



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR EPIC ENTERPRISES, LLC

EL PASO, Texas, June 7, 2004 –USDA Rural Development, State Director, Bryan Daniel, announced today that EPIC Enterprises, LLC received a \$2,500,000 Business and Industry Guaranteed loan. USDA Rural Development is charged with assisting rural communities by administering programs targeted to strengthening the economy and infrastructure of rural areas.

“We are pleased to fund this project near El Paso,” said Daniel. “One of our goals is to provide access to credit for rural businesses that will bring new jobs to the area for local residents. We are proud that USDA Rural Development programs play a role in President Bush’s plan to increase jobs which will continue the growth of the economy. This loan will help El Paso and the surrounding area to become a viable economic community in El Paso County.”

USDA Rural Development funds will be used to refinance and to facilitate further development of a truck stop approximately 17 miles southeast of downtown El Paso. This loan will save approximately 40 jobs.

In Fiscal Year 2003, the USDA Rural Development Business Programs provided over 38 million dollars in guaranteed loan monies to 16 rural businesses throughout Texas.

For more information regarding this and other USDA Rural Development programs and eligibility requirements, contact the El Paso Local Office at 915-855-1229, Ext. 4.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

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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/>.