



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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Date: July 2, 2004

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TX. 186.04

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES VISIT

BASTROP, TEXAS, July 2, 2004 - USDA Rural Development representatives will be available on July 14, 2004 to meet with citizens, organizations, and public officials. Representatives will be at the USDA Rural Development Local Office in Bastrop, located at 507 Old Austin Highway between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM to provide information on available programs. USDA Rural Development is charged with assisting rural communities by administering programs targeted to strengthening the economy, housing, and infrastructure of rural areas.

Programs available through USDA Rural Development include no down payment, low interest loans up to \$122,300 to build or purchase a home in Bastrop County for very-low and low income families. Higher loan amounts are available through a guaranteed program for families with moderate incomes. Very low income families may be eligible for a home improvement loan up to \$20,000 at 1% interest. Elderly families with very low incomes may be eligible for a \$7,500 grant to remove health hazards in their homes.

Loans and grants are available to nonprofit organizations and public bodies for water and wastewater systems, firestations, fire trucks, ambulances, hospitals, health clinics, libraries, civic centers, city halls and many other essential community facilities. Programs are also available to individuals, public bodies, and nonprofit organizations for business loans to help create jobs.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Bastrop Local Office at (512) 321-3428 ext. 4.

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.

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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).