



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
6565 Amarillo Boulevard West, Suite C., Amarillo, TX 79106

Phone: (806) 468-8600 Ext 4 • Fax: (806) 468-7248 • TDD: (254) 742-9712 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

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Contact Name: Clyde Jenkins

Telephone Number: 806-468-8600 ext. 4
TX.268.04

Email: Clyde.Jenkins@tx.usda.gov

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES GRANT FUNDING FOR PANHANDLE COMMUNITY SERVICES

AMARILLO, TEXAS, August 23, 2004--Bryan Daniel, Texas State Director, USDA Rural Development today announced that Panhandle Community Services was awarded a \$122,959 Housing Preservation Grant (HPG). USDA Rural Development administers programs designed to strengthen the economy and infrastructure of rural areas. Through its support of the sustainable development of communities, USDA Rural Development works to improve the quality of life in rural America.

“USDA Rural Development is very pleased to be able to provide housing rehabilitation funding for rural Texans,” said Daniel. “It is our goal to ensure rural residents are afforded an opportunity to live in decent housing that meets basic health and safety standards and provides the benefits of energy efficient features.”

USDA funds will be used to rehabilitate 27 very low-income households in 26 Panhandle counties.

The purpose of the HPG program is to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities by making grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of low and very-low income housing. Grants are competitive and are made available in areas where there is a concentration of need.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Amarillo Local Office at (806) 468-8600, ext. 4.

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USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and includes the Business Programs, Housing Programs, and Community Programs. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.

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.”

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