

USDA Rural Development: A Partner in Rural Healthcare


By Virginia Manuel
State Director
USDA Rural Development



USDA Rural Development
Our Mission: To increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans.

Introduction

Thank you for having me here today. This is a wonderful opportunity to build upon the great relationship we have established with community healthcare organizations throughout the state.



I hope to share some of the ways USDA Rural Development is currently impacting Maine hospitals, community health centers, and other healthcare facilities and also discuss how we can expand upon these opportunities.

USDA Rural Development
Investment in the future of rural communities.


Investing in Rural Maine

Fiscal Year 2010

Housing Programs- \$356,801,049
Business Programs- \$16,152,227
Community Programs- \$44,149,503

Total Investment
\$452,856,532*

*Total includes \$35,753,753 in leveraged funds




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Investing in Maine's Rural Healthcare Facilities

USDA Rural Development's caseload includes **Community Facility Loans** to:

- 12 Rural Maine Hospitals
- 22 Health Clinics & Nursing Homes
- 28 other Community Health Facilities, such as mental healthcare and other organizations




Overview: Investing in Maine's Rural Healthcare Facilities

Since FY 2004, USDA Rural Development has invested a total of **\$56,125,837** in rural Maine Healthcare facilities statewide through its Community Facilities Programs:

Uses:


- New Construction (Additions, New Hospitals/Facilities)
- Purchase an Existing Building
- Renovation and Rehabilitation
- Purchase Equipment
- Establish Electronic Medical Records System



USDA Rural Development Assistance to Maine's Healthcare Community

Community Facility Loans/Grants to Rural Health Centers, Clinics & Hospitals

Bucksport Regional Health Center	Mt. Abram Regional Health Center
Calais Regional Hospital	Northern Maine General Hospital
Community Health and Counseling Services	Northern Maine Medical Center
DFD Russell Medical Center	Penobscot Community Health Center
Fish River Rural Health Center	Penobscot Valley Hospital
Harrington Health Center	Penquis Mental Health Association
Health Access Network	Pleasant Point Healthcare Center
Katahdin Valley Health Center	Richmond Area Health Center
Millinocket Regional Health Center	Sacoee Valley Health Center



USDA Rural Development Programs of Interest

Community Facility Program funds are available to eligible organizations in rural areas (Towns with populations of 20,000 or less) Ineligible Areas: Auburn, Bangor, Brunswick, Lewiston, Portland, Sanford, South Portland

- Community Facility Grants
- Community Facility Direct Loans
- Community Facility Guaranteed Loans



Community Facility Grants:

- Grants can be made to cover up to 75 percent of the cost of developing essential Community Facilities.
- Grant funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and community and public services. This can include the purchase of equipment required for a facility's operation.
- A grant may be made in combination with other Community Facility financial assistance such as a Direct or Guaranteed Loan, applicant contributions, or loans and grants from other sources.



Community Facility Grant: Digital Mammography Machine



Calais Regional Hospital received a Community Facility Grant in the amount of \$200,000 to purchase a new digital mammography machine. The new equipment will interface with their current information technology, allowing images to be remotely viewed by specialists in other locations if needed. Images can be transmitted electronically with no loss of clarity, thereby potentially enhancing the speed and accuracy of the diagnoses. This will reduce the time and expense to both the patient and to the hospital.



Community Facility Grants



The LifeFlight Foundation has received USDA Rural Development Community Facility, and Rural Economic Impact Initiative Grants totaling \$73,800.

The LifeFlight Foundation received two Rural Economic Impact Initiative Grants totaling \$35,050 to construct helipads at Millinocket Regional Hospital and Penobscot Valley Hospital for emergency medical helicopters.

The LifeFlight Foundation received four Community Facility Grants totaling \$38,750 to install Automated Weather Observing System Stations in Fort Kent, Carrabassett Valley, Rumford, and Princeton



Community Facility Loans:

- **Loans are made by USDA Rural Development** and may be used to assist in the development of essential community facilities.
- Loans can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services. This can include costs to acquire land needed for a facility, pay necessary professional fees, and purchase equipment required for its operation.
- Refinancing debt may also be an eligible use as long as it is a minor part of the loan.



Community Facility Loan and Grant



Heath Access Network (Lincoln) received \$203,500 in Community Facility Loan Funds and \$31,500 in Community Facility Grant Funds to implement an electronic medical record (EMR) system. The EMR project required installing electronic infrastructure, including computer servers, network software, and high-speed communication in the administrative offices. The electronic infrastructure project provides for universal electronic communications for Health Access Network staff. As a result, internal communications are more efficient, effective and timely in serving patients.



Community Facility Guaranteed Loans:

- USDA Rural Development can guarantee loans made and serviced by local lenders such as banks, savings and loan institutes, etc.
- Funds may be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services. This can include costs to acquire land needed for a facility, pay necessary professional fees, and purchase equipment required for its operation.
- Refinancing debt may also be an eligible use as long as it is a minor part of the loan.
- Rates are negotiated between the lender and borrower.

Accomplishment: Maine has the largest number of Community Facility Guaranteed Program Loans in the Nation!



Community Facility Guaranteed Loan



Calais Regional Hospital received \$5,000,000 in Community Facility Guaranteed Loan funds with local Lender Katahdin Trust Company and \$13,700,000 in Community Facility Direct Loan Funds from USDA Rural Development to construct a brand new hospital.

The facility is 60,000 square feet and has 25 private patient rooms, 2 operating rooms, and offers 30 percent more parking, as well as separate waiting areas for Emergency Room, Maternity, and other patients.



Other Programs of Interest

- Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program
- Rural Broadband Initiative



Distance Learning and Telemedicine

- **Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program-** The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program (DLT) is designed specifically to meet the educational and health care needs of rural America through advanced telecommunications technologies. Through loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations, advanced telecommunications technologies provide enhanced learning and health care opportunities for rural residents. Grant awards can range from a minimum of \$50,000 up to a maximum of \$500,000.

*Contact: Gary Vanidestine, Utility Programs Specialist
at 990-9121 for more information on DLT Programs*



Distance Learning and Telemedicine Opportunities

Grant Eligible Purposes:

- Acquisition of eligible equipment:
- Computer hardware and software
- Audio and video equipment
- Computer network components
- Terminal equipment
- Data terminal equipment
- Inside wiring
- Interactive video equipment
- Other facilities that further DLT services
- Acquisition of instructional programming
- Acquisition of technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment

Application Deadline: The open season for applications (Grants) was announced in February, through a notice in the Federal Register. Applicants are required to provide a minimum of 15 percent in matching funds. Deadline for 2011 was April 25, 2011.



Distance Learning and Telemedicine Opportunities

Loan/Grant Combination Eligible Purposes:

- All eligible grant purposes
- Medical or educational equipment
- Links between teachers and students or medical professionals in the same facility
- Site development and alteration of buildings
- Purchase of land
- Purchase or construction of buildings
- Acquisition of telecommunications transmission facilities provided no facilities exist

Application Deadline: Combination loan/grant applications are **accepted year-round**, are non-competitive and do not require the applicant to provide matching funds.



USDA Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Initiative

Under the **Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Initiative**, USDA Rural Development is ensuring that faith-based and community organizations have equal access to USDA programs and benefits. **Healthcare organizations** that meet eligibility requirements for Community Facility Funding are considered under this Initiative.

Rural Development is working to reach out and educate these organizations about funding opportunities. We are committed to helping groups and individuals learn about and access Rural Development programs that can enhance their capacity to serve their community.



Seven Priority Strategies for Economic Development

Building 21st Century Rural Communities

The Big Picture: What drives us?
USDA Rural Development's Seven Priority Strategies for Economic Development are the cornerstone for our support to creating enhanced prosperity for rural Maine. They are:



USDA Rural Development
Under Secretary
Dallas Tomager

1. **Strategic Partners:** The old adage that there is strength in numbers especially holds true when you build strong and strategic alliances.
2. **Capital Markets:** Stimulating local economies requires the infusion of new investment opportunities.
3. **Regional Collaboration:** Smaller, more remote rural communities don't have to be stand alone economic engines in an oasis, each looking only from within for sustainability.
4. **Community Building:** Creating great places to live, raise families, provide recreational opportunities, and infrastructure for high paying jobs is very important to our efforts at USDA.




Seven Priority Strategies for Economic Development

(Continued)

Building 21st Century Rural Communities

5. **Broadband and Continuous Business Creation:** Expanding access to high-speed broadband is one of our greatest challenges and our highest priority.
6. **Alternative Energy:** America's development and use of alternative energies is good for our country and good for our environment.
7. **Regional Food Systems:** Building markets for local and regionally grown agricultural products makes great economic sense.



**NOTICE TO HISPANIC OR WOMEN FARMERS AND RANCHERS:
COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. You may be eligible if:


1. you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing from USDA during that period; and
2. the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
3. you believe these actions occurred because you are Hispanic or female. If you want to register your name to receive a claims package, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website:
www.farmerclaims.gov




USDA Rural Development Offices

State Office
967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, PO Box 405
Bangor, ME 04402-0405
Telephone: (207) 990-9161
Fax: (207) 990-9165

<p>Presque Isle Area Office 735 Main Street, Suite 1 Presque Isle, Maine 04769 Telephone: (207) 764-4157 Fax: (207) 762-2246</p>	<p>Lewiston Area Office 254 Goddard Road Lewiston, Maine 04241-1938 Telephone: (207) 753-9400 Fax: (207) 784-1335</p>
<p>Bangor Area Office 28 Gilman Plaza, Suite 3 Bangor, Maine 04401 Telephone: (207) 990-3676 Fax: (207) 990-5092</p>	<p>Scarborough Area Office 306 US Route 1, Suite B1 Scarborough, Maine 04074 Telephone: (207) 883-0159 Fax: 883-2740</p>



Thank You

We look forward to assisting Maine's healthcare community in meeting the needs of Maine people.

			
<small>State Director's Staff and Administrative Programs</small>	<small>Business and Cooperative Programs</small>	<small>Community Programs</small>	<small>Housing Programs</small>
			
<small>Presque Isle Area Office</small>	<small>Bangor Area Office</small>	<small>Lewiston Area Office</small>	<small>Scarborough Area Office</small>