

WASHINGTON, DC – Representative Joe Courtney announced that the Quinebaug Valley Emergency Center will receive \$1,800,000 in federal funds to increase and enhance emergency response capabilities throughout north east Connecticut. This additional funding is provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which continues to make positive investments throughout communities in Eastern Connecticut.

Representative Courtney stated, “Increasing the response capabilities of our life saving first responders is critically important, particularly in the rural communities of eastern Connecticut. This is another great example of the USDA utilizing recovery funds to assist rural communities.”

The Quinebaug Valley Emergency Center will use this federal funding to renovate an old church in East Killingly to serve as their new communication center. The Quinebaug Valley Emergency Center serves a 519 square mile area which contains over 100,000 permanent residents, 34 fire departments, 14 ambulance agencies, 2 municipal police departments and 2 State Police agencies.

Earlier this week, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the selection of \$11.8 million in community facilities projects throughout the nation that are being funded with federal funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. USDA has announced \$337 million in Recovery Act funding for community facility projects to date.

“President Obama is committed to improving the quality of life for rural residents by ensuring that rural communities have quality public facilities such as community centers, courthouses, health centers and hospitals,” Vilsack said. “The Recovery Act funds announced today demonstrate continued efforts to rebuild and revitalize rural communities throughout the country.”

The funding is being provided through USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities program, which helps finance essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include childcare centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Through this program, USDA ensures that such facilities are available to all rural residents. These funds are available to public bodies, non-profit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes. More information about USDA Rural Development can be found at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

More information about USDA’s Recovery Act efforts is available at www.usda.gov/recovery. More information about the Federal government's efforts on the Recovery Act is available at www.recovery.gov.