

BLAND COUNTY TO RECIEVE \$700,000.00 GRANT

~The County Secured \$700,000 for the Bland Medical Clinic Expansion Project~

(Bland, Virginia) – June 27th, 2006, The Bland County Board of Supervisors announced the acceptance of a \$700,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development following the June 9th, confirmation of award from Governor Timothy Kaine. The funds will be used to expand the Clinic’s facility and operations, allowing for a greater amount of patience to receive locally-provided healthcare services.

The \$700,000 of CDBG funds are part of nearly \$7 million in competitive grant monies being provided to 17 Virginia localities. The grants are to benefit low- and moderate-income residents, and will support community and economic development projects such as housing creation and rehabilitation, public water and sewer systems, downtown revitalization, and healthcare programs. “The county is elated to be the recipients of such funding that we can use to assist the Clinic for such a noble cause as this”, stated John C. Thompson, Bland County Board of Supervisor. “The grant monies are going where they belong, back into the community...Providing our citizens with a higher level of services that they deserve”

The 4,280 sq.ft. Clinic will be renovated and expanded to 12,133 sq. ft. The renovation/expansion will provide an additional 8 examination rooms, totaling 16; an increased waiting area; the addition of a mental health office; an expanded nurses’ station; an on-site rehabilitation office that performs occupational and physical therapy; increased office space for administrative and medical staff; and an educational training/conference room. “We are very appreciative of the support from the County of Bland in assisting us to obtain the CDBG grant and to DHCD for granting us these funds. We are very excited about the expansion/renovation of the Clinic building to a state of the art building because it is greatly needed. We look forward to serving the area communities by expanding our services and enhancing healthcare availability”, stated Susan Greever, Executive Director, Bland Medical Clinic.

The Clinic currently has an administrative and medical staff of 30. The total renovation/expansion project cost is approximately \$2-million for construction and new equipment. The expansion will commence once gap financing through Rural Development is provided. The projected completion date of the renovation and expansion will be approximately one year from the start of construction. In 2005, the Clinic saw 13,160. They expect to increase their patient visits to 18,000 once the facility is completed. “The county is pleased to help whenever and wherever we can”, stated Jonathan D. Sweet, County Administrator. “We would like to offer a special thanks to the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission for assisting both Bland County and the Clinic to secure these funds...And commend the clinic’s staff and the Board of Directors on their vision and fortitude to make this expansion possible”

The Clinic facility also houses the Bland County Pharmacy (square footage was not included in figures above), that provides a one-stop location for filling the Clinic’s prescribed medications. “This expansion will be a valuable asset to the community; the county’s new Prescription Discount Card that becomes effective July 1st, will compliment the additional Bland County residents who seek healthcare services at the Clinic and require prescription medications”, stated Karen Hodock, Bland County Board of Supervisors.

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