

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.

The project includes new construction of 39,331 square feet, renovation of approximately 20,000 square feet, and refinancing of a 2006 Bond Issue.

A new 20-bed Critical Access Hospital and a new emergency department with adjacent diagnostic services are in the plans.

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.

The project will also accommodate for the growth of Grant Medical Clinic.

Perkins County Health Services has 200-plus employees at Perkins County Hospital, Grant Medical Clinic, Golden Ours Convalescent Home, Parkridge Assisted Living, Hi Line Home Health and Hugs and Teddy Bears Daycare.

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.