NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF STRAWN, INC.

STRAWN, TEXAS, June 24, 2004 – USDA Rural Development, State Director, Bryan Daniel, announced today that Development Corporation of Strawn, Inc., received a $100,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant. 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 in Strawn," 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 Rural Development programs play a role in President Bush's plan to increase jobs which will continue the growth of the economy. This grant will help Strawn and the surrounding area to provide economic opportunities in Palo Pinto County."

USDA Rural Development guarantee funds will be used to purchase a building to be used as a medical clinic and for a revolving loan fund.

Potential businesses in rural communities interested in the RBEG program must employ 50 or fewer new employees; have less than $1 million in projected gross revenue; have or will utilize technological innovations or commercialize new products that can be produced or manufactured in rural areas; or have new processes that can be used in such production. Public bodies and not-for-profit entities including Federally recognized Indian Tribes located in rural areas or in communities under 50,000 population are eligible. Priority is given to applicants from communities of 25,000 or less.

For more information regarding this and other USDA Rural Development programs and eligibility requirements, contact the Cleburne Local Office at 817-641-4481, 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/.

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).