



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR SWEENY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

SWEENY, TEXAS, May 1, 2006-- Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today that Sweeny Hospital District was selected to receive \$12,900 through the agency's Community Facilities Grant Program. The grant funds will be used to assist in the purchase of an ambulance to replace one of the three ambulances currently used that have high mileage and frequent mechanical problems.

"This funding will enable the emergency medical service to assist seven local communities with a population of 31,000 with ambulance services," said Daniel. "USDA Rural Development is committed to providing assistance to rural towns and communities to help them provide valuable services to their residents."

In Fiscal Year 2005, a total of \$991,000 in Community Facility Grants was obligated in Texas. Funds are used to enhance the quality of life for residents of rural areas by providing the means for construction, expansion, or enhancement of community facilities, telecommunication and distance education programs, and water and waste disposal systems. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development Community Programs have awarded \$1.8 billion for these purposes, and touched the lives of more than 1.16 million households in the process.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 to serve Texas' more than 3.6 million rural residents. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Angleton Local Office at (979) 849-5251, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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