



United States
Department of
Agriculture

**RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

100 USDA , Suite 108
Stillwater, OK 74074-2654
Phone: (405) 742-1000
Fax: (405) 742-1005
TTY: (405) 742-1007

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2002

**Contact: Kathleen James
(405) 742-1014**

Federal grant to bring housing to Southeastern, Oklahoma.

Idabel, Oklahoma - USDA Rural Development State Director, Brent Kisling announced today that his agency would invest \$756,000 for a Self Help Housing program to benefit areas of Choctaw, Pushmataha and McCurtain counties. Little Dixie Community Action Agency submitted the successful application claiming the funds for the area. The Technical Assistance Grant is being funded through the Rural Housing program administered by Rural Development.

Little Dixie Community Action Agency will utilize the grant to combine their three Self-Help Housing programs into one program and process applications for and assist in the construction of 55 homes in Choctaw, Pushmataha and McCurtain counties.

This Self Help program has many advantages. Because the homeowner is involved in the construction process, not only do they have equity in the property because the value of the home exceed the amount financed, they also learn from their construction experience and are able to perform minor repairs and maintenance on the property to keep their home in top shape. Another advantage is buying power - materials and supplies are purchased at a reduced rate because they are purchasing for several homes at a time. Contracting fees are also eliminated because the homeowner and the Community Action Agency act as the general contractor. In this project, the completed homes are expected to appraise for approximately \$82,000 while costing the homeowner only approximately \$66,500.

Today, Kisling presented a ceremonial check to Little Dixie Community Action Agency at an event in Idabel, Oklahoma. The event was hosted by the Community Action Agency at Summit Estates, one of the additions to benefit from the funding. "It is a priority of the Bush Administration to use federal program dollars to benefit a greater number of people through regional investments in organizations like Little Dixie Community Action Agency," said Kisling. "This project is a great example of the Administration's intent, not one but at least 55 families will be given the chance to own their own home while combining the three Self-Help programs into one more effective and efficient program to serve the area." "This Self-Help program will enhance housing in Southeastern Oklahoma, not only do qualified applicants get to fulfill their dream of homeownership, the pride of owning a new home is enhanced by the fact that the homeowner helped to build their home." "We appreciate the efforts of Little Dixie and their support of our mission to provide decent, safe and affordable housing in rural Oklahoma," Kisling added.

USDA Rural Development's programs are designed to provide assistance to individuals, public bodies, nonprofit corporations, and Federally recognized Indian tribal groups. For more information on Rural Development programs please call the Rural Development State Office 1 (800) 522-3819 extension 1000.

**RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer.
Complaints of Discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director,
Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D. C. 20250-9410