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News Release

TX. 045.03

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR

(Knox County Hospital District to Receive $35,475 Loan and Grant)

Knox City, Texas, May 29, 2003 -- Bryan Daniel, Texas State Director, USDA Rural Development announced that the Knox County Hospital District has received a $35,475 loan and grant through the agency's Community Facilities loan program. The effort is part of USDA Rural Development's national program to help rural areas build and enhance essential community facilities.

"USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities program helps rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations," said Daniel. "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 be used to purchase cardiac monitors to replace needed equipment for the hospital. The esent equipment is so aged that they can no longer purchase replacement parts. A new telemetry monitor will ensure accurate readings in the treatment of cardiac patients.

In Fiscal Year 2002, a total of $12 million in direct and guaranteed loans were obligated. Community Facilities loan funds may be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services. These loans and grants are made to public entities and non-profit organizations. Examples of eligible projects include rural healthcare clinics, town halls, fire trucks, county safety equipment, jaws of life, early warning systems, community centers, libraries, day care centers, and schools.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Abilene Local Service Center at (325)691-6162, 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/

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