



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES \$15.6 MILLION IN BROADBAND COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANTS

WASHINGTON, July 29, 2008 - Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced the selection of 25 communities in 16 states to receive \$15.6 million in broadband community connect grants.

"These funds will provide a critical link between essential community facilities in areas where no broadband service currently exists," said Dorr. "The grants will be used to improve public safety and enable residents to pursue on-line educational opportunities."

The Community Connect program provides grants to establish broadband service in rural communities. The grants may be used to deploy broadband transmission service to residents, businesses and critical community facilities such as police and first responders. They also may be used to construct and operate community centers that provide free broadband access to community residents.

WV WISP, LLC, in Roane County, West Virginia has been selected to receive a \$628,200 Community Connect Grant to provide wireless broadband services to the Reedy Volunteer Fire Department, Reedy Elementary School, and community center in addition to the community's residents. The community center employees will provide users with training on computer and internet usage.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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“Reedy, West Virginia, is a rural community in Roane County with an estimated population of 198. Big or small, Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities,” stated WV State Director Rick E. Rice.

The community of Applegate, Mich., has been selected to receive a \$223,862 Rural Development grant to use high-speed Internet to enhance fire, police and ambulance services and to establish distance learning and telemedicine services. Residents will be able to use free Internet service for two years at the Applegate Community Center.

The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California was selected to receive a grant of \$464,200 to provide broadband service to the community of Woodfords, Calif. Broadband will be available to elementary and high school students. In addition, Brigham Young University’s distance learning programs will be available to students seeking to complete their degree requirements. In Pawnee, Texas, a \$621,610 Rural Development grant will help provide free broadband service for two years to town offices, the police and volunteer fire departments, Pawnee Elementary School, and the new Pawnee Community Center, which will offer continuing adult education classes.

Funding of individual award recipients is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the award agreement. The complete list of grant recipients appears below.

2008 Community Connect Grant Awards

Community	State	Applicant	Grant Amount
Tatitlek	AK	Cooper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$1,000,000
Reader	AR	Almega Cable, Inc.	\$656,454
Wabbaseka	AR	Almega Cable, Inc.	\$591,835
Chidester	AR	Nexus Systems, Inc.	\$683,009
Woodfords	CA	Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California	\$464,200
Ferdinand	ID	First Step Internet, LLC	\$213,053
Applegate	MI	Air Advantage, LLC	\$223,862
Mayersville	MS	Nexus Systems Incorporated	\$615,166

Dixville	NH	White Mountain Cablevision, LLC	\$514,500
Stratford	NH	Northern Community Investment Corp.	\$578,150
Black Rock	NM	GEO PCS, LLC	\$856,611
Salem	NM	GEO PCS, LLC	\$857,161
Walker Lake	NV	Arizona Nevada Tower Corporation	\$993,704
Fallon Indian Reservation and Colony	NV	Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribes of Fallon Reservation and Colony	\$432,000
Lima	OK	@Link Services, LLC	\$544,164
Nanki Poo	TN	Pinnacle Ventures	\$246,448
Pawnee	TX	Almega Cable, Inc.	\$621,610
Trammel	VA	Almega Cable, Inc.	\$549,890
Blackwater	VA	Lenowisco I, Inc.	\$759,600
Yuma	VA	Scott County Telephone Co-operative	\$999,207
Tannersville	VA	Tazewell, County of	\$855,000
Mechanicsburg	VA	Bland, County of	\$311,300
Malden	WA	Wired or Wireless, Inc.	\$671,008
Reedy	WV	WV Wisp, LLC	\$628,200
Atlantic City	WY	Wyoming.com	\$622,447

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$90 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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