

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development has awarded \$10.1 million to the Perkins County Health Services Agency under its Community Facilities Direct Loan Program.

The funds, leveraged with \$4 million from two local lenders and more than \$1.3 million from the hospital's own funds, will be used to expand and renovate the current hospital.

"USDA is pleased to be assisting Perkins County Hospital with their expansion and remodeling goals. We believe that access to healthcare is the center of our rural communities and look forward to helping Perkins County and the surrounding area," said Community Programs Specialist Natalie Furrow, USDA Rural Development.

"Perkins County Health Services is genuinely grateful for our loan from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Community Facilities Direct Loan Program. We are also fortunate for local financial support provided by Valley Bank and Trust Company and Adams Bank and Trust," CEO Jim LeBrun, Perkins County Hospital, said. "Our \$15.4 Million expansion and renovation project includes new construction of 39,331 square feet, renovation of approximately 20,000 square feet, and refinancing of our 2006 Bond Issue. Our vision is to 'Provide an appropriate health care delivery system to meet the needs of the residents of Perkins County and the surrounding areas.'"

The expansion and renovation project includes a new 20 bed Critical Access Hospital and a new emergency department with adjacent diagnostic services.

New space will be constructed for several departments including physical therapy, Hi Line Home Health, information technology, and dietary services including a public dining room.

Current space will be renovated for laboratory, radiology, nuclear medicine, business office and admissions. This project will also accommodate for the growth of Grant Medical Clinic.

Perkins County Health Services supports the region's economy by providing jobs and benefits for 200 plus employees who have been providing quality health care services at Perkins County Hospital, Grant Medical Clinic, Golden Ours Convalescent Home, Park Ridge Assisted Living, Hi Line Home Health, and Hugs-n- Teddy Bears Daycare.

"Our Mission is to 'Provide Excellence In Care ...for Life,'" said LeBrun.

"Adams Bank and Trust is pleased to be part of the Perkins County Hospital expansion project. Perkins County Hospital is a leading provider of health services for southwestern Nebraska and a major employer for Perkins County, said Regional Senior Banker John Woodmancy of Adams Bank and Trust.

"The expansion project will continue its leadership in providing outstanding health services and create the efficiencies needed to compete in this competitive industry currently and into the future. Again, we are pleased to be in a position to meet the financial needs of our community and especially the needs of Perkins County Health Services which is such an integral part of our region."

"Valley Bank is honored to serve as a partner in the Perkins County Hospital project. The Perkins County Hospital is an economic stalwart in southwest Nebraska with a significantly stable medical clientele," said Senior Vice President Donald W. Softley of Valley Bank and Trust. "It is paramount to strategically evaluate and rationalize the future medical, economic, and social needs this completed project can maintain, plus expand within the region's population. We value the positive working relationship with Adams Bank and USDA in this endeavor."

Currently, the Perkins County Hospital occupies a building that was constructed in 1968. Some of the systems (including the mechanical system) have reached the end of their useful life and require a complete upgrade.

In the past 45 years the needs of healthcare have dramatically changed including ADA accessibility and HIPAA requirements.

The 45-year-old hospital does not adequately meet either of these and has several design inefficiencies. These updates will greatly enhance the hospital's ability to serve its residents and the surrounding communities.