



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES LOAN FOR CEN-TEX CERTIFIED DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Austin, Texas, May 31, 2004 – Bryan Daniel, Texas State Director, USDA Rural Development announced today \$680,283 in economic development to Cen-Tex Certified Development Corporation as part of the Bush Administration's ongoing commitment to invest and bolster programs for rural America. The funding will assist in facilitating the retention and creation of rural jobs.

Cen-Tex Certified Development Corporation received a \$680,283 loan through USDA Rural Development's Intermediary Relending Program (IRP). The purpose of the loan is to provide low-interest loans to public and non-profit organizations to relend for business and community development.

"Utilizing organizations such as Cen-Tex Certified Development Corporation to bring new economic opportunities to rural areas is an important part of creating new jobs in rural America," said Daniel. "This loan will give rural residents the opportunity to expand and improve local businesses and economies."

The intermediary relending program is part of USDA Rural Development business programs. The loans are awarded on a competitive basis and are intended to foster rural development through business loans for real estate, equipment, working capital, and refinancing for non-farm businesses.

USDA Rural Development serves as the leading Federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical assistance through Housing Programs, Business Programs and Utilities Programs. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>.

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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/>.