



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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STORM SHELTER FUNDING ANNOUNCED BY USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

TEMPLE, TEXAS, May 11, 2006 — USDA Rural Development State Director Bryan Daniel announced today that the Agency is offering low interest Section 504 loans to help finance storm shelters for very-low income homeowners living in rural Texas.

“Severe weather can strike Texas unexpectedly, and with serious personal consequences. As Texans know, violent storms and the unfortunate loss of life underscore the need for improved home safety measures. The installation of an approved storm shelter can provide rural Texans added safety and security,” said Daniel.

Eligibility requirements for this program includes a family income of less than 50% of the median income for their respective county, an applicant must live in their own home, and the family must reside in an eligible rural community. The USDA Rural Development financed shelters must also meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards in design, construction and installation.

State Director Daniel encourages individuals interested in the USDA Rural Development Section 504 Loan Program to contact their local office. The USDA Rural Development local office that serves your area can be located at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/officeinfo.htm>, or call the State Office Housing Program at (254) 742-9770.

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