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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Roosevelt County Receives Grant Funding to Construct Arise Building**

Portales, NM –Roosevelt County was awarded $500,000 to construct a new building for Arise Sexual Assault Services through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Roosevelt County was one of 12 applicants to be fully funded for the CDBG. A little over $10.5 million has been awarded to 23 applicants throughout the state.

Arise provides free, confidential services to victims of sexual violence throughout Eastern New Mexico. This program was founded in 2003 at Roosevelt General Hospital. The Roosevelt County Special Hospital District Board of Trustees voted to donate a parcel of land to the county for the site of this new facility.

“This is a wonderful solution to our lack of appropriate space for this mission critical program and a testament to the dedication to service and cooperation between RGH and Roosevelt County,” said Dr. Leaming, CEO of Roosevelt General Hospital. “The County Commissioners, RGH Board, and our dedicated Arise staff have worked long and hard to secure this resource for the citizens of Roosevelt County and all of Eastern New Mexico. This building will be their legacy to the future of sexual assault services for many years to come.”

Services include Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) who perform medical and forensic exams following an assault; counseling services for anyone whose primary victimization is sexual violence; advocates who respond to the hotline and accompany victims to exams, and also prevention and outreach staff.

“It was a very emotional time when we heard the money was approved; I thought about all of the lives in Roosevelt County that would be touched,” said Leigh Ana Eugene, director of Arise. “Roosevelt County is amazing and I am so thankful for all of their hard work; we know we wouldn’t have this opportunity without their vested interest. I am truly thankful for all of our supporters, RGH staff, our multidisciplinary team members, and the community itself.”

“There was originally $8.9 million in the NM fund, a little over $1 million was reverted to the fund from unspent funds from previous rounds of funding. Just over $10.5 million was allocated to 23 projects in New Mexico,” said Mandi Park, Health Care Assistance Administrator. “We held public hearings in April to determine what kind of project we could use CDBG funds for and several ideas were discussed, but the overwhelming majority was in favor of the Arise project.”

“Roosevelt County has and will continue to foster a great cooperative relationship with our hospital,” said County Commission Chairman Kendell Buzard. “Arise is vital to our county and this funding will help to ensure long-term program sustainability with the construction of a facility to adequately house this program.”

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