



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR HONDO HOSPITAL AUTHORITY dba MEDINA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

HONDO, TEXAS, January 7, 2009—Scooter Brockett, USDA Rural Development Acting State Director, today announced Hondo Hospital Authority d/b/a Medina Community Hospital was selected to receive more than \$900,000 through the agency's Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program. This effort is part of the USDA Rural Development mission to help rural areas build and enhance essential community facilities.

“USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Programs help rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations,” said Brockett. “Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents.”

The funds will assist the Hondo Hospital Authority in the purchase of equipment that will allow the hospital to provide a full range of faster and more efficient healthcare services to meet the future needs of providing quality healthcare in Medina County. Hondo Hospital Authority was created in 2002 and operates Medina Community Hospital, which is located in Hondo. The hospital is currently undergoing \$13.3 million of expansion and renovations thru funds made possible by USDA Rural Development.

In Fiscal Year 2008, \$20.2 million in Community Facility Direct and Guaranteed Loans and over \$491,000 in grants were obligated in Texas. Funds are used to enhance the quality of life for residents of rural areas by providing the means for construction, expansion, or enhancement of community facilities, telecommunication and distance education programs, and water and waste disposal systems. These programs are important because they supply a number of growth opportunities to communities with improved utility facilities, increased job availability, and technology and educational resources.

USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Fredericksburg Sub-Area Office at (830) 997-8902, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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