



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USDA Rural Development Presents \$150,000 Rural Economic Development Grant to Northwest Telephone Cooperative Association**

*Funds to Assist with Addition to Prairie Creek Assisted Living Facility in West Bend*

HAVELOCK, Iowa – January 22, 2009 – Chris Mercer with USDA Rural Development was in Havelock today to present a \$150,000 Rural Economic Development Grant to Northwest Telephone Cooperative Association.

The grant funds will be used to assist with the construction of an eight-unit addition to the Prairie Creek assisted living facility in West Bend.

“Access to high quality health care is an issue of growing concern to many rural communities as the baby boom generation continues to age,” Mercer said. “As a result, hospitals are remodeling and expanding, and new health clinics, assisted living centers and other health care facilities are being built across the state.”

Under the program, USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to rural utilities, usually rural telephone or electrical cooperatives, which in turn provide loans to rural businesses and communities in their service areas. During the past year Rural Development has awarded 16 such loans and grants in Iowa totaling \$6.9 million.

Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender with a variety of direct and guaranteed rural credit programs involving single and multi-family housing, community facilities, water and sewer development and business and industry programs.

During the past year Rural Development helped a record number of Iowans receive funding for economic development projects and quality of life improvements. The agency’s investment in Iowa helped create or retain 10,000 jobs, aided 1,600 families in buying their own homes and assisted more than 120 communities in improving community facilities and upgrading local infrastructure.

“All of our programs are voluntary, so we are always on the lookout for individuals and groups wanting to grow in rural Iowa,” said Randy Hildreth, USDA Rural Development Area Director in north central Iowa. “At Rural Development we are constantly looking to partner with new rural businesses to advance our mission of ensuring the best possible quality of life for all rural Americans.”

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”  
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

**Contact USDA Rural Development**

USDA Rural Development has 11 offices in Iowa serving 1.9 million Iowans living in rural areas. Office locations include a State Office in Des Moines, along with Area Offices in Albia, Atlantic, Humboldt, Indianola, Iowa Falls, Le Mars, Mount Pleasant, Storm Lake, Tipton and Waverly.

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, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on rural programs is available at the local USDA Rural Development office in Storm Lake, which can be reached at (712) 732-1851 or by visiting [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia).