.

In each of the last five years, the Bush Administration has invested about \$13 billion in rural America. Rural Development has provided housing, water and sewer funds, hundreds of millions of dollars in business loan guarantees, telecommunications, and electricity loans and grants. Public safety buildings, rescue equipment, libraries, town halls and access to broadband have all been made possible through the efforts of Rural Development.

One of the biggest challenges facing our nation is the need for renewable energy. In our ongoing effort to promote development of new energy sources, USDA Rural Development in 2005 funded 154 renewable energy grants and two renewable energy loans totaling \$32.3 million. Additionally, through the Value Added Producer Grant program, Rural Development provided \$2.8 million for 30 more energy related projects.



In Oregon

At USDA Rural Development we are truly committed to the future of rural communities, to helping them capitalize on new economic opportunities and improve their quality of life. We accomplish this by administering programs which help rural residents care for their families and ensure that businesses they start and communities in which they live have the best chance to thrive.



Helping create quality housing, good jobs, safe drinking water, and reliable and modern infrastructure for rural communities is our top priority. Rural Development employees in Oregon are working in partnership with federal, state, and local government

officials as well as the private sector to make certain our financial resources are invested wisely and have the greatest impact on improving the quality of life in rural areas of our state.

We want to thank our partners: the private, nonprofit, and government entities that have participated with us in many of these projects. With their assistance, we have helped many more people than we would have acting alone.

We recognize that the best solutions to rural problems are developed by those on the ground. We stand ready to assist Oregon's rural communities by being an active participant in their growth.

MARK SIMMONS
State Director
USDA Rural Development
Oregon

Housing

USDA Rural Development works with partners to realize dreams. . .

USDA Rural Development has access to mutual self-help housing programs, rental housing, homeownership loans, and home repair loans and grants.



Sandy Vista Farm Labor Housing



Amity Self-Help Housing

Infrastructure

People in rural places should enjoy the same benefits as the rest of the nation. . .

We address environmental problems including clean, safe, sanitary disposal of wastewater, solid waste removal and access to clean, safe drinking water. Our programs are designed for municipal systems, and individual household systems.



Manzanita Water Treatment Plant



City of Randon

Business

We provide rural Oregon with the tools to create and retain jobs. . .

USDA Rural Development opens the door through the use of our Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans and Rural Business Enterprise Grants, Intermediary Revolving Loan Funds, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvement Loans and Grants and Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grants.



City of Vernonia

Community Facilities

Any challenge can be overcome if we work together to solve it. . .

This means loans or grants for schools, libraries, health care facilities, equipment for fire departments, police stations, and so much more.



Pine Hollow RFPD



Creswell-Odell Community Building

Distance Learning and Telemedicine

We help preserve rural America's quality of life in the modern world. . .

The USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program makes loans and grants to develop the information superhighway in rural America by providing broadband facilities to rural schools, hospitals and medical clinics



Tom-State Telephone Co. Providing broadband access to Dufur

Oregon USDA Rural Development...

Committed to the future of Rural Communities

What is rural ?

Increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life for people in rural America is the goal of USDA Rural Development. In Oregon our programs mainly serve populations of 10,000 or less. However, programs such as farm labor housing do not have population limits; and we can reach areas up to 20,000 with our Community Facilities program and up to 50,000 with our Business programs.

USDA is working to eliminate substandard housing in rural Oregon by helping rural people buy, build, or rent decent housing. It also creates jobs by funding the growth and creation of rural businesses and cooperatives.

USDA Rural Development programs help rural communities build and improve community facilities such as schools, health clinics, and fire stations. USDA also has programs that help rural communities build or extend utilities, including water, electricity, and telecommunications services.

Program assistance is provided through direct or guaranteed loan, grants, technical assistance, research, and educational materials. To accomplish its mission, USDA Rural Development often works in partnership with state, local, and tribal governments, as well as rural businesses, cooperatives, and nonprofit agencies.

Fiscal Year 2005 Investments

Single Family Housing Programs.....	\$1,917,177
Community Programs.....	\$42,441,377
Multi-Family Housing Programs.....	\$14,619,033
Business Programs.....	\$780,335
Total.....	\$139,757,922

What the dollar investment stands for

- 11,061 The number of people directly affected by improved and up-to-date central water systems
- 7,996 The number of people assisted by improved wastewater systems
- 638 The number of families or individuals that became home owners

A telemedicine partnership Serving Rural Oregon



Rogue Valley Medical Center

The collaborative relationship of USDA Rural Development and Asante Health System in southern Oregon has provided physicians and patients in the region's most rural areas with access to outstanding medical care in their own communities.

This past year, Asante received nearly \$500,000 from USDA Rural Development to bring telemonitoring services to as many as 525 RVMC and Three Rivers Community Hospital (TRCH) Home Care patients each year. The technology allows healthcare workers to remotely monitor the vital signs of their sickest patients in rural areas, as data is automatically sent to central stations at the Rogue Valley Medical Center (RVMC) Home Care office in Medford. Asante expects to have the technology installed and operating this spring. It's an extraordinary technical achievement for a rural community, providing a means of daily contact to improve care and quality of life for hundreds of homebound patients.

Over the past six years, Asante has received four grants totaling \$2.3 million from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Distance Learning and Telemedicine program of USDA Rural Development.

In 2000 and 2001, Asante received more than \$830,000 to establish the Asante Regional Medical Network, a broadband network that connects Asante's two hospitals, RVMC in Medford and TRCH in Grants Pass, to more than 100 Josephine County physicians, four rural medical clinics, and Oregon Health and Sciences University in Portland.

"Asante's service area may be rural, stretching across nine counties in southern Oregon and northern California, but our healthcare technology is as state-of-the-art as any big city," says Roy Vineyard, President and CEO of Asante Health System.

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Working together to strengthen rural Oregon