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**(Neb.)-USDA Says It Will Loan \$20 Million Toward New Sidney Hospital**

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/25/2012 09:03 AM

SIDNEY, Neb. (AP) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture says it will loan \$20 million to a group raising money for a new hospital in Sidney.



The agency announced in a news release Monday that it has awarded \$20 million to the Cheyenne County Hospital Association that will be leveraged with a \$20 million loan from AgStar Financial Services and \$9.8 million from the hospital.

Sidney Regional Medical Center chief executive officer Jason Petik calls the USDA loan a "major step" in efforts to build a new hospital.

Plans call for building a new hospital on a 20-acre site to replace the current hospital, originally built in 1955.