



NEWS RELEASE

3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la/>

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ELIGIBILITY FOR DISASTER DESIGNATED NON-RURAL AREAS ENDS SOON September 30 Deadline for USDA Rural Development Housing Programs

ALEXANDRIA, July 8, 2008— USDA Rural Development offers single family housing direct and guaranteed loan programs and home repair loan and grant programs to residents of rural areas with populations of 10,000 or less and, under certain conditions, residents of towns and cities with populations between 10,000 and 20,000.

As a result of the tremendous need for single family housing in areas impacted by the hurricanes of 2005, several areas previously ineligible for USDA Rural Development housing programs—because of population limits—were designated temporarily eligible for USDA Rural Development housing programs. On September 30, 2008, the temporary eligible areas within the following locations will expire:

- St. Bernard Parish
- East Baton Rouge Parish excluding the incorporated area of Baton Rouge
- Jefferson Parish excluding the unincorporated areas of the East Bank of the Mississippi River (Metairie and River Ridge were not eligible)
- Sulphur
- New Iberia
- Houma
- Slidell

Prospective homebuyers planning to purchase homes in these areas should contact the nearest USDA Rural Development office as soon as possible to discuss home financing options: Monroe Area Office, (318) 343-4467, extension 4; Natchitoches Area Office, (318) 352-7100, extension 4; Lafayette Area Office, (337) 262-6601, extension 4; and Amite Area Office, (985) 748-8751, extension 4. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs may be obtained by visiting Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

Homebuyer eligibility for USDA Rural Development's homeownership programs is primarily based on income, repayment ability, and acceptable credit history. Some of the benefits of these programs include 100% financing, no down payment, extended financing periods, and fixed rate financing.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.