



United States Department of Agriculture

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USDA Funds \$28,400 to Equip Wadsworth Community Center

(*CARSON CITY—April 29, 2013*)-- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) remains focused on carrying out its mission, despite a time of significant budget uncertainty. Today's announcement is one part of the Department's efforts to strengthen the rural economy.

USDA Rural Development (RD) recently announced funding for the Pyramid Lake Tribe to purchase kitchen and meeting room equipment for the recently constructed Wadsworth Community Center. On April 17, Tribal Chairman Elwood Lowery and RD State Director Sarah Adler jointly announced a \$15,600 grant and a \$12,800 direct loan during a Strike Force Initiative meeting between USDA and tribal members. The funds will support the Tribe's purchase of furniture and commercial kitchen equipment for the new community center.

Tribal Chairman Elwood Lowery, Tribal Vice Chair Terrence James, Tribal Administrator Della John, tribal staff, and USDA leadership and staff from the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Risk Management Agency, Food and Nutrition Service, and Rural Development participated in the meeting. Over 40 USDA and tribal staff members met to discuss conservation and agriculture programs, as well as business development, infrastructure and food systems.

Tribal Administrator Della Johns called the meeting "historic," saying that this was only the second time in the Tribe's history that a joint meeting of this magnitude with the federal government had occurred. In depth discussions occurred regarding agriculture, conservation, food security, tribal business enterprises, and community, youth and cultural resource needs and opportunities. A follow-up workshop with business enterprises and business and economic development partners is anticipated.

The meeting was initiated as part of the national Strike Force for Rural Growth and Opportunity initiative developed by USDA. The goal of USDA's Strike Force is to work collaboratively to provide intensive care for communities that suffer from high poverty. USDA joins together with communities in these areas to build opportunity for their citizens. USDA leadership and staff partner with local organizations and civic leaders, providing them with technical support and assistance to help them successfully apply for USDA programs.

Since 2010, USDA has piloted the Strike Force initiative in six states – Georgia, Arkansas, Mississippi, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada. In these states, USDA has already partnered with



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more than 400 community based organizations. Recently, USDA added the Dakotas, the Carolinas, Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Texas, Utah and Virginia.

USDA has made a concerted effort to deliver results for the American people, even as USDA implements sequestration – the across-the-board budget reductions mandated under terms of the Budget Control Act. USDA has already undertaken historic efforts since 2009 to save more than \$700 million in taxpayer funds through targeted, common-sense budget reductions. These reductions have put USDA in a better position to carry out its mission, while implementing sequester budget reductions in a fair manner that causes as little disruption as possible.

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