



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND TEXAS RURAL RENTAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS ASSISTS HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEES

TEMPLE, Texas, September 6, 2005 - USDA Rural Development and the Rural Rental Housing Association of Texas are working together to assist Hurricane Katrina survivors in finding available housing.

“USDA Rural Development is working closely with the Rural Rental Housing Association of Texas to assist hurricane evacuees relocating to Texas,” said Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director. “Our primary concern is facilitating the relocation of families into homes where they can begin to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of the hurricane.”

According to state officials, about 240,000 Louisianans have found sanctuary in the Lone Star State in hotels and large shelters. Many more are in church-run shelters and even some in private homes.

USDA Rural Development continues to work with the Rural Rental Housing Association of Texas to identify privately owned rental housing available to house displaced residents. Currently 2,500 apartments have been identified as property owners have stepped forward to offer their assistance with the long-term relocation of evacuees. To ensure displaced residents are able to move into safe housing as quickly as possible, USDA has established an expedited placement process.

Additional information and updates about USDA’s hurricane relief efforts are posted daily at <http://www.usda.gov/>. For more information about making contributions for disaster assistance go to <http://www.firstgov.gov> and <http://disasterhelp.gov>.

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