

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development agency has awarded a \$99,500 Community Facilities Direct Loan to Chenango Ambulance Services, Inc. in Binghamton.

“This is a critical loan to improve health services and ensure that safe and speedy ambulance services are available to local residents,” said **Arcuri**. “Making sure that rural communities have life-saving technology and necessary health care infrastructure is a critical part of improving the quality of life in our rural areas and expanding economic development. I’m pleased to see federal resources going to help local communities and will continue to work on the federal level and locally to improve rural health care.”

The loan will be used to purchase a new ambulance. The Chenango Ambulance Service provides emergency medical response to the Town of Chenango and provides backup service to Broome County and the Village of Deposit.

“Helping New York’s rural communities acquire the equipment they need to protect life and property is an important part of President Bush’s First Responder Initiative and USDA Rural Development is proud to support this effort,” said **Patrick H. Brennan, State Director for USDA Rural Development in New York**

“The new ambulance will improve emergency medical service for more than 11,000 residents in the Town of Chenango.”

USDA Rural Development invested more than \$258 million in rural New York in fiscal year 2006, raising its total investment in the state to more than \$1.2 billion since 2001. The Chenango Ambulance Service funds were made available through USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities program. The Community Facilities program provides funds for essential public facilities, such public safety buildings, schools, libraries, day care centers, health care clinics and fire and rescue services. Last year, the program invested more than \$10 million in New York.

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