



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1, 2010

CONTACT: Liz Bailey
(202) 383-5459
lbailey@cdf.coop

CDF EXPANDS ITS WORK ON COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR SENIORS
FEDERAL GRANT TO CDF ENABLES A MAJOR EDUCATION INITIATIVE
CDF MAKES GRANT AWARDS FOR INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

Initial Focus on Homecare Cooperatives for Rural Communities

The Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF) announces that it has received a \$225,000 grant award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to expand the work of its MSC Fund that promotes cooperative development initiatives that meet the needs of senior citizens in rural communities. The grant award, a Rural Cooperative Development Grant, will allow CDF to establish a center that will both engage in educational programming to increase public understanding of cooperatives and lay the groundwork for new cooperative development that will provide rural seniors with affordable options for daily living.

In a related action, the CDF board of directors announced the award of \$70,000 in grants from the MSC Fund for three innovative cooperative development initiatives that will complement the work that will be done through the USDA grant.

“This is the fifth year the MSC Fund has focused its grant making on cooperative development initiatives that enhance the quality of life for rural seniors,” said Gasper Kovach, Jr., chairman of the CDF board of directors. “The needs of the elderly will be one of the greatest challenges facing rural communities over the next several decades and we are pleased that, through the USDA grant award, CDF will now have the ability to expand its capacity beyond the MSC Fund grant program to reach new audiences and raise awareness about the working models of cooperative housing and home care that are now ready to be replicated in rural communities across the country.”

The 2010 MSC Fund grant recipients are:

- Direct Care Alliance (DCA), New York, NY – \$15,000, to develop a Cooperative Home Care Tool Kit that will teach members of the direct care workforce about the cooperative home care model and demonstrate the benefits to them of working in that environment. DCA is a nationwide and state-based alliance of direct care workers, employers and people of all ages and disabilities. This tool kit will be used for workshops and webinars with direct care workers that will be held as part of the work CDF will do through its USDA grant award.
- ROC USA, LLC, Concord, NH – \$50,000, to establish a pooled fund that will be accessible to ROC USA’s 12 certified technical assistance providers as they work with rural senior communities in 37 states across the country to convert mobile home parks to cooperatives.
- Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Stevens Point, WI – \$5,000, to develop a computer-based system to allow seniors in rural areas to participate in a time exchange program. It’s the first attempt to organize this kind of “aging in place” project as a cooperative service exchange.

The MSC Fund has awarded more than \$1.1 million in grants to the cooperative community over the last three decades. The Cooperative Development Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization promoting community, economic, and social development through cooperative enterprises. For more information, visit the CDF website at www.cdf.coop.