



NEWS RELEASE

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Date: March 23, 2006
Release Number TX 183.06

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES \$4.45 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

TEMPLE, TEXAS, March 23, 2006 - USDA Rural Development State Director, Bryan Daniel, announced today the availability of \$4.45 million via the Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) Program for Fiscal Year 2006 as published in the March 20, 2006 Federal Register. Applications will compete nationwide for the funding.

The RCDG Program fosters rural cooperative development through projects that provide rural residents with education and technical assistance in areas of cooperative startup, marketing and managing, and other self-help tools. The grants are available to nonprofit corporations and institutions of higher education. The maximum award per grant is \$225,000 and matching funds are required.

RCDG application materials may be obtained at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/rcdg/rcdg.htm> or by contacting the Texas USDA Rural Development Business & Cooperative Programs Director, Daniel Torres, (254) 742-9780. Completed applications must be postmarked to RCDG Program, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Mail Stop 3250, Room 4016-South, Washington, DC 20250-3250 or submitted electronically at <http://www.grants.gov> no later than May 20, 2006.

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, visit our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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