



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$4 MILLION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING *902 Jobs to be Created or Saved*

WASHINGTON, July 15, 2008 – Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Doug Faulkner today announced the names of six groups that have been selected to receive nearly \$4 million in loans to spur economic development and create or save nearly 902 jobs in six states and the Western Pacific.

“Strengthening businesses in rural America is the first step toward generating economic growth and employment opportunities for rural citizens,” Faulkner said. “The Intermediary Relending Program is one of many tools USDA Rural Development uses to support the creation of jobs and generate economic growth in small communities.”

Community Works North Dakota, in Bismarck, was selected to receive a \$750,000 loan to help finance housing developments in a 14-county area. The developments are expected to create 150 jobs and aid five businesses. The Intermediary Relending Program funds will be used to provide gap financing for the construction project. The Sierra Economic Development Corporation in Auburn, Calif., has been selected to receive \$725,989 that it will re-lend to 50 businesses in North Central California. It is estimated that 180 jobs will be created or saved.

The Intermediary Relending Program provides money to community development or regional planning groups that re-lend it to local businesses. The loans must be used to start new businesses, expand existing ones, or create or retain jobs in rural areas. Funding of individual borrowers is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the loan agreement. The following is a complete recipient list.

Intermediary Relending Program

Recipient	State	Loan Amount
Sierra Economic Development Corporation	CA	\$725,989
RCAP Solutions Financial Services, Inc.	MA	\$500,000
Community Works North Dakota	ND	\$750,000
Northeast Oregon Business Development	OR	\$485,000
Lake Area Improvement Corporation	SD	\$750,000
Pacific Islands Development Bank	Western Pacific	\$750,000

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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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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