

PRESS RELEASE

**Contact Eliza Leadbeater
Executive Director, BCEDC
603-524-3057**

**For Immediate Release
March 28, 2005**

BCEDC Council hosts USDA Rural Development Informational Workshop

The Belknap County Economic Development Council (BCEDC) and Southern New Hampshire University – Laconia Center (SNHU) will be sponsoring an informational workshops on United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Programs. This workshop will be held on Thursday April 7, 2005 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Lakes Venture Resource Center located at 2 Airport Road, Gilford, NH.

The workshop is an opportunity to learn first-hand about the programs and services of the USDA Rural Development including: technical assistance, grants and low interest loan programs available for community and non-profit facilities, rural utilities/telecommunication, housing, healthcare, and economic development projects. Topics to be covered include: introduction to USDA loans, grants, and technical assistance; community development opportunities and connectivity; and relationships

The BCEDC, a regional nonprofit economic development corporation, serves the businesses within the eleven municipalities that comprise Belknap County. Created in 1992, the Council works to foster a business and community climate that promotes a balanced variety of quality employment and economic opportunities. It offers a wide range of technical and business development assistance including a Business Information Center, one-on-one counseling, workforce training programs, and a countywide Revolving Loan Fund. The Fund celebrated its tenth anniversary at the end of December 2004. It has lent in excess of \$5 million to area businesses since inception. The Council offices are at 2 Airport Road, Gilford which is the Southern New Hampshire University – Laconia Center.

Seating for the workshop is limited and registration is required. If you would like more information or wish to register for this workshop, please contact the BCEDC at 603-524-3057, fax: 603-524-0314 or email info@bcedc.org.

