



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
Dr. Glenda Humiston, State Director

430 G Street • Agency 4169 • Davis, CA 95616

Phone: (530) 792-5801 • Fax: (530) 792-5837 • TDD: (530) 792-5848 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>

Sarah Pursley (530) 792-5801

USDA To Host Public Forum on Jobs, Economic Growth

DAVIS, January 19, 2011 – USDA Rural Development State Director Dr. Glenda Humiston announced today, in partnership with Mendocino County and City of Ukiah, a county-wide public forum discussing economic development issues on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center Cabernet Room 1, located at 200 South School Road, Ukiah. Similar forums will be held in each of the state's 58 counties and focus on activities and initiatives that resulted from USDA Rural Development's "Jobs, Economic Development and Sustainable Communities" report (available online at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca).

"These forums will provide an opportunity for residents, business owners and community leaders across the state to share ideas on creating jobs and economic opportunities," Humiston said. "Government can help lay the groundwork for economic growth, but the best ideas for continued growth and job creation often come from local and community leaders. I look forward to hearing these ideas."

Forums are all open to the public. USDA encourages business owners, residents, state and local officials, farmers, non-profit organizations, community leaders, economists and all other interested parties to attend. Participants will discuss the findings and opportunities identified in the report as well as any new suggestions.

Helping to organize the local forum is Mendocino County First District Supervisor Carre Brown. Brown stressed the importance of community involvement for the forum to be a success. "This effort carries forth the dialogue and potential opportunities available through USDA Rural Development first started by Representative Mike Thompson a year ago," noted Brown.

In addition to today's announcement, forums are being led and organized by USDA Rural Development throughout the state. Co-hosting this effort is a wide variety of local organizers: Economic Development Corporations, U.C. Cooperative Extension, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, California State Universities, Farm Bureaus, Tribal Governments, Self-Help Housing Groups, and many more. To see all locations, visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca.

USDA Rural Development administers and manages more than 40 housing, business, and community infrastructure and facility programs as laid out by Congress through a network of 6,100 employees located in 500 national, state and local offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of more than \$125 billion in loans and loan guarantees.

#

"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, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).