

USDA Rural Development funds in FY 09 totals \$58 million

USDA Rural Development State Director Patty Clark recently congratulated seven additional Kansas recipients that were approved to receive funding totaling \$25,219,500 for water and environmental project. The Kansas water projects were selected by USDA Rural Development to be funded by federal appropriations, provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreements, and the letter of conditions.

In the press release, Director Clark stated, "USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program (WEP) is one of the most important community and economic development efforts the Agency undertakes for rural Kansas. These USDA funds, combined

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with the Agency's technical assistance which supports local leadership, helps make these critically needed services a reality. It is important that rural Kansans keep pace with their basic need to have access to safe and reliable water sources. Additionally, this valuable USDA program promotes economic growth and enhances the quality of life for the area residents served by these projects and all of Kansas."

According to Gary Smith, Director of Business and Community Programs at Kansas USDA Rural Development, the agency finished fiscal year 2009 in

obligating 191% of the regular grant allocation for Kansas for WEP projects and 143% of its regular loan allocation. Kansas finished first in the nation in grant and third in loan for the largest percentage of allocation obligated. USDA

Rural Development provided \$22.5 million in regular funding for projects. In FY09, the agency funded or obligated \$35.5 million in loan and grant from ARRA funds for projects in Kansas. The total in FY 09 for loan and grant for the Water and Environmental Program projects was \$58 million.

USDA Rural Development funded nine projects from its regular Water and Environmental Program allocation. Those projects received loans totaling \$15,491,000 and grants totaling \$7,022,700 for a total of \$22,513,000. The projects were:

- City of Burlington - sewer
- City of Emmett - sewer
- City of Everest - water
- Crawford Co. Sewer Dist 3 - sewer
- City of Glade - water
- City of Humboldt - water
- City of Norton - water
- City of Oberlin - water
- PWWSO 20 - water



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USDA Rural Development in Kansas funded 11 projects through its ARRA funds. Loans totaled \$16,947,000; grants totaled \$18,574,500 for total funding of \$35,521,500. The water projects were approved for the following: City of Atwood; City of Oswego; Crawford RWD; City of Fall River; City of Hoisington; City of Lakin; PWWSD 12; City of Rozel; Pottawatomie RWD 4; PWWSD 19 (Spring River). The city of St George received funding for sewer system improvements.

Gary Smith says that there is still time for communities to apply and receive funding as the funds extend into FY 2010 (until 9/30/10).

“Communities and RWDs need to complete a Preliminary Engineering Report and file an application as soon as possible. It is not too late to apply but there is a need to act promptly,” comments Smith.

He adds, “Assistance is available from KRWA to help complete the applications. This is great opportunity for good projects to secure funding without having to wait. This is possible because there is a sizable pool of funds for communities to access on a nationwide basis. Also, contract the RD Area Specialists to obtain any additional details about funding. The funds are being administered through our existing water and sewer loan and grant programs; there are only a few additional requirements to meet. Only Davis Bacon and Buy American requirements are added to our regular loan and grant program regulations.”




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