

Michaud Announces Release of Federal Funding for Energy, Infrastructure, and Homeowner Assistance

Tuesday, September 09 2008

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"This funding will help these agencies serve communities, which have been affected by high unemployment, plan and manage escalating energy costs," said Michaud. "It is important that we give our communities the tools they need to help those in most need."

- Penquis CAP, Inc (\$57,860): Funds will be used to provide technical assistance to four communities located in one of the highest unemployed areas of Maine. The assistance will be focused on 691 mobile homes, 115 of which are over 30 years old, for energy and replacement strategies with affordable housing. (based in Bangor, serves Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Knox Counties)

- Piscataquis County Economic Development Council (\$137,769): Funds will be used to provide technical assistance to 22 communities for energy savings, community development, and housing. The emphasis will be on leveraging resources and individual community training to improve infrastructure. The assistance will help an extremely remote, high unemployment area plan for the climbing energy costs and declining employment base it now faces. (based in Dover-Foxcroft, serves Piscataquis County)

- Western Maine Community Action Inc. (\$261,475): Funds will be used to provide financial and technical assistance and training materials that can be used elsewhere in the areas of homeowner energy use, safety (falls), and fire

prevention. Home inspection and energy audit training sessions with experts will be held with the overall goals of keeping elderly, primarily low income residents, in their homes. (based in East Wilton, serves Franklin, Androscoggin and Oxford counties)

According to the USDA, the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) program provides technical assistance and training funds to qualified intermediary organizations to develop their capacity to undertake housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas. The RCDI grant funds are available to intermediaries and have a dollar for dollar matching fund requirement, intended to double the impact of the grants. Qualified organizations can be public or private (including tribal organizations) that have been legally organized for at least three years and have experience working with eligible recipients. Recipients of assistance from the intermediary can be non-profit organizations, low-income communities, or federally recognized tribes.

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