



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF \$10.5 MILLION IN HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT FUNDS

TEMPLE, TEXAS, March 29, 2006 -Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director announced today the availability of \$10.5 million in Housing Preservation Grant funds. The program provides financial assistance to sponsoring organizations to assist in the repair or rehabilitation of single-family and rental residences located in rural communities.

“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 health and safety standards and provides the benefits of energy efficient features.”

Eligible sponsors who would administer the grant funds can include state agencies, units of local government, Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations. The Agency’s Housing Preservation Grant Program can also provide assistance to rental property owners to repair and rehabilitate their units providing the owners agree to make the units available to very low- and low-income families. The USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant Program provides assistance to residential projects located in communities with a maximum population of 20,000.

Applications must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on May 19, 2006 to USDA Rural Development, Federal Building, Suite 102, 101 South Main, Temple, Texas 76501. For more information on the Housing Preservation Grant Program, please contact Gayle Ledyard, Housing Programs Director, (254)742-9765 or visit the website at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/mfh/brief_mfh_hpg.htm.

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