



September 2008

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\$287,724 Hud Grant to Benefit Rural Areas of Nebraska

FOR RELEASE: Thursday September 4, 2008
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Steven Preston, Secretary
Region VII - Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska
Macie Houston, Regional Director

HUD AWARDS \$16.9 MILLION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AMERICA



Department of Housing and Urban Development
www.hud.gov

OMAHA - U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Steven Preston today awarded \$16.9 million to 60 rural housing programs across the country to stimulate economic development, create jobs, and produce more affordable housing. Included in the funding announced today, HUD awarded a grant to Dawson County Area Economic Development Council in Cozad totaling \$287,724.00. The funding is provided through HUD's Rural Housing and Economic Development Program.

[click here to finish the story.](#)

FEATURE: VVS Canteen - Over 45 Years in Cozad

In March of 1961 VVS, Inc. (Valley Vending Service) was founded when Wayne Davis, a Cozad Nebraska truck stop and cafe owner, and Gale Evans, a local bakery owner joined forces in the automated food business. Acquiring their first account, the Monroe Shock Absorber manufacturing plant in Cozad, Wayne and Gale began selling candy and pastry items in their first few vending machines. Six months later Wayne Davis decided to follow his instincts and purchase 100% of the company.



<http://www.vvscanteen.com/>

In 1968, VVS spread its wings again getting into the amusement device business with its first pool table on location. In 1979, the same year VVS acquired its first dining service account, Wayne stepped down as President to make way for his son Dick Davis. Educated with his dad's principles toward customer service, Dick has guided VVS through a series of company acquisitions, new account sales and territory expansions. His daughter, Kristen Jack, joined the company in 1991 and is now Vice President of VVS, Inc.

In June 2001, VVS, Inc. signed with Canteen, the largest vending company in the world as a member of

their Franchise Group. With Canteen's guidance and VVS's deep roots in quality service and innovation, the company has continued to acquire businesses in Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Colorado, and Texas. Over 340 dedicated VVS Canteen employees service more than 3700 vending machines, 1600 amusement devices, and 20 food service locations.

VVS now has a Surveillance System Division. Security cameras can assist in all types of companies as a business tool in managing their operations. A video surveillance system can improve operations and assist in growing your business. We offer effective surveillance systems for a wide range of applications from parking lot coverage to banking. Contact us so we can work with you on a customized solution to meet your company's needs.



Above is an image of a video surveillance system which is part of the new Surveillance System Division of VVS Canteen Inc.



[click anywhere on the story above to visit: http://www.vvscanteen.com/](http://www.vvscanteen.com/)

2008-2009 DAD Leadership DAD's Eleventh Class

Twenty persons have been selected for the Dawson Area Development Leadership Class for 2008-09. The upcoming class is DAD's eleventh leadership class since the program's inception and this year's program marks the fifteenth year that DAD has sponsored the Leadership Class. Dawson Area Development Leadership program is a personal development program designed to motivate participants to develop and enhance the quality of their leadership ability in addressing pertinent community needs. The first class begins September 3, 2008, at the Grand Generation Center in Lexington.

The 2008-09 participants were selected from the Dawson County area to represent a cross section of occupations and community interests. All applicants completed a written application and a personal interview.

Those chosen for the nine-month program include: Gothenburg: Aaron Coleman, Angela Nichols, Joyce Kolbo, Chandler Mazour, and Seth Ryker. Cozad: Bob Anderson, Aimee Davis, Jared Dugan, Jane German, and John Grinde. Lexington: Delpha Albus, Susan Bennett, Nancy Evans, Curt Rickertsen, Kathleen Thomsen, and Dora Vivas. Overton: Jeff Ingram. Elwood: Jim Varvel. Farnam: Jennifer Barrett.

Topics covered in the curriculum include, County History, Quality of Life, Government/Energy, Education, Health/Human Services, Business/Industry, Agriculture, Legal/Law Enforcement, Water Tour, and finally, Becoming a Community Leader. Along with class attendance, participants must observe a city council and school board meeting in their communities along with a Dawson County Commissioner's meeting.

The Dawson Area Development Leadership Program plays a major role in developing and educating leaders who will address the future needs of Dawson County and its surrounding area. The 2008-09 Advisory Board was pleased to see the submitted applications and felt that many qualified and talented individuals will gain future knowledge of leadership in Dawson County. The Leadership Advisory Board for this year consisted of former Leadership Class participants: Nathan Wyatt - Gothenburg State Bank, Susan Kloepping - City of Cozad, Barb Batie - Crooked Creek Farm, Kirk Riley - First Bank and Trust, and Rusty Sutton - Plum Creek Medical Group; and Chairman of the Advisory Committee, Dave Stenberg - Dawson County Extension Service. 

Dawson County Educational Planning Night for Students and Parents Wednesday September 17th - 7:00 PM

August 7, 2008

Cozad High School hosts the annual Dawson County educational planning night for students and parents in the area. This year's event will take place on **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH AT 7:00 P.M.**

This is a wonderful opportunity for juniors and seniors as well as parents to explore colleges as well as visit with many area employers.


Once again colleges from across Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota have been invited. These schools include a variety of 4 year colleges, vocational schools, community colleges, and trade schools. Also in attendance will be several armed forces recruiters highlighting those opportunities.

ATTENTION: ANY AREA BUSINESS WHO WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DAWSON COUNTY EDUCATIONAL PLANNING NIGHT TO VISIT WITH AREA STUDENTS - PLEASE CONTACT JOHN BELL @ 784.3902



Once again this year we are partnering with the ABLE program who will assist in getting employers in the area to attend who are looking for workers from entry level to professionals.

We hope that you will extend this invitation to any student and/or parent you feel may be interested.

Professionally,
Dustin Favinger
Cozad High School Counselor 

COZAD and GOTHENBURG Select Planning Firm for Downtown Revitalization Grants

Cozad and Gothenburg have completed the selection process for their Downtown Revitalization Community Development Block Grants, Phase I.


Both cities have chosen JEO Consulting Group, Inc. of Lincoln, NE to develop the plan(s). On the basis of their reply to the Request for Proposals, past experience in this type of plan, and professional staff ready to work for the cities, JEO was considered by Cozad and Gothenburg to be best equipped to complete the study.

This Planning Grant allows the cities to complete a downtown revitalization study and develop a written planning product that defines a series of desired outcomes in the downtown areas. The study will also include strategies for achieving those outcomes. This plan may include a broad range of suggested improvements ranging from building facade renovation, street/alley improvements, business ownership transition plans, revolving loan funds for downtown businesses, or any other improvement that may become a priority in focus group discussions.

The key issues in completing both the Cozad and Gothenburg downtown plan are:

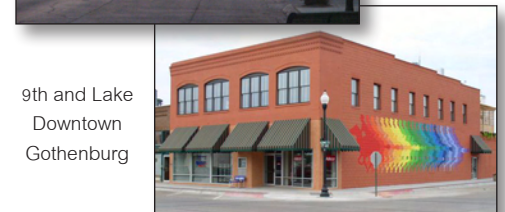
- Economic Development

- Having a product that fits the personality and needs of each city
- Having the plan reflect community needs and desires
- Receiving a plan that will include a Market Analysis
- Final plan in both cities will keep Historic Preservation in mind

This plan for both communities must be complete by December 2, 2008. Phase II of the Downtown Revitalization project will put the plan to work to accomplish the goals prioritized in each community. 



8th Street
Downtown
Cozad



9th and Lake
Downtown
Gothenburg

\$287,724 Hud Grant to Benefit Rural Areas of Nebraska CONT.

"HUD is deeply invested in promoting affordable housing and community development throughout rural America," said Preston. "These grants will stimulate the kind of employment, economic growth, and housing development that will have a direct impact on working families in our rural communities."


Dawson County Area Economic Development Council will use the grant to provide infrastructure development, construction of 27 new housing units, and homeownership education for the residents in the rural areas of Lexington, Cozad and Gothenburg. Partners for this project are Dawson Area Development, Advocating for Business Labor Education (ABLE), and Opportunity Builders. The proposed leveraging for this project is \$5,899,342.

Rural Housing and Economic Development (RHED) grants help pay for land acquisition, new home construction, housing demolition, infrastructure improvements and construction training. Other possible uses include homeownership and financial counseling; financial assistance to homeowners, businesses and developers; creating microenterprises and small business incubators; and establishing lines of credit or revolving loan pools to benefit the local business community. In addition to the funding announced today, rural communities are expected to generate

nearly \$59 million from other public and private sources to promote economic development and employment.

Qualified applicants are local rural nonprofit organizations, community development corporations, federally recognized Indian tribes, State housing finance agencies and/or local economic development agencies. RHED grants have provided nearly \$223 million, creating more than 35,000 jobs, assisting nearly 5,500 businesses and producing nearly 14,000 affordable homes.

Rural communities will use this funding as seed money to pay the start-up costs for housing or economic development projects. These grants will also help organizations to hire and train their staffs, develop strategic plans and acquire office space and other needed facilities.

HUD is the nation's housing agency committed to increasing homeownership, particularly among minorities; creating affordable housing opportunities for low-income Americans; and, supporting the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities and people living with AIDS. The Department also promotes economic and community development, and enforces the nation's fair housing laws. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov. 




Department of Housing
and Urban Development
www.hud.gov

Unemployment Rate for Dawson County Tops 7.3%

There have been some inquiries to the Dawson Area Development Office regarding the jump in the unemployment rate for July of 2008. The unemployment rate for July was reported at 7.3% up from 4.1% from June of 2008. The statewide average for July of 2008 was 3.6%.

The Nebraska Labor Market Information Center has informed Dawson Area Development that the July spike is the result of a large manufacturer that shut down for a week over the 4th of July Holiday, something that has happened annually for many years. Although employees do not receive unemployment benefits for this shut down, they do file claims. This helps to fulfill the one-week waiting period should they be laid off in the future. Many employees are aware of the one-week waiting period, and file claims as a precautionary tool for the future.

The statistic is misleading, and by the time the Department of Labor released the unemployment rate, these employees were already back to work. Dawson County traditionally has an unemployment equal to or very slightly above the statewide average.

The Labor Market Information Center (LMIC) is part of the Nebraska Workforce Development, Office of Workforce Security. Their purpose is to collect, analyze and provide to the public, information on the state's labor market. Information is collected and disseminated on employment levels, unemployment rates, wage and earnings data, estimates of available labor, employment projections, business staffing patterns, career planning information, etc. Among those who use the information are employers, career counselors, educators, economic developers, job placement personnel, training program planners and policy makers. 

ABLE Student Construction Program Students: Where are they now?

The ABLE Student Construction Program took off during the 2007-2008 school year. The construction of the home was due to a partnership created between The City of Lexington, Jerry Dannehl Construction, Lexington Public Schools, and the ABLE program.


The construction class was devised to expose students to the various careers they could pursue in the construction industry. In its first year the program was a success as a new group of construction students have recently started a second home for the 2008-2009 school year.



Students in the 2007-2008 ABLE Student Construction Class work on the roof of the home that is now complete and for sale on South Adams Street in the new CED addition. Listing agent: Patti Johnson BHA

Where are the students who participated during the 2007-2009 school year? Are they pursuing careers in construction? Was the exposure to the construction industry a success? Five of the students are either studying construction or have entered the construction workforce. Names omitted for privacy.

1. Freshman at UNK studying Construction Mgmt.
2. Currently employed at Central Nebraska Truss Inc.
3. Freshman at CCC studying Construction
4. Freshman at CCC studying Construction
5. Freshman at UNK studying Construction Mgmt.

The ABLE Student Construction Program meets two of Dawson Area Development's primary goals of workforce development and housing development. For more information on the student construction program contact the DAD office. 

Second ABLE House Receives \$1,000 from Wal-Mart

September 5, 2008

On Friday, September 5th Wal-Mart presented the ABLE program with a generous gift of \$1,000 for assistance with the second ABLE house which will be built by students during the 2008-2009 school year.

Mike Millican, General Manager of the Lexington Wal-Mart, and the local employees presented a check to Jerry Dannehl and John Bell who are involved in the Student Construction Program.

Each year the students who participate in the program are provided with work boots, a tool belt, various hand tools, and a hard hat. Upon completion of the class the students are allowed to keep these supplies as they either go on to college or enter the workforce.

The Wal-Mart donation of \$1,000 will be used to assist in purchasing these items for the students in the 2008-2009 class.



Above: Mike Millican presents a \$1,000 check to Jerry Dannehl and John Bell to assist with the 2008-2009 ABLE Student Construction Program.

"Dawson Area Development and the ABLE Program would like to thank Mike, the local Wal-Mart associates, and Wal-Mart for their contribution. The local Wal-Mart provided support for the first house as well as the second which is being built now. Many other checks were presented on Friday to various organizations throughout the community. Wal-Mart does a great job in supporting community projects and we thank them," said Bell. 🏠



ABLE House: FOR SALE First ABLE Student Construction House is on the Market

During the 2007-2008 school year the ABLE Student Construction project accomplished a large goal. A newly constructed house with the work being done by students. A partnership between the City of Lexington, Lexington Public Schools, ABLE, and J.A. Dannehl Construction, made the project possible.

"This is something we have been hoping to see for awhile now. It's great that we have a house under our belt. We can now continue to make the program better as we move toward house #2 in the 2008-2009 school year," said Steve Atwood, ABLE board member. For this upcoming year plans are taking place for not only Dannehl to provide the "lab" experience, but hopefully a curriculum based component of the class can be provided to the students by CCC to accentuate the lab experience of actually building the structure.



Thank you to all partners in the ABLE Student Construction Program: Bader Insulation, Davis Energy, Designer Craft Woodworking, Fagot Refrigeration and Electric, Fastenal, Wal-Mart, Lexington Schools, Gothenburg Schools, SEM Schools, J.A. Dannehl Construction, Johnny on the Spot, Jones Plumbing and Heating, Lexington Clipper Herald, KRVN, M&D Masonry, Mead Lumber, Paulsen Inc., Platte Valley Seamless Gutter, S and W Auto Parts, Sign Pro, Staton Insurance, BHA Real Estate, TL Sund, and Todd Rimpley. 🏠

1002 Reagan Drive
(South Adams Street)

Priced at \$115,000 - NEW CONSTRUCTION!

New Subdivision

- 3 bedroom ranch style home
- TAXES: TBD
- AREA: 1396 sq. ft.
- STYLE: ranch
- BEDROOMS: 3
- BATH: 2
- GARAGE: 2 attached - 576 sq. ft.
- YEAR BUILT: 2008
- EXTERIOR: color-loc siding
- HEATING: electric heat pump air to air

- AIR CONDITIONING: central air
- APPLIANCES INCLUDED: dishwasher
- SPRINKLER SYSTEM: to be installed
- SOD: to be installed

LEGAL: CED Subdivision to the City of Lexington, Dawson County, NE

LISTING AGENT: Patti Johnson
308 325 1764

