



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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USDA Rural Development Faith Based Pilot Program Workshop Announced

BASTROP, TEXAS, June 16, 2004 – USDA Rural Development State Director Bryan Daniel today unveiled a new USDA faith-based and community organization pilot program to help educate nonprofit organizations on the Rural Development Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program and connect them to local lending institutions.

“To further support our nation’s rural communities, these workshops will help faith-based and community organizations get the information they need about available resources,” said Daniel. “USDA Rural Development remains committed to helping faith-based and community organizations get access to federal resources to enhance their capacity to serve their communities.”

A workshop will be held in Bastrop at 1:30 p.m. on June 24, 2004, in the Community Room located at 415 Old Austin Hwy, Bastrop, Texas.

Through an Executive Order on December 12, 2002, President Bush incorporated USDA into his Faith-Based and Community Initiative. As part of its faith-based and community focus, USDA ensures that faith-based and community organizations have equal access to USDA programs and benefits and works in conjunction with the Department's many mission areas to reach out and educate faith-based and community organizations about USDA programs and benefits. The best opportunities for federal assistance to faith-based and community organizations are outlined on USDA’s faith-based and community initiatives Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/fbcj>.

USDA Rural Development’s community facility loan guarantee program allows lenders to finance and facilitate essential community facilities such as health care clinics, police and fire stations, schools and child care centers. Through this program, USDA can provide a lender a guarantee of up to 90% of the total loan amount. In fiscal year 2003, the average loan guarantee was \$1.6 million with a range from \$55,000 to \$22.5 million.

To register, please contact the Edna local office at 361-782-7151x4. USDA Rural Development is the economic development agency for USDA, and the lead federal entity for rural development. For additional program information, you may also log onto the state's Rural Development website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx.

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.

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.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).