

## **“Rural Development Breaks 30-Year Building Drought in Gates County, North Carolina”**

**Outline of Need:** Gates County Department of Social Services has been occupying a building that was constructed in 1957. This facility was no longer adequate in terms of office space since two to three people are occupying a space adequate for only one person.

**How Rural Development Helped:** With pressing needs for space and facilities, Gates County officials approached USDA, Rural Development with the proposal to purchase land and construct a facility to be used and occupied by the Gates County Department of Social Services. Rural Development assisted Gates County with an application that would become a solid plan to build a facility that would provide adequate space for the DSS employees to provide their many services to the citizens of Gates County. This building has space available for each staff member to have a private office to assist with the clients’ needs, two conference rooms, restroom facilities, and a large lobby/waiting area, with the entire facility being accessible to the handicapped. The building was also constructed with an “A” roof, which allows for expansion in the future when the need arises.

**The Results:** USDA, Rural Development offered Gates County a long term low interest loan in the amount of \$1,900,000 to make this project a reality. This is the first new building for Gates County in thirty years, according to Gates County officials. The facility offers more than 9800 square feet of very functional space. Rooms were sized based on activity requirements unique to each area and the design provides for acoustical privacy and the confidentiality of client records as well as space for equipment and storage needs. Rooms are arranged to facilitate security, maintain privacy, and provide an efficient staff flow. This low wealth county is very proud of this facility and appreciative of Rural Development’s efforts to make their dream a reality.

The project would not have been possible without the benefit of the long term financing offered by Rural Development. This project is a fine example of Rural Development’s motto “Committed to the future of rural communities.”



**New Facility**