

CASTLE ANNOUNCES \$234K GRANT FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Harrington, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle joined Marlene Brown, State Director for USDA Rural Development; Ken Anderson, Director of Entrepreneurial and Small Business for the Delaware Economic Development Office (DEDO); and Diane Laird, State Coordinator for Main Street Programs at DEDO to announce a \$234,643 grant for DEDO's Main Street Revitalization Program from USDA Rural Development. This grant, which is the only one awarded in either Delaware or Maryland this year, will provide technical assistance and training to revitalize rural communities and towns throughout the state. The funds will be used over a three year time frame to aid seven Delaware towns in Kent and Sussex Counties, including Bridgeville, Delmar, Harrington, Laurel, Milford, Millsboro, and Milton. The assistance this grant provides will help to create and implement economic development strategies locally with long-term potential for communities to establish comprehensive local Main Street programs. Rep. Castle says these funds will make a significant contribution to economic development in Delaware's smaller communities.

"Federal grants, such as this one, are very competitive, and I am pleased that the USDA has chosen the Delaware Economic Development Office as the recipient of these funds. With many uncertainties in our current national economy, it is important that we take proactive steps to strengthen Delaware's economy through programs like this. These funds will give DEDO the resources needed to help revitalize Delaware's rural economies, more specifically, giving them the ability to focus attention on sustainable development and business development in the designated communities," Rep. Castle said.

More importantly, Rep. Castle highlighted the importance of Delaware residents and organizations taking advantage of federal grants. Many organizations are in need of federal funding or guidance on how to begin the process of applying for grants. To help answer some of these questions, Rep. Castle will be hosting an Informational Grants Fair on Monday, February 25, 2008 at Del-Tech in Wilmington. Rep. Castle wants to provide Delaware organizations with the tools that they need to receive federal funding, and this workshop will address a broad range of topics ranging from how to find the right grant for your organization to managing those funds. The event will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a presentation of Lea Fowlie, the Grants Instructor for CAO Workforce Services with the U.S. House of Representatives, and various other federal agencies including Chief Administrative Office; Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council; the US Departments of Education, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the US Small Business Administration will be on hand to answer agency-specific questions. The fair will help to provide organizations in Delaware with better access to the federal funds currently available. This event runs from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., is free, and will be open to the public. For more detailed information visit to www.castle.house.gov.

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