



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES \$6 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING

TEMPLE, TEXAS, DECEMBER 8, 2004 – Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today the availability of \$6 million in grant funding to support rural economic and community development efforts. Qualified private, nonprofit and public intermediary organizations proposing to carry out financial and technical assistance programs are eligible to apply.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) grant funds will provide financial and technical assistance to recipients to develop projects relating to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development.

“Through the Rural Community Development Initiative, rural Texans can increase their capacity to bring community and economic development opportunities to local communities,” said Daniel.

Funds may be used to provide technical assistance on how to create and operate a revolving loan fund, establish and manage cooperatives, or provide training on how to conduct homeownership education classes. Grant recipients will provide training and technical assistance to eligible nonprofit community development organizations and low income communities located in rural areas with populations of 50,000 or less.

The maximum award per grant is \$500,000. Applications must be completed and submitted no later than January 25, 2005. For more information, please contact Francisco Valentin, Jr., Community Programs Director, (254) 742-9789.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 to help enhance the quality of life and increase economic opportunities for the nation’s rural residents. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact any USDA Service Center or visit our website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>

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