



# West Virginia Rural Development



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MARCH 2004

## WV Rural Development to Launch New Brand

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) in West Virginia will be launching a new initiative to better communicate its mission and goals to various audiences: **USDA Rural Development - Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.**

The new logo depicts a typical rural landscape, complete with a water

tower and mix of buildings all nestled in a rolling green hillside. The new tagline, **Committed to the Future of Rural Communities**, will help the agency communicate who we are and what we can do for people and communities.

USDA Rural Development programs assist rural communities in a variety of ways. Support efforts include:

**HOUSING** - Build and renovate homes, apartments and community facilities;  
**UTILITIES** - Support water, waste, electric and telecommunications projects; and  
**BUSINESS** - Provide planning and assistance to businesses and cooperatives.

Over the next several months, Rural Development will continue its outreach efforts across West Virginia.

## Hilda Legg Visits WV

Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito joined Hilda Legg, RUS Administrator, WV Rural Development State Director Jenny N. Phillips and RUS Program Director Randy Plum at a check presentation. On Monday, March 15, 2004, West Virginia Educational Broadcasting Authority (WVEBA) was awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,660,000.

The RUS grant will fund seven digital translators and related transmission equipment, including microwave to feed the digital transmission to translators.

This will allow the schools of rural West Virginia to broaden their educational component and have access to digital technology.

While in the Mountain State, Ms. Legg made herself available for an interview with The State Journal. The interview was published in The State Journal on March 19, 2004.

Hilda also presented the West Virginia Rural Water Association with a plaque recognizing their dedication and benchmark for excellence.

Photo: Hilda Legg and Rita Ray, Chief Executive Officer of West Virginia Public Broadcasting.



## David Hurley New Employee

USDA Rural Development has selected David Hurley to fill the Multi-Family Housing Loan Technician position in the Morgantown State Office. David was formerly employed at the West Virginia University Research Center, where he served as a Research Associate and Project Manager while completing his Masters Degree.

David moved to Morgantown in 1996 to attend college after serving 3 years in the United States Army. During his time in the U.S. Army, David was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division (Light), where he served as a Light Infantryman and Radio Transmission Operator in a Rapid Reaction Air Assault Unit.

David is a native of Hampshire County and currently resides in Morgantown with his wife Autumn, a Pediatric Intensive Care Nurse at WVU Children's Hospital, their 5 year old son Benjamin, and their 9 month old daughter Audra. David enjoys spending time with his family, outdoor recreation and traveling.

# RD Announces Funding Available Through Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program

West Virginia Rural Development State Director Jenny N. Phillips announced that applications are being accepted, through its Rural Utilities Service, for its Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program through April 30, 2004.

The objective of the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program is the development and deployment of advanced telecommunication services throughout rural America to improve education and health care.

Eligible applicants must be organized in one of the following corporate structures: be delivering or proposing to deliver distance learning or telemedicine services; be legally organized as an incorporated organization or partnership, an Indian tribe or tribal organization, a state or local unit of

government, a consortium, or other legal entity, including a private corporation organized on a for profit or not-for-profit basis; and be operating a rural community facility or be delivering distance learning or telemedicine services to entities that operate a rural community facility.

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program will accept applications for grants, loans, or combination loan/grants. This year \$15,000,000 is available in grant funds, which are awarded through competitive process and may be used to fund telecommunications, computer networks, and related technologies. The maximum grant amount awarded will be \$500,000, with the minimum being \$50,000.

Applications for loans and combination

loan/grants are not competitively scored. In addition to the items listed for grants, loans and combination loan/grants may be used to fund construction of necessary transmission facilities on a technology-neutral basis. Examples of such facilities include satellite uplinks, microwave towers and associated structures, T-1 lines, DS-3 lines, and other similar facilities.

Loan funds may also be used to obtain mobile units and for some building construction. There is \$200 million available for loans, with the maximum loan award being \$10 million and the minimum award being \$50,000.

There is \$110 million available for combination loan/grants (\$100 million in loan funds to be paired with \$10 million in grant funds), with the maximum award being \$10 million and the minimum award being \$50,000.

Applications may be mailed to the Rural Utilities Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 2845, STOP 1550, ATTN: Director, Advanced Services Division, Telecommunications Program, Washington, DC 20250-1550, and should be postmarked no later than April 30, 2004. Applications may also be submitted electronically at <http://www.grants.gov> no later than April 30, 2004.

## \$1,212,000 Guaranteed Loan Approved

Rural Development has approved funding in the amount of \$1,212,000 for Summit Environmental Services, LLC, of Belmont, Pleasants County, WV.

The assistance will be made through the Rural Business-Cooperative Service guaranteed loan program. The lender for the guaranteed loan is Union Bank of St. Marys, WV.

The funds will be used to purchase equipment for a full-service waterblasting, industrial vacuuming company and asbestos removal company. The project is expected to create 45 jobs.

## PSD Extends Service

Rural Development has approved subsequent grant funding in the amount of \$55,000 for Central Hampshire Public Service District in Romney, Hampshire County, WV. The assistance will be made through the rural utilities program.

The grant will allow for the construction of various waterline extensions, two storage tanks, and a booster station to serve approximately 340 new customers within Hampshire County. The extensions will consist of approximately 150,000 linear feet of waterline to serve the Dunkark Church Road, Route 29, Shanholtz Road, Hoy Road, Allen Hill Road, Jersey Mountain Road, and Route 28 areas.

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