STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Rural Development

USDA Launches Set of Dashboards to Help Policymakers and Industry Leaders Preserve Rural Multi-Family Housing

(October 28, 2016) – USDA Rural Housing Service Administrator Tony Hernandez today unveiled a set of five dashboards designed to provide key data about and preserve the affordability of USDA's Multi-Family Housing (MFH) properties. The publicly accessible, user-friendly set - currently available in beta - is designed to help policymakers and industry leaders collect, track and analyze the timeframe for when the USDA mortgage will be paid off, and the property exits USDA's MFH program.

Collecting this data will help landlords and key industry leaders better plan and take whatever long-term strategies are appropriate, including re-amortization, deferring loan payments, seeking new loans for rehabilitation, transferring properties to new owners, or take other actions to preserve affordable rental housing in rural areas.

The beta Property Preservation Dashboards can be publicly accessed on the <u>Tableau Public Website</u>. They complement data resources released by USDA earlier this year, including <u>its rural housing investment data</u>, program <u>exit data</u>, and mapped data overlaid with thousands of other indicators in <u>PolicyMap</u>. The Dashboard enable users to obtain such critical information as the number of USDA MFH properties exist in each state and details on projected dates for mortgage pay-offs.

Users can narrow the data by location, program and other indicators. The dashboards also feature a user guide and data dictionary.

The new dashboards support the Department's effort to become more transparent and facilitate effective collaboration with USDA's stakeholders, partners, and lawmakers to address rural community needs. It also complements the Obama administration's Open Data Policy and <u>Executive Order</u> to promote transparency and deliver efficient services to the public.

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