

• Special to the Daily Leader Twenty-nine Kansas communities will share a total of \$9,261,370 in federal grants through the Community Development Block Grant program, the Kansas Department of Commerce announced last week. The announcement follows awarding of more than \$12 million this spring in federal CDBG funds to Kansas communities, bringing this year's total to more than \$21 million.

The CDBG program provides federal funds to local governments for the development of viable communities by addressing their housing, public facilities and economic development needs. To be awarded funds, local governments must meet at least one of three program objectives: benefit low- and moderate-income persons; prevent or eliminate slums and blight; or resolve an urgent need where local resources are not available.

"We are pleased to announce the awarding of these funds to some very deserving Kansas communities," said Commerce Secretary Bill Thornton. "These grants allow Commerce to assist the small and rural communities that are so important to the livelihood of our state."

CDBG funds are one of the department's primary tools in supporting the state's small, predominately rural communities. The department has distributed more than \$266 million in CDBG funding since 1998.

Among the recipients of grants is Meade County, with \$208,000.

The county will replace two trucks that serve the Fowler Rural Fire District with a new dual-purpose tanker/pumper fire truck. The county is providing \$40,000 in matching funds.