



United States Department of Agriculture



USDA Rural Development Kansas

2014 Progress Report

USDA Rural Development

Mission

To increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans.

Vision

A rural America that is healthy, safe, and prosperous place to live and work.



Secretary of Agriculture
Thomas J. Vilsack

“USDA Rural Development provides loan and grant financing as well as technical assistance to develop housing, community facilities, businesses, infrastructure, and renewable energy ventures in rural areas. In addition to providing direct loan and grant assistance, USDA Rural Development also partners with private sector lenders and development organizations to carry out local community development projects. Rural Development’s more than 40 financial assistance programs, in addition to its ability to leverage private sector resources, give USDA the flexibility to invest in a wide range of projects that are reinvigorating rural towns and bringing new job opportunities for local residents.

As I often say, USDA is not just about helping farms and farmers. USDA Rural Development’s mission is a great example of the extraordinary reach of USDA programs throughout the rural economy.



Under Secretary for
USDA Rural Development
Lisa Mensah

The vitality of rural America is critical to ensuring the strength of our economy, the affordability of our food, the independence of our energy supply, and the vibrancy of small communities. The Obama Administration is committed to ensuring that rural communities are economically strong, sound and sustainable.

At USDA Rural Development, many of our employees live and work in the same rural communities alongside our rural customers and stakeholder and partner organizations. We are truly fortunate and unique to serve rural America at the grassroots level. The investment work we do is important, and has lasting impacts both in rural America and for our overall economy. We look forward to continuing this work that improves the quality of life for rural residents and provides them with greater economic opportunities. We had great success delivering assistance to rural communities in 2014, and we look forward to a great 2015.



State Director Patty Clark visits with a vendor at the Lawrence Farmers Market.

Vibrant rural communities are a critical thread in the fabric of our Nation. Rural regions produce our abundant and affordable food supply. They are the storehouse for our energy resources. America's recreational and scenic assets such as national and state parks are located in rural, and oftentimes remote, regions. In other words, rural communities are an important cog in America's economy and in our quality of life.

It takes leveraged resources and collaborative partnerships to preserve and grow rural areas. USDA Rural Development is proud of the investment of public dollars we make every day in rural Kansas. Our infrastructure projects provide clean and affordable drinking water. Our electric and broadband loans and grants ensure rural regions can compete for businesses and jobs. Our homeownership programs provide families with affordable opportunities to provide their children a safe environment and be a part of caring neighborhoods. Our loans and grants for health care projects sustain delivery of health programs and services in areas that might otherwise go underserved. And our business programs deliver capital to rural businesses and rural entrepreneurs to increase jobs for current and future generations. Our programs are a true investments in people and places that help make America strong and resilient.

Patty Clark
USDA Rural Development
State Director - Kansas

USDA Rural Development Invested \$323 Million in Rural Kansas in 2014

Programs	Funding Amount	# Awarded
Rural Business & Cooperative Programs		
Biofuels Assistance Program	\$2,751,087	12
Business & Industry Loan Guarantees	\$13,043,200	6
Rural Business Enterprise Grant	\$257,000	3
Rural Economic Development Loan	\$10,295,000	7
Rural Energy for America Program	\$236,974	12
Value Added Producer Grant	\$384,397	7
Total: \$26,967,658		
Rural Community Facilities Programs		
Community Facilities Direct Loans	\$25,601,800	9
Community Facilities Grants	\$136,500	6
Economic Impact Initiative	\$69,050	1
Total: \$25,807,350		
Rural Single Family Housing		
Single Family Housing Loan Guarantees	\$147,276,293	1359
Single Family Housing Direct Loans	\$7,690,932	86
Single Family Home Repair Loans	\$76,965	17
Single Family Home Repair Grants	\$327,490	57
Total: \$155,371,680		
Rural Multi-Family Housing Program		
Housing Preservation Grants	\$35,199	1
Multi-Family House Loan Guarantees	\$500,000	1
Multi-Family Housing Loans	\$924,241	3
Rental Assistance	\$9,904,748	91
Total: \$11,364,188		
Rural Utilities Program		
Electric Loans	\$46,251,938	6
Solid Waste Management Grant	\$53,000	1
Telecommunications Loans & Grants	\$1,273,970	4
Water & Waste Direct Loans	\$32,494,000	22
Water & Waste Direct Grants	\$23,757,100	17
Total: \$103,830,008		

Rural Business and Cooperative Programs

In fiscal year 2014, USDA Rural Development invested \$26.9 million in rural Kansas businesses, supporting 47 projects. Business and Cooperative Programs invest in new and existing rural entrepreneurs. We invest in commercialization of new technologies to spur economic growth in the renewable energy and renewable resource sectors. We help develop food systems to ensure availability of locally grown and locally processed food in both metro and rural areas. We help small businesses expand their markets and be competitive in the rapidly changing global business environment. We provide capital for business investment to create opportunities for our rural workforce and create enhanced revenues for our rural businesses.

AgMark

AgMark, LLC received \$400,000 in financial assistance from USDA Rural Development to conduct a feasibility study on creating value-

added products from the sorghum that its cooperative members produce.

The company is exploring the prospect of producing renewable chemicals and high protein animal feed products from grain sorghum. The company is comprised of three cooperatives (Cloud County, Farmway and Randall Farmers) and hopes to create an opportunity that expands the revenues and market for the grain sorghum produced by its members.

The funding is being provided through USDA Rural Development's Value-Added Producer Grant program. The program helps agricultural producers grow their businesses by turning raw commodities into value-added products, expanding marketing opportunities and developing new uses for existing products.



AgMark based in Beloit, Kansas.

Community Facilities Program

USDA Rural Development invested \$25.8 million in rural Kansas through community facilities loans and grants in 2014. Our 15 Community Facility projects financed technology equipment upgrades in rural schools thus enabling rural students to connect and learn globally via the internet. We helped rural fire districts purchase updated fire safety equipment and we provided financing to improve transportation assistance for developmental services. We also invested in the continuum of care by financing daycare renovations for the youngest of our rural residents and upgrades to healthcare facilities and equipment to continue to serve our aging rural populations.

Public health, public safety, education, child care, elder care, emergency services all benefit from partnerships with USDA Rural Development and thus enhance the quality of life for rural residents.

USDA's Community Facilities Program helps

build, expand, rehabilitate, purchase, and support the development of police and emergency fire stations and equipment, museums, child care centers, hospitals, clinics, schools, and more.

Pittsburg Farmers Market

The Pittsburg Farmers Market is located in Pittsburg, Kansas. Until 2014, the Pittsburg Farmers Market vendors had been utilizing pop-up shelters that provided little to no protection from the sun and rain for patrons of the market.

In 2014, USDA provided the Pittsburg Farmers Market with financing to build a new 7,200 square foot pavilion to house the farmers market. The market draws products and produce from a 75-mile radius of the market. Nineteen different vendors participated in the market.

The Pittsburg Farmers Market has been operating since 2001. It operates from April thru October on Wednesdays and Saturdays.



Pittsburg Farmers Market in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Rural Single Family Housing Programs



Megan Estrada and her children reside in Dodge City, Kansas.

A safe, secure and affordable home positively impacts the well-being of our children. Homeownership remains a big part of the American Dream. USDA Rural Development helps make that dream possible for many rural families. Also, seniors want to remain in their home environment for as long as they are able but sometimes need energy efficiency improvements and special accommodation renovations in order to do so. In fiscal year 2014, the agency obligated 103 direct loans and 1,359 guaranteed loans to finance homes for rural Kansas families.

Estrada Family

Megan Estrada and her three children are excited to spend time on their new home's porch – a home they moved into July 2014. Prior to purchasing their own home, Estrada and her children had spent the last nine years in an apartment in Dodge City, Kansas.

Estrada tried to buy a home four years ago, but

with no solid credit history was unable to secure a loan through conventional home financing. For the next four years Estrada built up her credit, then in May of this year she heard that USDA would be offering home loans in Dodge City and called her banker to see how to apply.

With the passage of the 2014 Farm Bill, Dodge City became eligible for USDA Housing Programs. The Farm Bill contained language that changed the definition of a rural area for USDA's Housing Program; the new definition allowed areas with populations of up to 35,000 that are rural in character to be eligible for USDA Housing Programs – which made Dodge City eligible.

In June, Estrada was the first Dodge City resident to purchase a home by utilizing USDA's Guaranteed Rural Housing Program. Landmark National Bank provided the loan on Estrada's three-bedroom home, which is guaranteed by USDA Rural Development.

Rural Multi-Family Housing Programs

USDA Rural Development provides funding for apartments for income limited families or the elderly, and housing for farm laborers. Rural rental housing facilities in Kansas were awarded \$1.5 million in loans and grants to build, repair, and rehabilitate homes for rural Kansans. In fiscal year 2014, more than 2,600 rural Kansans were provided financial assistance to make their rent more affordable.

Apple Glen Apartments

USDA Rural Development provided a \$500,000 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing loan to Columbus Properties, L.P. to rehabilitate Apple Glen Apartments, which is a 24 unit multi-family housing complex in Columbus, Kan. The property was built in 1983 with USDA Rural Development financing, and utilized Rural Development

financing again to transfer ownership and rehabilitate the property in 2014.

The property received 24 units of USDA Rural Development Rental Assistance to help make rent more affordable for tenants. In addition to USDA funding, the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation provided \$1.36 million in low income housing tax credits.

USDA's 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Loan Program increases the supply of affordable multi-family housing through partnerships between USDA Rural Development, private lenders and public agencies.

The facility meets all current building, health and safety codes, as well as being Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible and meeting the Model Energy Code.



Apple Glen Apartments in Columbus, Kansas.

Rural Utilities Programs



Wastewater Improvement Project in Linn Valley, Kansas.

USDA Rural Development invested \$73.1 million during fiscal year 2014 through 53 infrastructure projects to provide reliable and clean drinking water, waste treatment systems, electric power, and telecommunications services that served more than 30,000 rural Kansans.

Linn Valley

The city of Linn Valley, which was built around Linn Valley Lake, lacked a centralized sewer system. Each home had a concrete wastewater holding tank. As these tank age, the leakage could potentially contaminate their water supply due to the close proximity to the lake.

In 2014, with \$3.2 million in financing from USDA Rural Development, the city began installing

nearly 50,000 linear feet of sewer lines, 27 manholes, 2 lift stations, and 251 grinder pumps stations. The collection system will assist 254 residences in the city, and the remaining 186 residences will continue using holding tanks until financing is secured for the second phase of the project.

USDA Rural Development is providing Linn Valley with \$4.3 million in financing to install the sewer system. The funds are being provided through the Agency's Water and Environmental Programs, which provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less.

Success Stories

Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital



The Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital updated its 60-year old facility and added an additional 17,350 square-foot addition. USDA Rural Development provided the hospital with a \$4.5 million loan to update its facility.

Expansion to the Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital included a new four-bed emergency room, radiology services, and administration offices. Renovations to the hospital included larger patient rooms; installing a fire sprinkler system and updating the emergency power system; improvements to the x-ray and long-term care departments; remodeling the cafeteria, pharmacy, outpatient surgical clinic, and office space; and replacing the heating and cooling unit.

“The hospital renovation and expansion will allow us to provide additional services to our patients, and provide them with a more private and inviting facility,” stated Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital Administrator Kevin White. “Renovating and expanding the hospital will allow us to better utilize hospital space that will allow staff to be more efficient, as well as bringing the hospital into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other required codes.”

Nearly \$11 million will be invested in the hospital expansion and renovation project, which includes a \$4.5 million USDA Rural Development Community Facilities direct loan. The remaining financing will come from the public building commission and the hospital. Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital currently employs 110 employees.

KVC Health Systems

Each year KVC Health Systems Inc., provides services to more than 50,000 children and families in Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Nebraska, and West Virginia. The company was looking for a way to increase the timeliness of crisis intervention services for foster families especially in rural areas, and developed a video conferencing platform called MyLink.

KVC has more than 500 professional services staff that provide behavioral health therapy to children in foster care and their families. The MyLink program is a HIPAA-compliant video conferencing program that uses iPads to connect foster children to KVC staff. The iPads will enable foster children to have immediate assistance of KVC staff when they need it the most for therapeutic and crisis intervention services.

“This USDA-funded project will bring life-changing support to children and teens in foster care in a rural, underserved region. For the average adult, an iPad is a fun tool for taking photos and surfing the web. But for a child who has experienced abuse or neglect, an iPad means a direct link to a highly-trained, caring therapist who stands ready to listen and help. The technology will also provide foster parents with new training on how to handle family challenges. KVC Health Systems is proud of its innovative approach to foster care, and we see this partnership with the USDA as an important part of raising the bar in child welfare,” said B. Wayne Sims, President and CEO, KVC Health Systems, Inc.

KVC Health Systems is a nonprofit child welfare and behavioral healthcare organization. The organization’s headquarters is located in Olathe, Kan. In Kansas, 30 eastern Kansas counties are served by KVC.



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Manhattan Area Office
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Manhattan, KS 66503
Phone: (785) 776-7582, Ext. 4

Newton Area Office
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Newton, KS 67114
Phone: (316) 283-0370, Ext. 4

Garden City Area Office
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To File a Program Complaint

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Persons with Disabilities

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish or call the State Information/Hotline Numbers.

All Other Inquiries

For any other information not pertaining to civil rights, please refer to the listing of the USDA Agencies and Offices for specific agency information.

May 2015