



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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Date: June 21, 2006  
Release Number TX 259.06

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF SMALL MINORITY PRODUCER GRANTS

**TEMPLE, TEXAS, June 21, 2006** — Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for the Small Minority Producer Grant Program. Funding in the amount of \$1.473 million is available to cooperatives and associations of cooperatives whose governing board and/or membership is comprised of at least 75 percent minority members. The grantee may use the competitive funding to assist small minority producers with technical assistance such as market research, product or service improvement, legal assistance, feasibility studies, business plan and marketing plan development and training. The maximum award per grant is \$200,000.

“This grant will assist cooperatives and associations of cooperatives in helping small minority producers become more profitable through expanded agricultural business opportunities,” said Daniel.

Applications, available online at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/SMPG/SMPG.htm> or at a USDA Rural Development Local Office, must be completed and submitted no later than July 28, 2006. For more information on the Small Minority Producer Grant Program, please contact Billy Curb, Business and Cooperative Specialist, at (254) 742-9775.

The mission of USDA Rural Development is to deliver programs in a way that will increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting the web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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