



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR MEMORIAL APARTMENTS

McALLEN, TEXAS, December 15, 2005-- USDA Rural Development State Director, Bryan Daniel, announced today that the Housing Authority of the County of Hidalgo at Memorial Apartments was awarded a \$5,242,593 Farm Labor Housing Loan and Grant. The USDA Rural Development Housing Program is 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. In Fiscal Year 2005, \$11.3 million was obligated for Farm Labor Housing Loans and Grants in Texas.

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

USDA Rural Development funds will be used to rehabilitate a 246 unit Farm Labor Housing complex in McAllen, Texas. The project will provide 138 units of rental assistance and 64 units of HUD Section 8 Vouchers. Rehabilitation will address health, safety, and accessibility issues, which will include construction of playgrounds, parking, office/community spaces, laundry, accessibility improvements, acquisition and distribution of additional electrical service, and provision of safe, adequate heating, venting, and air conditioning systems. This project will be of great benefit, in that it will provide decent, safe, and affordable housing for migrant and farm laborers.

USDA Rural Development strives to see 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 Edinburg Local Office at (956) 383-4928, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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