

# USDA / Rural Development

# News Release

**For Immediate Release:**

**March 18, 2009**

For additional information, contact: Rural Development 507.332.7418, ext. 4

---

## **Repair Loans and Grants Available**

Low interest home improvement **loans and grants** are available through the USDA, Rural Development office for very-low income families. The market value of the applicant's property must be considered modest. (In Goodhue & Rice the market value needs to be less than \$200,160; LeSueur, Steele & Wabasha requires a market value less than \$197,100. Dakota and Scott Counties limit is \$225,400 and Waseca's is \$190,000.)

**Grants** are limited to elderly families (62 years or older) and can only be used to remove health or safety hazards or remodel dwellings to make them accessible to household members with disabilities. The **maximum grant assistance is \$7,500.**

**Loan funds** can be used for making basic repairs, installing essential features or to remove health and safety hazards. The **maximum loan amount is \$20,000**, at an interest rate of 1% with a repayment period of up to 20 years.

Funding is based on an annual appropriation.

The applicant must be a rural resident or live in a town with a population under 20,000 (Faribault and Owatonna are eligible areas as these communities are "grandfathered" into the program). The applicant must also meet income guidelines (*example*: Income for a household of 2 in Rice County cannot exceed \$27,550), have a reasonable credit history, own the home to be repaired, and be unable to obtain credit elsewhere.

For assistance in the following counties: Rice, Scott, Dakota, Goodhue, Waseca, LeSueur, Wabasha and Steele, contact the USDA, Rural Development office at 1810 30<sup>th</sup> Street NW #3, Faribault, MN 55021. ( 507.332.7418, ext. 4.)

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender." To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800.795.3272 (voice), or 202.720.6382 (TDD)*