



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING TO FUTURO COMMUNITIES, INC.

UVALDE, Texas, June 16, 2004 – Bryan Daniel, State Director, Texas USDA Rural Development announced that FUTURO Communities, Inc., received a \$10,000 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 Rural Development's national program to help rural areas build and enhance essential housing.

“We are very pleased to be able to award this self-help grant,” said Daniel. “The funds will be used to provide grants to public or private non-profit organizations and Indian Tribes for prospective applicants to build their homes through the Self-Help Housing method.” This project will serve Uvalde, Dimmit, LaSalle, Maverick, and Zavala Counties, Texas.

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.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Uvalde office at (830)278-9503, Extension 4.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and includes Business Programs, Housing Programs, and Utilities Programs. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's rural residents.

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