

# USDA/Rural Development

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## News Release

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### **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANT**

**Lufkin, Texas, April 4, 2003**--Bryan Daniel, State Director, Texas USDA Rural Development announced that Pineywoods HOME Team Affordable Housing, Inc. received a \$10,000.00 pre-development grant through the Single Family Housing, Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance program, a program that falls under the USDA Rural Development mission area. The effort is part of USDA's national program to help rural areas build and enhance essential housing.

"Homeownership strengthens our rural communities and contributes to the overall quality of life for rural Texans," said Daniel. "Rural Development's Rural Housing Service works with community organizations, lenders, and individual residents to increase the opportunity for rural homeownership. I am confident that by working together, housing opportunities will continue to grow and President Bush's goal of increasing rural homeownership will be reached."

USDA Rural Development makes grants to eligible nonprofit or public organizations to assist low income families who wish to work together to build their own homes. Grant money is used to pay for technical assistance the families may need in constructing the home with their own resources.

There are a number of other housing programs available to rural residents including direct and guaranteed housing loans and home repair loans and grants. Single Family Housing loans are available depending on repayment ability and the location of the home or building site. The direct loans are designed to provide low-income families with financing to build, purchase, or repair homes that meet local codes and provide adequate affordable housing. Funds may also be used to modernize or repair a home already owned by an applicant. Special financing is also available for persons 62 years of age or older to repair their homes. To be eligible for financing, direct or guaranteed, the home must be located in a RURAL community with less than 20,000 population, on a farm or in open country not closely associated with an urban area.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs please contact the Lufkin Service Center located at 1520 E. Denman Ave, Suite 104, Lufkin, TX 75901 or call (936) 639-8661 ext. 4.

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, D.C. 20250-9410.

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*The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.*

**For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.**

