



# NEWS RELEASE

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Date: August 9, 2006  
Release Number TX 278.06

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR COZBY-GERMANY HOSPITAL, INC.

**WILLS POINT, TEXAS, August 9, 2006**-- Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced that Cozby-Germany Hospital, Inc. was selected to receive a \$385,000 direct loan through the agency's Community Facilities Loan Program. The effort is part of USDA Rural Development's mission to help rural areas build and enhance essential community facilities.

"The USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Program helps rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations," said Daniel. "Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

The funds will be used to purchase an existing medical clinic in Wills Point, Texas, to be utilized as a rural health clinic with a full time primary care physician and a nurse practitioner. Basic diagnostic laboratory and radiology services will also be provided, with specialty physicians rotating into the clinic on a weekly to bi-weekly rotation.

In Fiscal Year 2005, \$31.8 million in Community Facility direct and guaranteed loans were 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. These programs are important because they supply a number of growth opportunities to communities with improved utility facilities, increased job availability, and technology and educational resources. 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 strives to see 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, contact the Canton Local Office at (903) 567-6051, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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