

Results of the Community Facilities Program FY 2009-2011

Healthcare, Education, and Public Service and Safety Investments
Help Rural Communities Thrive



Spurring Economic Growth in Rural America

On June 9, 2011, President Barack Obama established a White House Rural Council, the first entity of its kind to focus on policy initiatives for rural Americans. I was honored to be named the chair of the Council and work directly with my Cabinet colleagues from across the Federal Government to improve the economic conditions and quality of life for millions of rural Americans.

President Obama has already established an impressive record in rural areas, which the Rural Council is building on. The Administration's record includes substantial investments in rural America to modernize our Nation's infrastructure, provide broadband access to millions of Americans, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, and provide affordable health care.

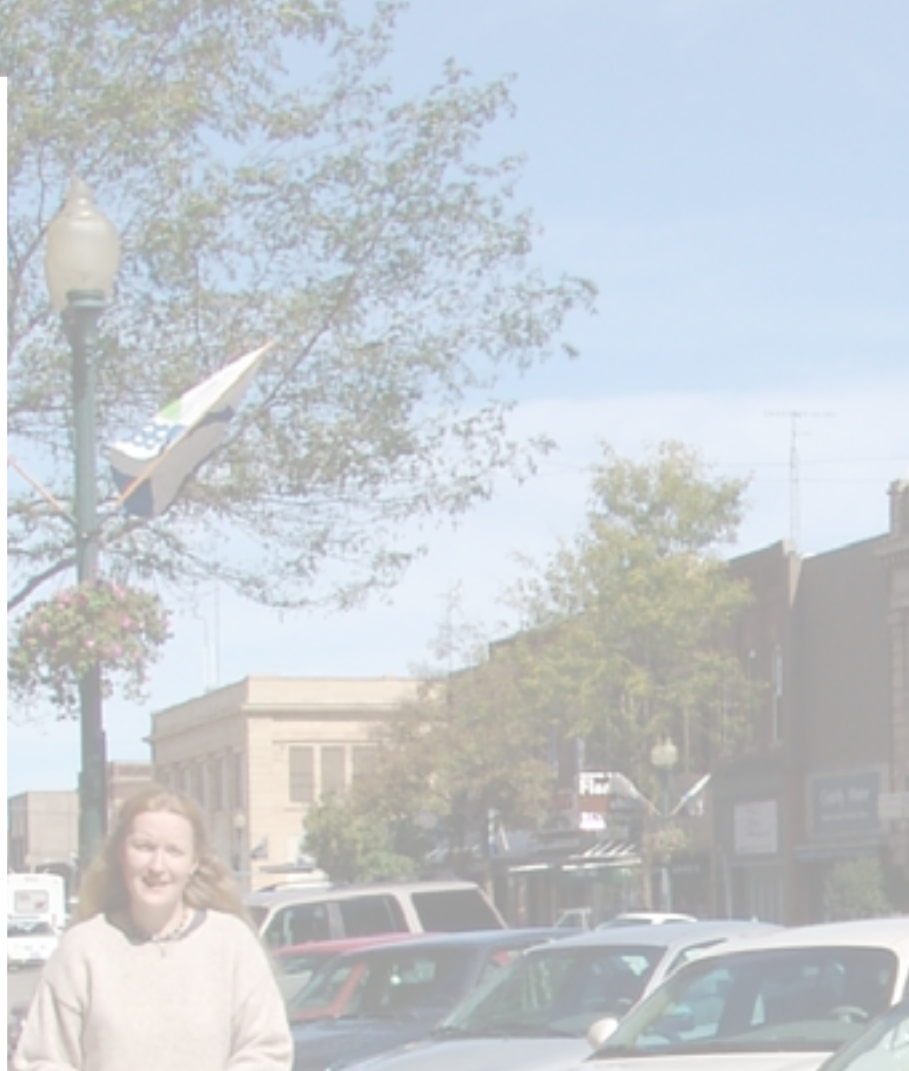
The issues of economic growth, prosperity, and the creation of quality jobs are on the minds of every citizen. My colleagues and I recognize the importance of increasing the availability of capital for community infrastructure investments. This is absolutely essential in order for small towns and rural areas to attract new businesses, spur growth, and create jobs.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development's Community Facilities Program plays an integral role in ensuring that rural communities can compete in today's economy by providing the tools and services necessary to attract and sustain economic growth.

In the end, Americans are counting on us to ensure that young people growing up in rural places have a bright future ahead – that they can envision a tomorrow that includes a job and a vibrant rural community that they can call home; a community that has the safety, educational and healthcare services necessary to ensure a quality living standard. I am proud to be a part of successes demonstrated by the Community Facilities Program and the support it has given to meeting the goals set by the Rural Council.



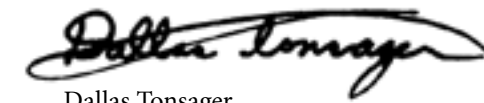
Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture



37 Million Americans Served

Since fiscal year 2009, Rural Development's Community Facilities Program has helped more than 37 million rural Americans address essential challenges in health care, education, public service and public safety by financing projects through loans, grants, or loan guarantees.

As the only Federal agency with the primary responsibility of serving rural areas, USDA Rural Development takes pride in addressing needs that are specific to local communities. The long-standing relationships established through direct personal contact with these communities through our State and area offices have allowed us to administer the Community Facilities Program with great success. Many Rural Development employees are members of the communities they serve and possess expert knowledge of the challenges and opportunities that exist in their region. Rural Development remains committed to building on the progress we've made over the last 3 years to strengthen rural America.



Dallas Tonsager
Under Secretary for Rural Development



Overview of Community Facilities Programs

USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities Program supports essential infrastructure and services for public use in rural areas of 20,000 in population or less. Financing for Community Facilities projects covers a broad range of interests, including healthcare, education, public safety, and public services. There are three major Community Facilities Programs: Community Facilities Direct and Guaranteed Loan Programs, Community Facilities Grants, and the Rural Community Development Initiative. (See Glossary of Terms, page 33.)

Examples of Essential Community Facilities

Healthcare	Rural Health Clinics Dental Clinics Assisted Living Facilities Hospitals Rehabilitation Centers Health Equipment
Education	Libraries Public and Charter School Additions or Repairs Educational Camps for the Impaired Museums Child and Adult Care Centers Distance Learning
Public Safety	Rescue and Ambulance Service Buildings Fire Trucks Civil Defense Buildings Emergency Mobile Communications Police Vehicles Emergency Rescue Gear
Public Services	Municipal Buildings Sprinkler Systems Select Infrastructure for Industrial Parks Public Transportation Services Farmers Markets Food Pantries

Community Facilities Success Stories

Alabama

Increasing Community Services

ARC of Baldwin County supports children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The organization's needs were twofold: build a training facility to teach skills to individuals with intellectual disabilities to allow them to live

and work in their community and ensure that the facility could also serve as an evacuation shelter for individuals with special needs and their caregivers.

USDA Rural Development provided loans through the Community Facilities Program to construct the new facility and purchase specialized equipment. The new facility provides vocational opportunities and task training for 185 special needs individuals. The building was also built to withstand a category 5 hurricane and will serve as an evacuation shelter for over 370 special needs evacuees and caregivers.

Alaska

Supporting Investments in Infrastructure

Coffman Cove is a tiny town on Prince of Wales Island in southeast Alaska. The community began as a logging town and is adjacent to the site of an ancient Native village once called "Tuxaank" by the Stikine Tlingit Tribe.

Like Prince of Wales Island as a whole, Coffman Cove residents contributed a vast harvest of timber during the second half of the 20th century, during which their community remained isolated, connected to its neighbors on the island by logging roads, and to the larger towns of Ketchikan, Wrangell, and Petersburg by floatplanes, small boats, and irregular State Marine Highway ferry service.

With the timber industry's sharp decline in the 1990s, Coffman Cove joined other local governments on Prince of Wales Island in advocating and organizing development of new infrastructure to improve its residents' lifestyles and economy and to provide for future growth of employment, income, and population.

In 2010, Coffman Cove organized the North End Ferry Authority to develop expanded, regular ferry service to Prince of Wales Island via the nearby port. The Authority plans to add a ferry link to Ketchikan and shore-side transit and parcel express service on both Prince of Wales and Mitkof Islands.

The Ferry is to start passenger and vehicle service this summer, with four weekly round trips between Coffman Cove, Wrangell, and South Mitkof Terminal, and three weekly trips between Coffman Cove and Ketchikan. Service will continue in winter, with three weekly round trips between Coffman Cove, Wrangell, and South Mitkof. Regular year-round transit service will connect Prince of Wales communities of Craig and Klawock with ferry arrivals and departures at Coffman Cove and will also connect Petersburg with South Mitkof.

A low-interest, long-term loan was provided by USDA Rural Development through the Community Facilities Program and a short-term loan by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation to purchase a vessel in March 2012.

Together with the very recent completion of paved State highways and forest highways between Coffman Cove and other Prince of Wales communities, and between Petersburg and South Mitkof, the new ferry will provide new opportunities for transportation and economic development throughout the service area.



Increasing Access to Behavioral Health Services

The Pinal Hispanic Council offers behavioral health services to all individuals in need. The Council's facilities in Eloy, Arizona, were cramped and inefficient. Staff had difficulty finding space to meet and serve clients. USDA Rural Development provided a loan through the Community Facilities Program to build a complex large enough to serve the needs of current clients and allow for future growth. Today, staff at the facility offer treatment for many behavioral and health issues.

Work Training Center, Inc., of Butte County, California, provides vocational and recreational services that allow people with disabilities to become more independent, develop job skills, and participate in the community while earning a salary and improving the quality of their life. The nonprofit has three work centers in California, including the Feather River Opportunity Center in Oroville.

The Center provides a variety of services, including light industrial assembly, bulk mailings, labeling, and packaging. It was originally designed to allow for 60 developmentally disabled trainees. However, it has experienced a higher demand for services, and current enrollment is well over 70 individuals and growing. In addition to the need for more space for training programs, Feather River also wanted to expand warehouse space and the loading dock to accommodate large trucks. Both of these improvements would allow them to increase services to the many agriculture-based businesses in the Sacramento Valley.

Through the Community Facilities program, USDA Rural Development provided a loan and grant to construct an annex to the Center's warehouse, upgrade the loading dock, and purchase equipment for the building. The newly expanded warehouse and loading dock have allowed Feather River to assist more workers with disabilities. Since completion of the annex, Feather River has obtained contracts with 25 new small businesses. These contracts created 14 jobs for individuals with disabilities working as part of an integrated crew and 2 new staff positions.

Arizona

Supporting Emergency Services

The Black Canyon City Volunteer Fire Department, with 8 full-time firefighters and 32 volunteers, needed a new station. USDA Rural Development supported the city's efforts by providing financing through the Community Facilities Program. The new station has room for all of the town's emergency vehicles, office space, a reception area, a kitchen, and three bunk rooms. The station was built on land close to the interstate highway to facilitate rapid deployment. The department's insurance rate has decreased significantly now that all of the equipment can be secured.

Three days after Fire Chief Tom Birch and his crew moved into the new fire station, they were called upon to help with a fire raging in the brush land to the north. "We had a call from the State forester asking if we could help by providing a pre-stage location for their rapid response team," said Birch. "There would have been no way we could have provided that kind of support and assistance before," he added. "We had the space to be able to accommodate the equipment and the personnel. Our efforts helped ensure that the brush fire did not become a bigger disaster."

Arkansas

Supporting Educational Opportunities

KIPP: Delta, Inc., is a national public charter school system that was opened in Arkansas in 2001. The first two groups of KIPP students who graduated in 2010 and 2011 had 100 percent acceptance into 4-year colleges. KIPP made a decision to expand to another community in the Delta following its earlier successes. KIPP opened a new school in Blytheville, an area where less than 10 percent of the residents have college degrees. USDA Rural Development provided a guaranteed loan to help construct a new school in the community.

Increasing Access to Assisted Living Facilities

The St. Francis County Community Development Corporation is a nonprofit located in Forrest City, Arkansas. The organization identified a need for an assisted living facility in St. Francis County, a designated Persistent Poverty County. There is currently no licensed assisted living facility in the service area. The region has lost several manufacturing companies over the last decade and is heavily dependent on farming. The facility, currently under construction, will be geared toward lower income residents that meet the State of Arkansas Medicaid Living Choices Waiver Program guidelines. The project will not only serve aged rural residents, but also will provide 16 full-time jobs.

California

Improving Food Bank to Meet Rising Needs

Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County, in Watsonville, California, was struggling to meet the growing demand for services in a community where the unemployment rate is very high. USDA Rural Development provided a direct loan for improvements in efficiencies, including an expansion to the warehouse, truck dock, and the parking lot. The improvements helped Second Harvest increase its capacity in order to store 1.6 million tons of food and assist 55,000 clients each month. The parking lot improvements also made Second Harvest more eco-friendly. The operations installed a system to collect and filter runoff before water enters the nearby Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary.

Colorado

Supporting Early Education

Bayfield Early Education Program in Colorado was at capacity and dozens of children were on the waiting list. USDA Rural Development provided a grant and a loan through the Community Facilities Program to help purchase land and construct a larger educational center. The new Bayfield Early Education Program facility nearly doubled the number of children that can attend preschool classes.

Supporting Needed Services

Loaves and Fishes Food Bank in Idaho Springs, Colorado, serves about 70 families a week. It is the only food bank in Clear Creek County providing this type of assistance locally. USDA Rural Development provided a direct loan and a grant to buy the property the food bank uses to service its clients in Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties.

Connecticut

Supporting Educational Facilities

Woodstock Academy serves the towns of Woodstock, Eastford, Brooklyn, Pomfret, Union, and Canterbury in northeast Connecticut. The academy faced a dual challenge of aging facilities and a growing student population. USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities loan to expand an access road, parking areas, and athletic fields.

Supporting Emergency Communications Services

The Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications Center in Killigly, Connecticut, had been housed in a small room at the Danielson State Police barracks.

USDA Rural Development provided a direct loan through the Community Facilities Program to buy an old church and construct a secure, handicapped-accessible dispatch center. The new facility includes a conference room, quiet rooms, offices, a kitchen, sleeping areas, and state-of-the-art communications technology.

MOT Charter School is located in Middletown, Delaware. The school lacked a full-sized gymnasium for competitive sports and general physical education. Through the Community Facilities Program, Rural Development provided funding to build a gymnasium, a larger library, and two additional classrooms. The new addition doubles the size of the library and the gymnasium will include seating for all-school assemblies. The two new classrooms will be used to provide science, technology, engineering, and mathematics courses.



Delaware

Expanding Access to Health Care

La Red Health Center provides access to medical services to non-English speaking residents of Sussex County, Delaware. The majority of the patients that visit La Red are Hispanic and work as poultry farmers and processors. As the Hispanic population in Sussex County grew, so did the number of patients visiting the Center. The facility, which served 6,500 patients in 2009, anticipates that the number of patients will grow to 14,000 in the coming years.

La Red Health Center operates in an area with a shortage of health care services and is designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center. Rural Development funds helped operators purchase land, construct a larger facility, and acquire new equipment for expanded healthcare services. Today, the center is fully handicapped accessible, is in compliance with Federal privacy laws, and has an improved patient-to-doctor ratio. Residents have better access to exam rooms, counseling rooms, behavioral health services, and dental health services.

Florida

Investing in Infrastructure to Attract Businesses

As a result of water breaches and years of wear, many of the roads in the city of Marianna, Florida, had large holes and loose asphalt, creating not only public safety hazards, but proving to be an impediment to economic development. USDA Rural Development supported street and drainage improvements through a Community Facilities loan. The infrastructure updates created safer streets and improved storm water drainage in the area, thereby positioning the city for future growth.

Supporting Preventative Healthcare

The Senior Citizens Council of Madison County, Inc. provides a variety of services to the senior population in northern Florida. A Community Facilities grant from USDA Rural Development made possible the purchase of kitchen and fitness equipment to support the elder community. The kitchen equipment will also allow for the preparation of larger quantities of food, which will make it possible to reinstate the "Meals on Wheels" program, which provides meals to seniors who are unable to travel to the facility.

Georgia

Supporting the Safety of Rural Areas

USDA Rural Development provided a direct loan through the Community Facilities Program to build a new four-bay fire station in West Point, Georgia. The area is experiencing growth following the opening of an automobile manufacturing plant. The new station will be closer to the center of the city and will protect senior citizen apartments, the downtown area and millions of square feet of manufacturing, retail, and commercial spaces. The station will improve fire protection for the area and improve emergency response times throughout the city.

Increasing Access to Quality Healthcare

The Hospital Authority of Miller County in southwest Georgia used a Community Facilities direct loan to restructure debt and to make improvements and renovate sections of the



facility. Improvements will include upgrades to the hospital and nursing home heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system, plant equipment, electrical systems, storage and cooler systems, nursing stations, emergency department, and resident rooms. An oxygen and vacuum system will also be added to the nursing home.

The Hospital Authority of Miller County serves Miller, Early, Baker, Calhoun, Seminole, and Decatur counties. The area is medically underserved, and 26 percent of the population of Miller County lives below the poverty level. The improvements support healthcare delivery while helping attract and retain qualified physicians and staff.

Hawaii

Increasing Access to Community Services

The Maui Food Bank's warehouse was in need of renovation. The facility was not up to current building codes, the roof was damaged, and more storage space was needed. USDA Rural Development provided a grant through the Community Facilities Program to assist with a renovation which enabled the food bank to handle more perishable items and stock additional products. The Maui Food Bank's warehouse now complies with building codes, the storage capacity was increased by 30 percent, and the roof no longer leaks. The Food Bank serves more than 11,000 clients per month through a network of agencies in Maui County.

Supporting Access to Quality Education

Kanu O Ka Aina Learning Ohana (KALO) is a group of grassroots leaders, educators, and community supporters who believe that the perpetuation and revitalization of native Hawaiian culture, language, and heritage is central to empowering Hawaii's indigenous people. USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities loan to KALO to design and build an educational complex. Before construction, the students were being taught in tents and recycled shipping containers. The new facility will allow KALO to increase enrollment. Programs hosted in the educational complex will reach an estimated 2,000 participants annually, with an additional 10,000 participants receiving instruction through on-site digital technology.

Idaho

Improving Community Safety

The Wilder Fire Department in rural Idaho is made up entirely of volunteers. Wilder's previous station was built out of



Canyon Owyhee School Service Agency (COSSA) is an education cooperative in Idaho that provides technical, alternative, and special education programs to students in 5 school districts. For over 30 years, COSSA programs and functions have been scattered throughout a number of facilities, often in inadequate space, requiring staff and students to travel long distances.

USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities grant to update classroom equipment to meet training needs in support of a new regional technology and education center funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, local school bonds, and community donations. Through agreements with area community colleges, high school students are allowed to earn transferable college credits or obtain industry-specific certifications in addition to receiving workforce development training.

concrete blocks in 1966 and did not meet current emergency service needs. Due to the low height of doors and short length of truck bays, new fire trucks would not fit in the building. The facility also lacked adequate training space, storage, and parking. USDA Rural Development provided a grant and loan from the Community Facilities Program to help fund the construction of a new fire station. The new station will enable the trucks to be stored properly and will have additional space for storage and training.

Illinois

Supporting Improvements to Healthcare Facilities

Fairfield Memorial Hospital has provided residents of south-eastern Illinois with inpatient, outpatient, and emergency healthcare services – including a critical access hospital, skilled nursing unit and nursing home assistance – for 60 years.

Hospital administrators identified a number of improvements that needed to be made to the hospital. In response to the needs, project leaders proposed to build a new medical arts complex to house physician offices. They approached USDA Rural Development for financing through guaranteed and direct Community Facilities loans for the majority of the funding.

The City of Fairfield and Wayne County also contributed funding. A final piece of financing was needed to keep the project affordable: an interest-free, 10-year loan for 740,000 from Wayne White Counties Electric Cooperative, which used funds provided to it through USDA Rural Development's Rural Economic Development Loan Program (REDLG). The cooperative had partnered 13 years earlier with the hospital to provide funding from the same source for a hospital expansion.

Thanks to these partnerships, doctors have moved from two temporary buildings into a modern facility that is helping the hospital recruit additional specialists to the area. The three-county area served by the hospital now offers the quality healthcare needed to make the area an attractive place to work and live, and the hospital will maintain its role as a major employer in the area.

Addressing Need for a Food Store

The Village of Palestine, a town of 1,400 in eastern Illinois, saw its grocery store close in March, 2011. The gas station was the only place left to buy basics, like milk and eggs. Village leaders looked for ways to capitalize on their farmers market, where local vendors sold garden plants, seasonal produce, and homemade breads, pies, noodles, and cakes. The Village had built the shell of a building downtown 2 years earlier. It was underutilized.

USDA Rural Development provided a grant through the Community Facilities Program to finish the interior of the building and add handicapped accessible public bathrooms, heating, and air-conditioning. Now the farmers market will be able to open in the early spring when the first asparagus and mushrooms poke from the ground, and stay open until late fall when the last of the pumpkins, apples, and cider has been sold. Local farmers, gardeners, and bakers will have a reliable place to sell their produce and wares every Saturday morning.

The Village plans to use the building to host classes when it is not in use as a market. Palestine will also use the building for recreational events, like concerts, art shows, wine festivals, antique shows, talent shows, square dancing, and flea markets.

Indiana

Supporting Rural Services

Silver Lake needed equipment to clean out the town's storm water sewers. USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities grant to purchase the equipment needed to clean the sewers and drains. The grant helps the community address a critical community infrastructure need supporting the quality of life in rural Indiana by ensuring the community's storm sewers are operable.

Assisting Community Safety

Tipton, Indiana's fire truck had a faulty air brake and needed other repairs. USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facility loan to Tipton to assist with the purchase of a new fire truck, which will improve fire response times and reliability.

Iowa

Expanding Access to Public Safety

The Rural Emergency Services Training Center, outside of Ottumwa, provides training and education to firefighters in rural Iowa, thanks to a Community Facilities grant. Rural Development funding provided a "live-burn" practice building that will be used by as many as 50 fire departments and first responder units to meet training requirements.

Improving Health Care

Belmond Community Hospital officials in north central Iowa are using Community Facilities funding to renovate and expand the facility to better serve the area. When completed, the hospital will have a new entrance, emergency room, surgery area, acute-care quarters, therapy area, helicopter pad, an additional clinic and more office space. In addition, the project will enable the hospital to add 24 permanent staff positions.

Kansas

Increasing Access to Healthcare Technology

Great Plains Health Alliance, Inc. received a USDA Rural Development loan and loan guarantee through the Community Facilities Program to assist 22 rural Kansas hospitals establish electronic medical record systems. When the transition is completed, the hospitals will offer clinical telemedicine services, including real-time virtual consultations, diagnostic examinations, digital diagnostic imaging, remote monitoring, and other specialty services. By using USDA financing, Great Plains Health Alliance will be able to purchase the needed equipment as a group, which will reduce costs. It also will ensure that those hospitals will meet the Federal mandate to convert to electronic medical records by 2014.



Parents and business owners in Hiawatha, Kansas, wanted to provide safe, affordable, day care for the children of their community. To accomplish this, Little Hands, Inc. partnered with USDA Rural Development, local government, a nonprofit, and a private lender to plan, finance, and build a day care center. Once completed, the new facility will house classrooms for children from 6 weeks old to 13 years old, a multi-purpose room for a before and after school program, an activity area, and a clinic.

The new center will help attract employers and employees to the area. Additionally, area businesses anticipate fewer staff absences caused by child care concerns. The project will create 16 new jobs, including 11 full-time employees and 5 part-time staff members.

Kentucky

Supporting Efficiency Improvements to Maintain Community Services

Kentucky River Community Care is a community mental health provider that serves eight Appalachian counties from the City of Hazard.

USDA Rural Development, through a Community Facilities Program grant and loan, provided funds to install a geothermal heating and cooling system to reduce energy consumption and pollution. The system provides heating and cooling services, reduces annual CO2 emissions by an estimated 149 tons, and saves Kentucky River Community Care approximately 22,000 in annual operating costs.

Expanding Access to Health Services in Persistent Poverty Areas

Magoffin County, a persistent poverty county in eastern Kentucky, is using a USDA Rural Development loan and grant to build a health department that consolidates operations into one location. The building will house a clinic, health education center, office space, records storage, disaster response service, indigent assistance, and early childhood development services. The Magoffin County Health Department will provide improved service for 4,000 patients and serve 1,000 new patients.

Louisiana

Supporting Community Readiness

The Louisiana town of Golden Meadow is struggling to survive and maintain its aging facilities. The Town Hall, levee, and drainage systems were damaged by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. An upgraded emergency facility was needed in the event of another disaster.

USDA Rural Development provided the town with a loan and grant to construct a multi-purpose building to serve as the town hall and the emergency operations center. The facility is used by the South Lafourche Port Commission, the U.S. Coast Guard, and other emergency personnel. Office space is also available for various State and local agencies and includes sleeping quarters for use during emergencies. The building was constructed on an elevated concrete foundation and stilts to protect against flooding during hurricanes.

Increasing Educational Opportunities

The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana needed additional space to house its museum, continuing education program, and meeting rooms. The tribe was operating out of a trailer which did not meet local building codes or Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. In addition, the trailer was inadequate to house artifacts. USDA Rural Development partnered with the tribe and a local lender to help finance a new facility by providing direct and guaranteed loans.

The result was construction of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Cultural and Education Resource Center in Marksville. The complex has an artifact restoration division and museum area to help preserve Indian heritage and increase knowledge of Native American history. It also includes an auditorium, conservation and restoration laboratory, gift shop, meeting rooms and distance learning equipment.

Maine

Supporting Community Services

The Progress Center in Norway, Maine, needed assistance in its effort to renovate a building to include a community kitchen to feed the needy. USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facility grant to help with the renovation project. As a result, the new kitchen is serving 200 meals 3 times weekly. The kitchen staff uses locally grown foods from the Farmers' Collaborative, thereby supporting local agriculture while feeding local families. The kitchen also employs 10 individuals with disabilities.

Supporting Rural First Responders

The Jonesport Volunteer Fire Station serves the towns of Jonesport and Beals and has mutual aid agreements with the towns of Addison, Columbia Falls, and Jonesboro. The station's ceilings had begun to cave in and doors were not wide enough to accommodate equipment. This was particularly hazardous to the surrounding rural communities during long Maine winters, since two trucks remained outside, drained of water so they would not freeze.

With the help of a Community Facility grant, a fire station was built to house six vehicles, a meeting and training room, a laundry room and storage space. The new building complies with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Maryland

Supporting Infrastructure to Create Job Opportunities

The Community Facilities Program funded water and sewer infrastructure for the Dorchester Technology Park in Cambridge, Maryland. The city has experienced job losses over the last decade, so the city leaders are hoping to attract technical industry and businesses by promoting the community's location along the central Atlantic seaboard to create new jobs. The Dorchester County economic development director

anticipates that 485 jobs will be created when the park is fully completed.

Supporting Regional Economic Development

Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland provides regional community and economic development services to Worcester, Somerset, and Wicomico Counties. Rural Development provided financing through the Community Facilities Program to consolidate the organization's offices and administrative building under one roof to make the organization more efficient. The Council serves economically distressed areas with low median household incomes, high poverty, and unemployment rates. In the new location, the Council and its partners offer career counseling, job assistance services, and transportation services.

Massachusetts

Supporting Tribal Services

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in Massachusetts provides government services from two trailers that are not big enough to host meetings. In addition, the tribe does not have a library or a healthcare center. USDA Rural Development provided the tribe with a loan to build a government center, library, and healthcare building. The new structure will create spaces for administrative offices, health services, a gymnasium and fitness center, a library, a community hall with kitchen, the tribal court, and areas for tribal elders and youth. For the first time in the tribe's history, members will be able to host meetings in their own space, creating significant savings in rental and utility costs.

Expanding Access to Unique Educational Experiences

The Montessori School of the Berkshires in Lenox, Massachusetts, provides unique educational opportunities to area children. Since the school's inception in 2006, its enrollment has grown. The school's management team sought to create a larger campus to teach children from the age of 18 months to the eighth grade level. Working with USDA Rural Development, the school secured a Community Facilities direct loan and loan guarantee to build a modern, sustainable building and equipment. Today, the school building sits on 42 acres and includes trails, play areas, and a courtyard for outdoor learning. The new facility can safely and easily support projected growth in the student population.

Michigan

Ensuring Public Safety

Lee Township, a small community located in Michigan's southwest corner between Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, and Lake Michigan, worked with USDA Rural Development to build a new fire station. With the help of a USDA loan and grant,

the community built a station that includes four vehicle bays, offices, living space, and a meeting area. The station also has a radio room, air tank storage room, and a decontamination room.

Minnesota

Increasing Access to Health Care Services for Seniors

The Harmony River Living Center, in Hutchinson, Minnesota, is a new 108-room senior care facility that was financed with a direct loan and a loan guarantee through Rural Develop-

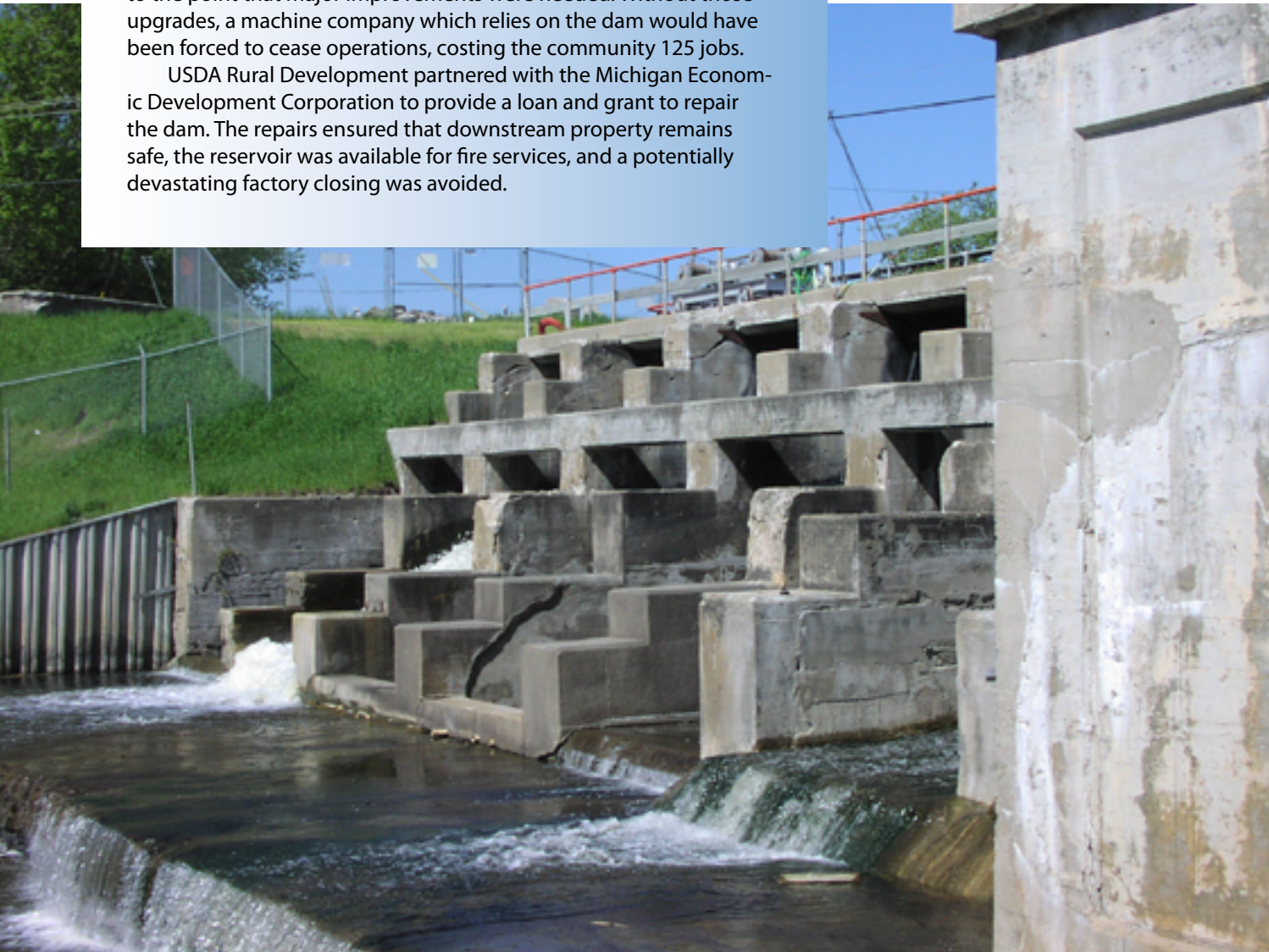
ment's Community Facilities Program. Harmony River offers residents spacious rooms, handicapped-accessible bathrooms, wide hallways, and units dedicated to specialized services, such as memory care and rehabilitation. Construction of the new facility resulted in the hiring of 50 new staff, bringing the total number of staff at Harmony River to more than 200 employees.

Improving the Health and Safety for Adults with Disabilities

ProWorks, Inc. in Litchfield and Dassel, Minnesota, provides jobs to individuals with developmental disabilities and related conditions. ProWorks participants work on projects for area businesses, including nut and bolt assembly, document shredding, clock assembly, and cleaning. Participants also develop culinary skills and computer proficiencies and participate in community activities. Rural Development provided funding to help purchase two new forklifts that will safely move materials at ProWorks facilities.

Beaverton, in Gladwin County, Michigan, is a town with only 1,100 residents. The town relies on the waters of Ross Lake. For more than a century, the dam controlling the lake's water level has been essential for flood control and providing the water necessary for fire suppression. The dam had deteriorated over the past couple of decades to the point that major improvements were needed. Without those upgrades, a machine company which relies on the dam would have been forced to cease operations, costing the community 125 jobs.

USDA Rural Development partnered with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to provide a loan and grant to repair the dam. The repairs ensured that downstream property remains safe, the reservoir was available for fire services, and a potentially devastating factory closing was avoided.



Mississippi

Supporting Public Safety

The town of Terry, Mississippi, does not have a fire station, therefore relying on the county to provide emergency services to its residents. USDA Rural Development provided a loan to the town to construct a public works building and a fire station. Once the project is completed, the fire station will decrease the cost of homeowner's insurance.

Increasing Access to Quality Services

Rosemary's Daycare and Learning Center is a nonprofit organization that provides affordable childcare for low-income families in Humphrey County, Mississippi. Its facility in Belzoni needed to expand to meet the needs of the community. USDA Rural Development awarded Rosemary's Daycare a Community Facilities grant and loan to construct a new building that will give the organization the ability to serve more children.

Missouri

Improving Healthcare Facilities

Thousands of families in Missouri depend on the care provided by Macon County Samaritan Memorial Hospital. Unfortunately, the existing hospital had no private patient rooms and its surgical rooms did not meet today's health care facilities standards.

USDA Rural Development provided a direct and guaranteed loan to finance the construction of a new health care facility and renovate existing hospital space. As Samaritan Hospital nears completion of Phase I of the construction project, it has opened a portion of the new facility, which includes 25 patient rooms, a reception area, admitting, emergency services, radiology, surgery, laboratory, pharmacy, and nursing areas. Phase II of the project – which includes renovated areas for housekeeping, maintenance, medical records, and a cafeteria – is currently underway.

The hospital employs 215 full-time employees and provides critical health care services to a primary service area of almost 16,000 residents in northeast Missouri. The project created employment opportunities for land surveyors, flooring companies, contractors, and construction crews.

Expanding Patient Care

Western Missouri Medical Center, a county hospital in Warrensburg, was constructed in 1964 and needs to expand and be renovated. USDA Rural Development provided financing through a Community Facilities loan and guaranteed loan to help build a new facility and make upgrades to the current center. Western Missouri Medical Center is constructing a patient tower that features private rooms, an expanded radiology department, Internet access, decentralized nursing stations with medical computer systems, multi-language medical education videos, a hospital pharmacy, and kitchen area. The

improvements will focus on making patients and their families feel as close to home as possible while ensuring enhanced patient care.

Montana

Expanding Access to Health Services

Liberty Place in Whitehall, Montana, provides rehabilitation and assisted living services to patients with traumatic brain injuries. To expand services to transitional-care patients who did not need full-time supervision, but still were unable to live alone, Liberty Place sought to modernize an old nursing home that was for sale. Project administrators received a direct loan from Rural Development's Community Facilities Program to buy and rehabilitate the nursing home. The opening of Liberty Place's provided an economic boost for a small town and permanent jobs for caregivers. Even better, it gives patients a sense of independence in a safe environment and a chance at recovery.

Supporting Services for Those in Need

Polson Loaves and Fish Food Pantry is a member of the Montana Food Bank Network and provides nutritious food to those in need across Lake County. This volunteer organization serves hundreds of families and distributes thousands of pounds of food annually. In 2010, the food pantry was moving to a new, larger location. Through a Community Facilities grant, Polson Loaves and Fish purchased a walk-in freezer to supplement storage capacity, and a forklift to move donations. In addition, Polson Loaves and Fish plans to expand service to the community by providing nutrition and cooking classes.

Nebraska

Meeting Healthcare Needs

Fillmore County Hospital in Geneva, Nebraska, did not meet current local and State building code requirements. In addition, the hospital was not accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Rural Development provided a loan through the Community Facilities Program to build a new hospital. Today, the hospital serves over 6,000 rural residents and is meeting current and anticipated future needs.

Supporting Access to Educational Tools

Rural Development, through a Community Facilities grant and direct loan, supported the Pawnee City, Nebraska, library initiative. Pawnee City had outgrown its old library. Funds were used to purchase land for a new library and cover costs associated with construction, planning and design, engineering, and legal fees. The new Pawnee City Public Library features adult and children reading areas, a circulation desk, a well-equipped meeting room, and storage space. The library also has new computers, scanners, and access to the Internet.



Casey Ketchum, age 23, was born with cerebral palsy in Miles City, Montana. Casey adapted to his challenges, graduated from high school, spent 7 years working at a local farm and ranch store, and was attending classes at Miles Community College when his seizures took a turn for the worse.

His condition forced him to quit both work and school, and live under the care of his mother – a difficult strain on his family that he wished to alleviate. Casey was put on a waiting list at Liberty Place because the facility was full. In 2009, a direct loan from Rural Development's Community Facilities Program helped Liberty Place purchase an abandoned facility and rehabilitate it to meet the organization's needs. In January of 2010, Casey was at the top of the waiting list and the first person to move into the new facility. Not long after he moved in, he found his companion, Hailey, at the humane society. She's a cow-dog turned house-dog who adopted Casey and acts as a friend and a protector. She's rarely far from his side, especially after he's had a seizure.

Outgoing and friendly, Casey smiles broadly when asked about being able to move to Liberty Place. "I like it here," he says. "The people that work here know what they're doing and can give me the help I need, and it provides some relief to my mother."

Nevada

Support Rural Services

Residents of the City of Yerington needed an afterschool program. With its nearly 13 percent poverty rate, the community was struggling to support its youth. A survey showed that children lacked adequate nutrition or afterschool supervision. The need was great, but money was lacking.

In 2000, funds from USDA Rural Development and a Community Development Block Grant helped the community purchase and renovate a former car dealership and convert it into the Boys & Girls Club of Mason Valley.

As the club has grown, USDA Rural Development has continued to support this nonprofit through its Community Facility Loan and Grant programs. Over the years, USDA contributed funds for remodeling and safety projects, the purchase of the new facility, debt restructuring, and equipping a commercial kitchen.

In 2009, USDA Rural Development provided a grant to purchase a truck that has a refrigeration unit, which is used to pick up food from the Food Bank of Northern Nevada in Reno and deliver it to the Boys & Girls Club Food Bank. Nearly 300 youth attend the club daily. More than 36,000 meals are served annually and, every month, 200 families receive meals from the Food Bank. The Attic

Thrift Store receives 21,000 in net revenues annually which go to support club functions.

New Hampshire

Supporting Essential Services

The Ossipee Concerned Citizens, Inc. (OCC), Center in New Hampshire, is home to the community's Women, Infants, and Children's (WIC) program, a children's daycare center, and a congregate dining room. Serving over 200 meals daily, the OCC kitchen prepares meals for the daycare, congregate diners, and "Meals on Wheels" participants. USDA Rural Development provided the OCC with a Community Facilities grant to purchase a walk-in refrigerator/freezer to replace several inefficient and aged refrigeration units.

New Jersey

Supporting Community Services

SCARC, Inc., is a nonprofit organization in New Jersey dedicated to the support and empowerment of people with developmental disabilities and their families. USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities loan to finance a community center for the organization. The facility enabled SCARC to consolidate multiple day programs, and provide job coaching and staff training in one location. The facility provides specialized service and training for 65 adults over the age of 21. On weekends, the Center has a respite program for autistic and disabled children ages 6 to 15.



Whitefield Public Library was one of the few public buildings in the rural New Hampshire town of the same name. At 106 years old, the structure was antiquated, lacked hot water, and was no longer in compliance with accessibility laws. Its single bathroom doubled as office space, and the basement was moldy.

USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities direct loan and grant to help restore and expand the library. The addition is fully accessible, includes a meeting room, a kitchen, an office, bathrooms, a children's area, and a media center.

Increasing Access to Education

Operators of the Sussex County Charter School for Technology in Sparta, New Jersey, were renting space and wanted to build or purchase a building. The school was overcrowded and enrollment was on the rise. USDA Rural Development provided direct and guaranteed loans to help build a larger school. The new campus includes three buildings – two for classrooms and labs and the third which serves as a cafeteria, gymnasium, and auditorium.

New Mexico

Working Together to Expand Access to Quality Learning Environments

A partnership between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of New Mexico, and USDA Rural Development enabled the rural community of Baynard to expand and upgrade the local library. The funding supported an expansion to house a librarian's office, a reception desk, new restrooms, new reading areas, a children's study area, a computer lab, and a multi-purpose room. The improvements also include upgrades to the library's interior lighting, new roofing, new wall and floor finishes, and new exterior doors and windows.

New York

Supporting Healthcare Resources I

AIDS Community Resources, Inc., is a nonprofit organization providing education and support services to those infected with HIV/AIDS in Cayuga, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, and St. Lawrence Counties in New York State. USDA Rural Development provided the organization a Community Facilities direct loan and grant for an outreach van.

The van includes a mobile Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Sexually Transmitted Disease testing unit and provides prevention services not previously available to clients. Staff for the organization travel across these northern counties administering tests, participating in educational forums, and distributing prevention material. The van is equipped with a shower, restroom, and a meeting space.

Supporting Healthcare Resources II

Mercy Flight serves as an emergency response helicopter for upstate New York. Susan Randolph was 30-weeks pregnant with twin boys when she went into premature labor. The labor and delivery staff at Olean General Hospital recognized that Susan needed specialized medical care and summoned Mercy Flight to take her to the Women's and Children's Hospital in Buffalo. The boys, Joseph and Bryan, were delivered that night and spent the next 54 days in the hospital.

Twenty months later, Joseph was found face down in his grandmother's pool without a pulse or breathing. Family members began CPR and called 911. The local hospital was able to resuscitate and stabilize Joseph before transferring him for



North Carolina

Improving Access to Community Facilities

The town hall of Elk Park, a rural mountainous community in North Carolina, has its town offices in an 80-year-old single-family house. Despite attempts to update the facility over the years, it does not comply with Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements and needs improvement. USDA Rural Development provided a loan and grant to help finance a new town hall. In addition, Rural Development staff provided assistance in designing the new facility. Once completed, the town's administrative employees, public works

employees, and the police department will work in the new facility. The building will also provide office and meeting space, a parking lot, restrooms and will meet Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.

Supporting Healthcare Services

USDA Rural Development provided a direct loan through the Community Facility Program for the construction of a medical office building and ambulatory care facility in Hoke County, North Carolina. Currently, most residents travel outside of the county for healthcare services. The Hoke Health Pavilion project will provide urgent care, digital x-ray, digital mammography, ultrasound, pharmacy, family practice, primary care practices, and specialty practices. Once completed, the project will create 40 or more new jobs in professional, clinical, and related support fields.

North Dakota

Supporting Facilities to Meet the Demands of Modern Healthcare

Jamestown Regional Medical Center is a new, 25-bed critical access hospital with a helipad, 2 emergency drive-through bays, 3 surgery suites, and 11 pre-operation rooms with state-of-the-art equipment. USDA Rural Development helped finance the project through a direct loan and a guaranteed loan. The patient rooms are spacious and include high-tech beds that electronically send the patient's weight and status to the nursing station and have lifts to assist in getting patients in and



USDA Rural Housing and Community Facilities

Administrator Tammye Treviño (r) and Rural Development South Carolina State Director Vernita F. Dore pose with high school student Ty'Sheoma Bethea at the groundbreaking for improvements at Dillon Middle School in Dillon, South Carolina. A letter by Ty'Sheoma to President Barack Obama helped spur the project, and she was invited to be a guest at the President's 2009 State of the Union Address.

The Guadalupe County Hospital in Santa Rosa, New Mexico, is one of two emergency care facilities located between Albuquerque and Amarillo, Texas. Guadalupe County is a Federally Designated Health Professional Shortage Area because it has difficulty attracting medical professionals to live in the area. USDA Rural Development provided a loan to Guadalupe County through the Community Facilities Program to build a state-of-the-art hospital and medical clinic. The new medical facility will provide up-to-date treatment and will also attract qualified medical professionals to the facility.

specialized care, again aboard Mercy Flight. After a couple of weeks at the Women's and Children's Hospital, Joseph was discharged with no permanent side effects. Now 7 years old, the boys are big fans of Mercy Flight and stop by the Olean base on a regular basis to visit the crews and helicopters.

USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities loan and loan guarantee for the purchase of a new helicopter. This emergency vehicle will primarily serve Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties and will serve the entire region as a backup to Mercy Flight.

Encouraging Education Access

The Carthage Free Library has served the community since 1910 and needed to be updated to meet the needs of its growing population. USDA Rural Development provided a grant and a loan through the Community Facilities Program to help the New York State community expand and renovate the library. The project will include installing a new heating and cooling unit, installing energy efficient lighting, and making the building handicapped accessible. The addition will also provide more public access to computers, a community room for programs and youth activities, and a space designated for use by area teens.

out of beds. There are also accommodations for family members who want to stay past visiting hours. Also, the medical center's birthing center is the only one available to residents for 100 miles.

The hospital's goal is to continue to add new services, including oncology, urology, and neurology, so that central North Dakotans will not have to travel to Bismark or Fargo. The hospital will employ over 200 full-time staff and will also provide indirect jobs to the area.

Ensuring Public Safety in Growing Communities

West Fargo, North Dakota, has experienced tremendous growth in housing and commercial development on the south side of the city. This growth presented challenges to the fire department, located on the north end of the city. USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities direct loan to construct a second fire station on the south side. The new facility has five truck bays, offices, and space for future expansion. The West Fargo Police Department also uses the building as a substation.

Ohio

Providing Access to Affordable Healthcare

Family Healthcare, Inc., sought to construct Meigs County Health Center in Pomeroy, Ohio, to provide healthcare and dental care to citizens of southeastern Ohio, regardless of income. USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities direct loan to help finance the facility. The building has 11 exam rooms, a treatment room, and five dental surgery rooms.

Supporting Medically Underserved Areas

USDA Rural Development provided a direct Community Facilities loan to a nonprofit agency, Muskingum Valley Health Centers, to build a medical office building in this medically underserved area of southeastern Ohio. Partnering with the Village of Malta, which donated a former school property for the



Public Safety: USDA Rural Development funded 2,190 public safety projects for a total of \$458,292,588, including this new patient transport vehicle for the isolated community of Whitestone, Alaska.

project, the new Malta Medical Center includes exam rooms, dental stations, and medical, dental, and x-ray equipment. The center, which is the only primary care facility in Morgan County, schedules 20,000 to 25,000 patient visits per year. As a result of the increased demand for services, nine new positions have been added to Muskingum Valley's staff.

Oklahoma

Supporting Rural Healthcare

Low-income residents of Langston, Oklahoma, needed access to improved, affordable health care. USDA Rural Development helped by providing a Community Facilities Program combination loan/grant to renovate a vacant school building and connect it to a small, existing health clinic. Now that construction is complete, the Mary Mahoney Health Center has expanded from three to nine exam rooms, and includes a centralized waiting area and six new Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant restrooms. The former school building was converted to a dental clinic with four surgery rooms. In 2011, the center treated 1,200 patients. The center charges fees for services to clients on a sliding scale based on family size and income. In addition to offering comprehensive health services, the center has also created several jobs and plans to create six more.

Ensuring Community Safety

Constructing a training area for emergency service personnel was a priority for the City of Hominy. No facilities were readily available to provide emergency responders with adequate training. USDA Rural Development partnered with the community to finance the construction of an addition. Rural Development

funds were used to purchase construction materials and equipment, such as a communications system, tables, chairs, and a projector. Hominy's first responders contributed all of the labor to complete the project.

A 20-by-22-foot, Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant classroom was constructed within the existing fire station. All emergency services providers now have immediate access to space and equipment to allow training in a timely manner.

Oregon

Investing in Community Healthcare

The Lake District Hospital provides healthcare for approximately 45,000 residents in a remote area of southeastern Oregon. USDA Rural Development awarded a guaranteed loan and a direct loan to support construction of an addition to accommodate emergency, imaging, pharmacy, surgery, laboratory, and cardiopulmonary departments. Community support and investment in the hospital upgrades will allow the facility to recruit talented medical professionals to stay in or relocate to the area.

Helping Rural Services Conserve Energy and Stay in Business

The Union Library in northeastern Oregon struggled to find money in its limited budget to address growing problems with

an aging facility, while still providing vital public services. The library, built in 1912, had an aging and inefficient furnace, and a failing air conditioning system. USDA Rural Development awarded a Community Facilities grant to the City of Union to purchase and install efficient heating and cooling units for the library.

Pennsylvania

Supporting State-of-the-Art Healthcare

USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities direct loan to Endless Mountains Health Systems for the construction of a hospital in Bridgewater. Once completed, the residents of this rural, mountainous area of northeastern Pennsylvania will have access to a multi-healthcare service specialty suite, a six-bay emergency department with an airborne infection isolation room, cardiac and trauma treatment rooms, and a helipad.

Replacing Infrastructure Following a Disaster

In the fall of 2011, remnants of Tropical Storm Lee caused widespread flooding in the Northeastern United States. The Susquehanna River overflowed, closing roads and bridges, and forcing more than 100,000 people to evacuate their homes. It was the worst flooding to hit Luzerne County in over 40 years. The West Pittston Library was one of many facilities inundated by the Susquehanna flooding; and its computers, books, and furniture were destroyed. USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities grant to replace the lost items.

Puerto Rico

Supporting Community Services

Hogares Teresa Toda, Inc., a nonprofit organization in the municipality of Loiza, Puerto Rico, operates a foster home for young girls who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. The organization provides medical, social, and mental health services; dental care; education; transportation; tutoring; and supervised studies. USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities grant to help Hogares Teresa Toda purchase a passenger van, a walk-in refrigerator/freezer, and a plastic roof for the snack area.

Developing Quality Healthcare

Corporación de Servicios de Salud y Medicina Avanzada (COSSMA) is a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive primary healthcare services. USDA Rural Development provided COSSMA with Community Facilities loans to build a new handicapped-accessible healthcare clinic in the municipality of Cidra. The facility provides direct patient assistance, such as medical, nursing, pharmaceutical, dental, and WIC services. The second floor houses the administrative offices and support services.

Rhode Island

Supporting Improvements to Public Safety Services

The City of Central Falls, Rhode Island, needed new public safety equipment and facilities. USDA Rural Development provided five separate Community Facility grants for a thermal imaging camera for the fire department that helps firefighters locate victims during an emergency, two Segway vehicles for the police department to help officers move quietly and safely throughout the community, a generator, and computer equipment for city hall to allow staff members to work efficiently and maintain continuity of operations during power outages, and an upgrade for the local community center.

Increasing Access to Healthcare

The WellOne Healthcare Center began serving the residents of Burrillville, Rhode Island, more than a century ago. By 2010, the facility needed an upgrade to provide primary medical and dental care to patients. USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities direct loan and loan guarantee to help the Center purchase a building and retrofit it as a medical center. The facility's addition and modernization project will improve healthcare services for a rural population of about 4,000.

South Carolina

Encouraging Educational Opportunities

USDA Rural Development awarded Dillon County School Facilities Corporation a Community Facilities loan and grant to finance new construction or renovations for three schools in Dillon County, South Carolina. Funds will be used to construct a new pre-kindergarten through second grade facility in Latta, a new middle school in Dillon, and renovate and expand an existing high school in Lake View. The new and upgraded facilities will serve more than 4,000 students.

Increasing Access to Educational Resources

The Beaufort County library project received a USDA Rural Development loan and a grant to provide educational, informational, and economic opportunities for the community of St. Helena. The project will initiate programs that will help local residents learn to read. The new library branch in St. Helena will provide access to computers and other resources. In addition, the branch library will partner with the historic Penn Center, where in 1862 an African-American school and cultural facility was established to educate freed slaves, to create awareness of its mission, and increase the number of visitors. The new library will serve as a center for education, connect the community to its past, and provide future opportunities for residents.

South Dakota

Creating Efficiencies on Tribal Lands

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate is a federally recognized Indian tribe located on the Lake Traverse Reservation in Northeastern South Dakota and Southeastern North Dakota. Tribal members travel long distances to receive public services. USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities loan to construct an administration building that will consolidate programs and services under one roof. The proposed facility will help tribal members with social, education, and housing needs. Centralized services at the facility will create efficiencies and also help the tribe save money on rent, utilities, and building maintenance. The facility is under construction.

Supporting Health Care for the Aged

In Brandon, South Dakota, there are two assisted living facilities, but there has never been a nursing home. Residents needing skilled nursing care have had to leave the community to get it, placing added strain on families.

USDA Rural Development partnered with Bethany Lutheran Home for the Aged, LLC, to provide a direct loan and a guaranteed loan for a new nursing facility in Brandon. This project helps elderly people who need nursing care stay closer to families and friends. It also brings skilled jobs in nursing and administration to the community.

Instead of buying furniture from institutional suppliers, Bethany contracted with a local woodworker to design and build the night stands, wardrobes, and head boards. Bethany is also working with a local window covering business to design window treatments. This project's support of local businesses is helping to strengthen the rural economy.

Tennessee

Increasing Internet Access to Rural Communities

Nearly 80 percent of rural public libraries in Tennessee provide the only free access to the Internet. Many of these communities have some of the highest unemployment rates and lowest rates of home Internet access in the Nation. USDA Rural Development, through a Community Facilities grant, helped two State agencies add computer labs with free public Internet access in 70 rural libraries across the State. The partnership between USDA Rural Development, the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, State Library and Archives, and the Office of the Secretary of State, expanded computer and access to the Internet at libraries that serve more than a million rural Tennesseans.

The partnership increased the capacity of these key community facilities to assist the unemployed and underemployed with job searches, job applications, and career training. Beyond meeting immediate needs, the libraries will now have the capacity to provide additional business development services, workforce training, and educational opportunities.

Texas

Supporting Healthcare Access for Future Generations

The Golden Plains Community Hospital in Borger, Texas, no longer met the medical needs of the community, did not adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, and lacked a landing zone for helicopters. USDA Rural Development provided a direct Community Facilities loan and partnered with a bank to guarantee a loan to finance construction of a new hospital and demolish the old one. The new facility has a helicopter landing zone, 25 critical care patient rooms, expanded operating rooms, emergency services, and support buildings. It will allow the hospital to retain existing medical professionals and recruit new ones. The hospital employs about 180 staff.

Supporting Quality Educational Institutions

Located in Stephenville, Texas, Huston Academy taught students in a warehouse where conditions were noisy, hot in the summer, and cold in the winter. Make-shift classrooms were created by using room dividers as walls. Only one bathroom was available for the entire student population and the staff. Hoping to improve the educational experiences of the students, School Board members approached USDA Rural Development and received a loan through the Community Facility Program to build a new school. Today, the school serves rural students from 14 school districts in grades 9-12 and includes 10 classrooms, a lab, office space, a cafeteria/auditorium, and a kitchen.

Utah

Renewing and Expanding Rural Education

Soldier Hollow Charter School in Midway, Utah, limited enrollment to encourage hands-on learning and maintain smaller classroom sizes. A waiting list grew as the school's positive reputation spread throughout the community. The school recognized the need to expand, but despite its strong financial history, it was unable to get lenders to finance an addition. USDA Rural Development stepped forward with a Community Facilities loan to add eight new classrooms to the school. The addition enables the school to increase enrollment from 150 students to 250 students and add more staff.

Expanding Health Care Access

The community of North Logan and the residents of Cache County, Utah, were in need of a clinic. USDA Rural Development provided a loan to purchase a building to house the Cache Valley Community Health Center. The Center is a unique "one-stop-shop" facility that serves the uninsured, underinsured, and the insured. Low-income families are charged on a sliding scale, dependent on family size and income. The Center offers multiple methods of care, including a full-time pharmacy, preventative and primary medical care, dental treatment, and behavior health services.



The entire staff of Carroll County, Virginia, poses with equipment the county has obtained through the Community Facilities Programs.

Vermont

Investing in Community

The town of Granville (population 303) used a USDA Rural Development Community Facilities loan and grant to convert a former school into an energy-efficient town clerk's office. The new municipal center is more structurally sound, far more efficient, handicapped accessible, and – unlike the previous Town Clerk's Office – it has indoor plumbing.

Developing Family Support Services

USDA Rural Development helped the Springfield Area Parent Child Center expand services and reduce energy costs by helping finance an energy-efficient facility that will provide parenting classes, daily child care, and other services. Rural Development funds were also used to purchase equipment and furnishings for the center. The addition enabled the center to increase the number of children it can serve.

Virginia

Increasing Access to Dental Care

USDA Rural Development provided a loan and grant to fund the construction of the Augusta Regional Dental Clinic. The clinic serves low-income families in Virginia's Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta Counties. The facility includes eight treatment rooms and office space. Augusta Regional Dental Clinic offers dental services to children who are eligible for Medicaid and adults who are income-eligible. Services include preventative and restorative dentistry, as well as limited root canals and extractions.

Supporting Healthcare

Boxwood Regional Recovery Center provides substance abuse treatment in the Northern Virginia region. The center had been operating out of a former motel that lacked a fire sprinkler, a heating ventilation and air conditioning system, and also had a leaky roof. It was small and individuals often had to be turned away. USDA Rural Development provided Boxwood with a low-interest loan through the Community Facilities



Supporting Essential Food Services: USDA Rural Development partnered with the City of Torrington and Goshen County, Wyoming, to purchase a new “Meals-on-Wheels” vehicle and kitchen equipment for the Torrington Senior Center. The vehicle contains hot and cold storage units to keep the food at the correct temperature during delivery. It has enabled the program to deliver meals to about 100 elderly or handicapped residents in Torrington and the surrounding communities. Additionally, through this project, approximately 100 meals a day are served at the Torrington Senior Center.

Program to build a new facility to serve 35 cities and counties in Northern Virginia. The facility houses 38 patients that participate in a 28-day rehabilitation program. It also has eight detoxification rooms, offices and administrative space, counseling rooms, a nursing station, cooking facilities, laundry quarters, and indoor and outdoor recreation areas.

The center also works directly with the regional courts system for those ordered to seek treatment in lieu of jail time.

Washington

Supporting Education and the Environment

The Northwest Indian College, an accredited 4-year college in Washington that serves students from various tribes around the region, worked with USDA Rural Development to build a Natural Resources Lab using green construction methods and materials.

Northwest Indian College obtained financing through Rural Development’s Community Facilities Program and completed construction in 2010. Students interested in the college’s Bachelor of Science in Native Environmental Science degree program will use the facility for classroom space, laboratories, interactive space, and storage.

Working to Increase Access to Services

The Loon Lake Food Pantry and Resource Center located in Washington’s rural Stevens County started over 20 years ago with a group of people who saw a need to feed hungry families and seniors in their community. The food bank started from

the trunk of a car, moved to a trailer home, and eventually evolved into a building where food could be stored properly. The facility allowed for more food, volunteers, and resources to combat hunger, but the food bank struggled with storage capacity.

Loon Lake Food Bank sought assistance from USDA Rural Development through a Community Facilities grant to expand the existing facility to provide more adequate dry food storage. Rural Development worked with other partners for financing to complete the project. The food bank now has the capacity to take in more food and keep it longer. The addition also provided volunteers who load and unload trucks protection from rain and snow.

West Virginia

Investing in Life Saving First Responder Equipment

The Gassaway Volunteer Fire Department in Braxton County received a USDA Rural Development grant through the Community Facilities Program to purchase an all-terrain vehicle. Local firefighters, accustomed to the challenging rural terrain and rugged mountains of West Virginia, wanted the vehicle to reach patients or fight brush fires in remote, difficult-to-access areas.

Five days after receiving the new rescue vehicle, the firefighters were participating in a parade when a veteran and member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Color Guard collapsed on the street. The streets were clogged with parade participants, sidewalks were jammed with spectators, and the nearest operable Automatic External Defibrillator was at the end of the parade route. The firefighter driving the new all-terrain vehicle got the defibrillator and drove the narrow path to the incident scene a full four blocks away in less than 3 minutes. Thanks to the first responders and the Community Facilities investment in an all-terrain vehicle, the veteran was revived.

Connecting Rural Communities to First Responders

The Wayne County Building Commission received a USDA Rural Development loan through the Community Facilities Program to construct a new emergency 9-1-1 call center building and install communications equipment. The center is under construction.

Wisconsin

Supporting Modern Healthcare Services

Park View Homes, Inc., is a “continuum-of-care” campus in the Village of Woodville, Wisconsin. The campus includes a skilled nursing facility, senior care apartments, and a children’s learning center. USDA Rural Development approved a Community Facilities direct loan and a guaranteed loan to construct a new wing for the nursing facility and renovate the apartments and childcare center. The upgrades move Park View Homes towards the “community-based care model,” a patient-centered philosophy that fosters personal well-being, promotes independence, encourages socialization and participation in activities, and provides residents with a sense of community.

Connecting Rural Residents to Services

The Village of Pepin used a USDA Rural Development Community Facilities loan and grant to construct a municipal building and community center. The facility houses the offices for the village clerk, the police department, the director of public works, the Pepin Area Ambulance, and rescue personnel. The community center, which is Americans with Disabilities Act compliant, includes a meeting room and a kitchen. The center is used by local clubs and organizations for meetings, events, and community events.

Wyoming

Improving the Quality of Living for the Aged

In the town of Sheridan, Wyoming, the elderly population includes nearly 17 percent of the community. USDA Rural Development assisted the community in its effort to build a skilled nursing care facility using the “Green House” model. Green House Living for Sheridan is a project that offers

residential-style living quarters to senior citizens. The cottages provide nursing home-type care in a “home-like” atmosphere. The cottages accommodate 8-12 residents in private rooms with personal bathrooms and an open kitchen. The facility offers seniors a safe environment in which to live fulfilling lives supported by quality care.

Supporting Essential Food Services

USDA Rural Development partnered with the City of Torrington and Goshen County, Wyoming, to purchase a new “Meals-on-Wheels” vehicle and kitchen equipment for the Torrington Senior Center. The vehicle contains hot and cold storage units to keep the food at the correct temperature during delivery. It has enabled the program to deliver meals to about 100 elderly or handicapped residents in Torrington and the surrounding communities. Additionally, through this project, approximately 100 meals a day are served at the Torrington Senior Center.

Western Pacific

Supporting Educational Services

The College of Micronesia-Federated States of Micronesia needed a reliable vehicle to transport students to activities and events around Pohnpei Island. USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facilities grant that helped the school buy a 30-passenger bus from a local vendor. The purchase served the college’s needs and helped to stimulate the local economy.

Providing Quality Educational Facilities Responsibly

USDA Rural Development partnered with other Federal agencies to provide a direct loan to the Guam Community College to build a state-of-the-art library. The new facility is open for students to study, conduct research, and work on projects. It doubles the size of the previous library, is handicapped-accessible, and is the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified building on campus. The library features digital temperature controls, air quality monitors, energy-efficient windows and lighting, and furniture made of recyclable materials. More than 4,500 students are enrolled in secondary, post-secondary, adult high school, and apprenticeship programs at Guam Community College.

Supporting Essential Healthcare Technologies

The Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital (LBJ) in American Samoa received a USDA Rural Development Community Facilities grant to purchase equipment that will enhance laboratory services within the hospital. LBJ Hospital serves the residents of the entire territory of American Samoa and is the primary healthcare provider on the Island. The equipment will give the lab staff the ability to detect and recognize harmful organisms and bacterial resistance. On-site testing will also be possible, minimizing the turnaround time for lab results.

USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Program

Funding Obligations

FY 2009-2011

Program Obligations by Sector

Sector	Number of Projects*	Amount Obligated (\$)
Healthcare	581	1,787,971,897
Education	954	672,181,196
Public Safety	2190	458,292,588
Public Services	1,255	881,249,723

*Number of projects funded is lower than total number of loans/grants on sector charts due to multiple CF funding sources for each project.

Number of People Served*

State	Number of People Served	State	Number of People Served
Alabama	276,209	Nebraska	405,968
Alaska	332,961	Nevada	69,429
Arizona	219,513	New Hampshire	620,899
Arkansas	817,385	New Jersey	211,641
California	1,159,024	New Mexico	184,396
Colorado	344,887	New York	827,987
Connecticut	331,897	North Carolina	2,361,048
Delaware	72,614	North Dakota	320,691
Florida	227,664	Ohio	720,319
Georgia	714,367	Oklahoma	252,015
Hawaii	177,220	Oregon	220,342
Idaho	272,861	Pennsylvania	1,716,809
Illinois	1,555,733	Puerto Rico	158,813
Indiana	498,518	Rhode Island	257,408
Iowa	717,544	South Carolina	757,521
Kansas	237,586	South Dakota	455,678
Kentucky	1,184,801	Tennessee	2,749,333
Louisiana	284,185	Texas	1,119,804
Maine	852,000	Utah	210,441
Maryland	161,237	Vermont	935,685
Massachusetts	1,150,905	Virgin Islands	-
Michigan	2,415,812	Virginia	1,068,891
Minnesota	896,251	Washington	386,414
Mississippi	1,043,096	West Virginia	1,274,989
Missouri	2,090,132	Western Pacific	212,917
Montana	393,720	Wisconsin	1,299,651
		Wyoming	92,618

*Based on the population of project location

Note: Rural Development provided 97 Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) Grants totaling \$17,204,940 during FY 2009-2011. The funding obligations for the RCDI program are not reflected in these tables. Additional information about the RCDI program can be found at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

Healthcare

State	Direct Loans	Amount (\$)	Guaranteed Loans	Amount (\$)	Grants	Amount (\$)
Alabama	4	6,647,630			1	138,500
Alaska	13	76,668,000	2	10,000,000	10	1,530,095
Arizona	7	33,489,817	5	23,238,296	1	78,523
Arkansas	10	25,762,000			20	957,300
California	11	48,345,970	2	1,450,000	18	811,866
Colorado	4	958,500	2	2,625,500	21	573,720
Connecticut	1	7,000,000				
Delaware	2	2,999,000			3	181,100
Florida	5	23,354,400			2	139,900
Georgia	7	10,279,492			3	200,000
Hawaii	3	3,546,922	3	11,665,000	5	400,355
Idaho	6	946,200	4	347,000	4	131,600
Illinois	9	13,474,554	3	6,040,000	3	135,340
Indiana	11	64,594,280	3	9,400,000	5	696,120
Iowa	21	103,445,000	9	37,775,342	30	2,255,504
Kansas	7	17,565,905	7	24,560,067	3	2,152,700
Kentucky	19	88,293,132	2	34,339,406	8	762,149
Louisiana	5	7,039,000	2	1,526,500		
Maine	17	7,861,000	2	4,500,000	14	751,539
Maryland	1	920,000			3	202,350
Massachusetts	2	1,218,580	1	250,000		
Michigan	7	36,332,000	4	22,677,000	7	253,100
Minnesota	22	76,421,000	8	31,145,000	3	97,800
Mississippi	5	7,208,917			3	259,200
Missouri	27	97,804,602	8	33,598,720	12	1,454,769
Montana	10	11,080,350	2	5,800,000	7	576,020
Nebraska	19	70,540,700	8	32,895,000	7	332,280
Nevada	1	206,437			1	49,500
New Hampshire			3	1,293,000	10	312,190
New Jersey	2	2,805,000			1	15,496
New Mexico	2	12,400,000			1	6,965
New York	4	5,928,890	1	11,500,000	4	388,360
North Carolina	20	120,343,740	1	800,000	5	685,210
North Dakota	10	48,166,862	12	41,577,698	1	18,750
Ohio	7	19,699,000	4	7,769,500	2	126,000
Oklahoma	7	13,013,534	5	7,950,000	6	790,025
Oregon	4	9,698,334	2	12,389,000	2	100,000
Pennsylvania	17	79,885,100	5	28,699,672	3	200,000
Puerto Rico	2	1,238,000	1	1,144,480	2	267,893
Rhode Island	2	6,600,000				
South Carolina	7	25,328,350			2	450,000
South Dakota	12	15,671,750	4	10,725,000	4	298,750
Tennessee	9	10,372,000			14	834,300
Texas	21	24,887,892	5	32,677,500	17	639,309
Utah	1	2,100,000			3	405,400
Vermont	4	2,234,900	1	340,000	4	131,288
Virgin Islands						
Virginia	7	7,479,440			15	780,020
Washington	4	19,136,000			8	431,000
West Virginia	2	2,310,000			3	115,200
Western Pacific						
Wisconsin	12	22,463,250	2	8,346,400	4	385,000
Wyoming	3	10,658,900				
Total	415	1,306,424,330	123	459,045,081	305	22,502,486

Education

Public Safety

State	Education		Public Safety	
	Direct Loans	Amount (\$)	Guaranteed Loans	Amount (\$)
Alabama	2	1,174,000		
Alaska	2	3,250,000	1	200,000
Arizona	1	161,258		
Arkansas	7	7,157,000	2	3,500,000
California	5	6,691,720	2	761,000
Colorado	5	1,484,000	1	49,337
Connecticut	4	5,274,220		
Delaware	2	2,906,000		
Florida	3	3,374,550	3	8,500,000
Georgia	2	14,850		
Hawaii	9	37,012,000	2	10,100,000
Idaho	4	3,490,000	1	550,000
Illinois	1	310,000	1	1,000,000
Indiana				
Iowa	10	13,614,000	4	11,970,000
Kansas	4	2,313,900	1	200,000
Kentucky	9	36,238,000		
Louisiana	2	4,250,000		
Maine	4	2,955,200	2	3,164,800
Maryland				
Massachusetts	7	4,120,000	4	6,820,000
Michigan	12	12,331,000		
Minnesota	13	5,685,000	1	1,393,000
Mississippi	4	4,955,276		
Missouri	5	1,673,497	2	565,000
Montana	1	19,600		
Nebraska	4	2,602,700		
Nevada				
New Hampshire	1	80,000	3	1,939,800
New Jersey	3	2,000,800	1	3,000,000
New Mexico	4	596,116		
New York	12	23,146,590		
North Carolina	15	48,971,450	7	20,371,481
North Dakota	4	173,770		
Ohio	3	951,000	1	6,312,000
Oklahoma	2	4,108,240	1	100,000
Oregon	1	85,000		
Pennsylvania	7	8,454,190	1	861,200
Puerto Rico	2	3,903,340		
Rhode Island	1	2,473,800		
South Carolina	8	52,148,500	1	2,100,000
South Dakota	8	929,390		
Tennessee	12	29,537,700	1	150,000
Texas	6	6,217,597	1	1,130,000
Utah	7	25,294,000	8	50,919,202
Vermont	5	2,842,850	1	2,120,000
Virgin Islands				
Virginia	19	71,422,982	1	326,000
Washington	8	4,992,300	2	5,328,100
West Virginia	3	705,500	1	250,000
Western Pacific	3	2,730,000		
Wisconsin	5	2,668,625	1	850,000
Wyoming				
Total	261	457,491,511	58	144,530,920

State	Education		Public Safety	
	Direct Loans	Amount (\$)	Guaranteed Loans	Amount (\$)
Alabama	24	4,545,343		
Alaska	1	100,000		
Arizona	5	3,572,959	3	2,422,000
Arkansas	4	2,035,000		
California	15	8,117,964	1	420,100
Colorado	2	3,090,000		
Connecticut	5	2,899,000		
Delaware				
Florida	5	1,087,500		
Georgia	65	7,938,885		
Hawaii	4	37,000,000		
Idaho	5	2,239,500		
Illinois	3	780,000		
Indiana				
Iowa	9	844,561	1	86,000
Kansas	9	1,896,950		
Kentucky	13	2,084,500		
Louisiana	9	12,777,000		
Maine	4	1,657,500		
Maryland	3	3,291,000		
Massachusetts	4	5,355,000		
Michigan	24	17,674,140		
Minnesota	28	2,588,000		
Mississippi	3	210,000		
Missouri	27	10,537,531	1	250,000
Montana	6	1,058,800	1	12,100,000
Nebraska	1	333,000		
Nevada	4	1,000,500		
New Hampshire	1	38,000	1	475,000
New Jersey	9	5,676,000		
New Mexico	5	720,000		
New York	37	11,505,840	2	5,150,000
North Carolina	108	52,446,266		
North Dakota	10	2,178,466		
Ohio	17	10,213,125		
Oklahoma	1	50,000		
Oregon	2	3,926,600		
Pennsylvania	40	7,764,660	1	750,000
Puerto Rico	3	953,900		
Rhode Island	3	3,596,390		
South Carolina	9	5,228,950		
South Dakota	9	5,178,605	1	848,000
Tennessee	22	14,043,200		
Texas	31	36,197,253		
Utah				
Vermont	11	2,720,200	1	1,100,000
Virgin Islands				
Virginia	36	18,150,602		
Washington	14	14,198,500		
West Virginia	18	8,104,570		
Western Pacific				
Wisconsin	6	2,699,900		
Wyoming	1	96,000		
Total	675	340,401,660	13	23,601,100

Public Services

<i>State</i>	<i>Direct Loans</i>	<i>Amount (\$)</i>	<i>Guaranteed Loans</i>	<i>Amount (\$)</i>	<i>Grants</i>	<i>Amount (\$)</i>
Alabama	5	3,169,547			4	328,850
Alaska	3	3,693,200			5	630,750
Arizona	5	14,973,160	1	500,000	14	477,595
Arkansas	5	3,930,000			44	2,773,360
California	8	8,476,000	4	1,535,500	30	1,959,984
Colorado	10	5,048,210			22	1,054,011
Connecticut	9	56,996,000	4	27,027,600	12	482,766
Delaware	3	3,166,000	1	500,000	10	385,450
Florida	1	5,100,000			6	347,800
Georgia	21	18,568,363			22	784,577
Hawaii	2	12,000,000			3	204,072
Idaho	2	570,000	4	420,000	2	97,300
Illinois	9	7,186,100	3	5,396,000	35	999,634
Indiana	6	9,027,400	1	125,000	6	362,280
Iowa	7	1,098,084	6	3,642,945	35	1,542,218
Kansas	15	3,294,400	1	150,000	16	5,213,930
Kentucky	6	4,171,000			20	1,393,900
Louisiana	11	4,031,684			18	1,306,552
Maine	10	6,070,950	2	460,000	12	626,050
Maryland	6	11,538,600	1	2,500,000	22	889,090
Massachusetts	10	19,857,840	4	4,062,500	11	420,555
Michigan	26	13,344,000	2	3,920,000	39	1,761,000
Minnesota	13	3,723,000			21	1,346,500
Mississippi	14	23,271,320			51	4,980,087
Missouri	19	8,268,136	4	32,215,000	98	4,421,990
Montana					3	90,480
Nebraska	9	2,869,600			12	176,050
Nevada	3	1,842,500			10	375,606
New Hampshire	3	8,631,000	1	490,000	12	138,860
New Jersey	1	540,500			4	176,600
New Mexico	8	40,466,625			8	807,314
New York	13	15,605,040			14	904,810
North Carolina	44	80,369,785	2	1,681,150	29	3,226,954
North Dakota	3	66,148	1	325,000	15	1,758,240
Ohio	30	14,489,000	3	2,819,000	34	1,514,500
Oklahoma	1	3,843,705	1	2,244,290	16	658,444
Oregon					4	157,390
Pennsylvania	17	11,191,590	2	3,420,000	29	1,380,389
Puerto Rico	6	2,275,800			8	800,772
Rhode Island					2	54,616
South Carolina	9	12,924,370	1	1,000,000	12	1,739,490
South Dakota	28	46,623,631	1	150,000	16	747,040
Tennessee	39	23,609,500	1	1,300,000	54	3,079,180
Texas	20	40,466,940			23	2,220,323
Utah	3	12,049,700	1	1,200,000	10	712,416
Vermont	11	4,441,600	3	3,080,700	24	706,400
Virgin Islands						
Virginia	23	15,914,908			33	912,960
Washington	17	40,929,700	5	16,532,000	17	1,374,900
West Virginia	8	10,253,000	1	125,000	12	448,380
Western Pacific	3	25,000,000	2	26,000,000	7	419,772
Wisconsin	9	9,183,400	1	526,500	39	2,256,915
Wyoming	3	1,963,500			6	147,900
Total	537	676,124,536	64	143,348,185	1011	61,777,002

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Glossary of Terms

Adult Day Care: A non-residential facility providing activities for elderly and/or handicapped persons. Most facilities offer meals, social and recreational opportunities and general supervision.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protects the civil rights of people who have physical and mental disabilities, in a manner similar to that in which previous civil rights laws have protected people of various races, religions, and ethnic backgrounds. The ADA mandates changes in the way that private businesses and the government conduct business to ensure that all Americans have full access to and can fully participate in every aspect of society.

Community Facilities Direct and Guaranteed Loan Program:

This program makes loans and guarantees available to public entities to develop essential community facilities in rural areas that meet the population requirement. Public entities include municipalities, counties, parishes, boroughs, and special-purpose districts, tribal governments, and nonprofits corporations.

Community Facilities Grant Program: This program provides grants to public entities to develop essential community facilities in rural areas that meet the population requirement. Grants are authorized on a graduated scale. Applicants in communities with small populations and low incomes will receive a higher percentage of grants.

Federally Qualified Health Center: Federally funded non-profit health centers or clinics that serve medically underserved areas and populations. Federally qualified health centers provide primary care services regardless of the patient's ability to pay. Services are provided on a sliding scale fee based on the patient's ability to pay.

Library Initiative: In 2010, USDA set a goal of investing \$100 million of USDA's Community Facilities American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for public libraries.

Medically Underserved Area: A region that has a relative or absolute deficiency of health care resources including hospital beds, equipment and/or medical personnel.

Persistent Poverty County: An area is defined as being persistently poor if 20 percent or more of its population was living in poverty over the last 30 years as identified by the U.S. Census.

Rural Community Development Initiative: This program works with leaders in communities to build capacity so private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations can better improve the quality of life in rural America.



June 2012

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