

02/10/2003 Moran Announces Funding for Norton County Hospital

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Economic Development Loan for Expansion

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced federal funding for the Norton County Hospital. The \$450,000 economic development loan will go towards expanding the northwest Kansas hospital that serves nearly 9,000 people in north central Kansas and southern Nebraska.

"In addition to improving health care services for the people in and around Norton County, this expansion will allow for economic development and add jobs," Moran said. "This is a worthwhile investment in the future of this part of the state."

Norton County will expand and renovate the existing hospital, including the emergency and trauma rooms, obstetrical department, laboratory, radiology, and nurses' stations. The county is expected to add five jobs to the current workforce of 100 employees.

"We are very appreciative that the Norton County Hospital's application for a rural development economic loan has been approved by USDA," Hospital Administrator Richard Miller said. "Receiving the funds interest free lessens the financial burdens on the Norton-area community and allows additional funds to go towards health care technology advancement and staff support."

The funding was awarded through the Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. of Norton. This loan is part of \$12.8 million in rural economic and community development loan and grant funds, announced today by the Rural Development office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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