



Rural Development • Rural Housing • Direct Housing

Investing in Safe, Affordable Housing on a South Dakota Reservation

Biological needs – sleep, food, water, air, shelter - form the base as they are of the greatest importance in maintaining life. Once a person has met the biological needs, the next concern is safety. In one of the poorest counties in the nation, Buffalo County, USDA Rural Development and Crow Creek Housing Authority (CCHA) have formed a partnership to assist with shelter and safety, helping to improve dwellings for rural residents on the Crow Creek Hunkpati Oyate Indian Reservation located in Ft. Thompson, SD.

Homeowner, Hilda Long Crow commented, ‘perfect is what I see, when I enter my bathroom’. Through a USDA Rural Development 504 Rural Housing Repair and Rehabilitation grant/loan, a walk-in shower and new window were installed. Other repairs to the home, included replacing storm doors and the roof. These improvements have allowed this 98 year-old homeowner to remain independent, preserve her quality of life, along with feeling safe and secure.

In 2015, USDA Rural Development and CCHA have assisted 5 homeowners. Since the inception of the partnership in September 2012, 15 homeowners have been helped on the Crow Creek Hunkpati Oyate Indian Reservation.

For many rural residents with limited income making repairs, improving and maintaining a home with basic features such as safe electrical wiring, indoor plumbing, and efficient windows, is often unaffordable. Through the partnership, CCHA refers potential applicants to USDA Rural Development. Once the applicant gets approved, USDA Rural Development provides funding for the materials and CCHA provides their workforce crew to complete the repairs at no cost to the homeowner. The alliance formed provides a much needed resource for homeowners to make a basic necessity tangible.

On the Crow Creek Hunkpati Oyate Indian Reservation, many a generation will pass through a structure a family calls home. Homes are where lives are built one repair at a time. One repair, two repair, three repair, and more - repairing and rehabilitating Rural America – one homeowner at a time in rural South Dakota.



Homeowner Hilda Long Crow is proud of her walk-in shower.

- Obligation Amount:** Direct Housing - \$7,500 grant funds/\$2,500 loan funds
- Date of Obligation:** 2015 funding cycle; currently have a list for the 2016 applications
- Congressional District:** At Large Senators Thune and Rounds and Congresswoman Noem
- Partners:** Crow Creek Housing Authority, USDA Rural Development
- Demographics:** Target is homeowners who are income eligible and age appropriate.
- Impact:** The Crow Creek Housing Authority (CCHA) coordinates technical assistance based on eligibility, readiness, and direction for homeownership.