



NEWS RELEASE

1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040
Voice (785) 271-2701, FAX (785) 271-2708, WEB www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

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Contact - Harold Alford (785) 271-2701

Chautauqua County Projects Receive USDA Rural Development Funding USDA / South-Central Kansas Regional Initiative Discussed

Sedan, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks was joined by business and community leaders from Sedan and across Chautauqua County today in the presentation of USDA ceremonial funding checks totaling nearly \$269,000 to help finance three area projects. The Agency's funding is being provided under USDA Rural Development's *Community Facilities Loan & Grant Program*.

State Director Banks commented during the check presentations, "This important USDA program is a tremendous tool to assist rural communities in developing new or enhancing existing facilities for public safety, public service and health care. Funding from this Agency program will result in these needed community projects being established to serve the residents of Chautauqua County."

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts, in announcing today's funding, remarked, "I am pleased to congratulate these communities for working with Kansas' USDA Rural Development office to promote public safety in Chautauqua County. The Agency's effective programs, proactive outreach, and dedicated staff are what make projects like these possible."

The three Chautauqua County recipients approved for funding by USDA Rural Development follow:

Sedan Area EMS District II, Inc., Sedan, KS - \$168,500 (\$130,700 direct loan and \$37,800 grant) The District, benefiting 4,457 area residents, will purchase a new ambulance and refinance the real estate debt. The service area for Sedan Area EMS District II includes Chautauqua County and the townships of Otter and Cedar in Cowley County.

City of Elgin, KS - \$10,300 (grant) Funds will be used to purchase and install a new storm siren, serving a population of 82. Agency funds will be leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$3,450.

City of Niotaze, KS - \$9,000 (grant) Funds will be used to purchase and install a new storm siren, serving a population of 122. Agency funds will be leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$7,450.

City of Elgin Mayor Richard Morgan said, "We are very proud that USDA Rural Development helped us get the storm siren for the people of Elgin. We want to especially thank our attorney Gary House for his work on the project and USDA Rural Development Area Specialist, Tom Finger for his efforts in assisting us with the application and streamlining the process making it easier for small communities like ours to benefit from this program."

Niotaze Mayor David Deal commented, "The storm siren is a needed addition to the City of Niotaze for the protection of our residents and we appreciate the help of USDA Rural Development in assisting us with the funding of this project."

USDA Rural Development's *Community Facilities Program* is designed to develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include schools, libraries, courthouses, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue facilities and equipment, police and emergency vehicles and services, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Grant funds may be available to assist in the economic feasibility of the project.

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Through its *Community Facilities Program*, the Department of Agriculture is striving to ensure that such facilities are readily available to all rural communities. Community Facilities Programs utilizes three flexible financial tools to achieve this goal: the Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program, the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program, and the Community Facilities Grant Program.

During today's announcement, State Director Banks thanked the Kansas Congressional Delegation for their continued support of the Agency's *Community Facilities Program*, along with the many other USDA Rural Development programs. "Over the past six years alone, the Agency's *Community Facilities Program* has assisted 513,000 rural Kansans and contributing \$26.7 million in added community development to the Sunflower State's economy.

State Director Banks also discussed the Agency's USDA / South-Central Kansas Regional Initiative, a recently announced effort to assist community and economic development opportunities present in south-central Kansas. Chautauqua County is included in the Initiative region. The Agency will be announcing details soon regarding regional informational meetings to be held in June and community development training to be held in July.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, the Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has delivered over \$1 billion for Kansas covering all Agency programs, supporting well over \$5 billion in future economic development for the Sunflower State. For additional information regarding this program, contact the USDA Rural Development Area office at Iola (620-365-2901), or visit the Agency's Kansas website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

USDA Rural Development – Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.

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