



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$4 MILLION IN RURAL BUSINESS GRANTS

### [Recipient List](#)

WASHINGTON, July 17, 2008 – Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced the selection of 25 rural communities in 9 states to receive \$4 million in economic development grants.

“These grants reflect USDA’s ongoing commitment to supporting America’s rural communities,” Dorr said. “While USDA provides the funding, it is the local community that turns these funds into new job opportunities to generate economic vitality for their community. Our commitment is to support these local economic development efforts.”

The funds are being provided through USDA Rural Development’s [Rural Business Enterprise Grant \(RBEG\)](#) program. Examples of eligible fund use include: Acquisition or development of land, easements, or rights of way; construction, conversion, renovation, of buildings, plants, machinery, equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas, utilities; pollution control and abatement; capitalization of revolving loan funds including funds that will make loans for start ups and working capital; training and technical assistance; distance adult learning for job training and advancement; rural transportation improvement; and project planning.

For example in Mason City, Iowa, funds will be used by the North Central Iowa Growth Partnership, LLC., to create a Revolving Loan Fund to assist small businesses impacted by the June 2008 heavy rains and flooding within Cerro Gordo County. The funding will be used for rebuilding and planning efforts by the businesses affected by this disaster.

The Port of Bremerton in Port Orchard, Wash., plans to use funds to provide technical assistance to future tenants of the Port’s Sustainable Energy and Economic Development project. This project is expected to create 87 jobs.

A complete list of grant recipients is available on the USDA Rural Development web site at [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov). Funding for individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

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

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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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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