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For immediate release

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**USDA and FAHE Announce \$25 Million Partnership in Central Appalachia**  
*Affordable Housing Program Targets Persistent Poverty*

**(Washington, D.C.)** - Officials at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have approved a special set aside of \$25 million in mortgage funds for low-income homebuyers in Central Appalachia through the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises (FAHE) and its affiliates. Loans originated through this pilot program will feature payment assistance and interest rates as low as 1% to ensure affordable monthly payment. For those who qualify, 100% financing and alternative credit analysis are available.

Known as The 502 Demonstration, these funds will be made available based on USDA's existing Section 502 Direct Loan program, which received substantial new funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or Stimulus Bill, passed in February of last year. The Demonstration is the first partnership of its kind nationwide, wherein nonprofit lenders are being given unprecedented access to fast-track the deployment of federal funds.

The focus of The Demonstration is Central Appalachia and its pockets of persistent poverty. As an association of nonprofit housing providers, FAHE is uniquely positioned to deliver affordable mortgage products in some of the country's most underserved communities.

FAHE will administer the funds through its mortgage division, JustChoice Lending, which is certified as a Fair and Safe Lender. Details are available at [www.justchoicelending.com/502](http://www.justchoicelending.com/502).

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FAHE is a regional non-profit based in Berea, Kentucky that leads a network of Appalachian organizations to create housing and promote community development. As a financial intermediary, FAHE has been recognized nationally as a leader in innovation that connects resources with communities in KY, TN, VA and WV. For more information about FAHE, visit [www.fahe.org](http://www.fahe.org) or call 1-888-969-1399. To schedule an interview, please contact Jenna Urusky at 859-228-2129 or [jenna@fahe.org](mailto:jenna@fahe.org).