



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR SELF-HELP HOUSING OF EAST TEXAS, INC.**

**NEWTON, TEXAS, May 31, 2005** – Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today that Self-Help Housing of East Texas, Inc. was recently awarded a grant of \$10,000, through the agency's Self-Help Housing Program. A Ribbon Cutting ceremony will be held to highlight the Grand Opening of their new office, located at 107 Court Street, Newton, Texas, on June 1, 2005, at 10:30 a.m.

“Homeownership is part of the American dream and the Self-Help Housing Program makes it possible for rural families to make that dream a reality,” said Daniel. “USDA Rural Development provides the technical assistance to non-profit organizations to help residents to build their home. In fiscal year 2004, more than \$664,000 was awarded to eligible organizations in Texas which assisted more than 80 families through USDA Rural Development's Self-Help Technical Assistance Program.”

Through Self-Help Technical Assistance Program, USDA Rural Development provides grants to eligible non-profit corporations to administer technical assistance to very low and low income households in construction of their homes. Groups of six to eight low income families agree to work together and build their own homes while receiving technical assistance from the grantee. The families must commit to help each other until all the homes are finished.

USDA Rural Development works to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Lufkin office at (936) 634-9901, Ext. 4 or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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