



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR CITY OF EARLY

**EARLY, TEXAS, September 18, 2006**-- Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today City of Early was selected to receive \$1,039 through the agency's Community Facilities Grant Program. The grant funds will be used to assist the City in purchasing a thermal imagery camera to be used by the Fire Department to support faster response to fires and help reduce the risk firefighters take in the line of duty.

"This funding will assist the City of Early Fire Department in making their community a safer place to live and work," 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 Brownwood Local Office at (325) 643-1585, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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