



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
4400 East Highway 83, Rio Grande City, Texas 78582

Phone: (956) 487-5576, Ext. 4 • Fax: (956) 487-7882 • TDD: (254) 742-9712 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

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Contact Name: Alonzo Perez
Telephone Number: (956) 487-5576, Ext. 4
Email: Alonzo.Perez@tx.usda.gov

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES GRANT FUNDING FOR HOUSING RENOVATION IN STARR COUNTY

RIO GRANDE CITY, TEXAS, September 21, 2006-- USDA Rural Development State Director, Bryan Daniel, today announced Community Action Council of South Texas has been awarded a \$135,609 Housing Preservation Grant (HPG). USDA Rural Development Housing Programs are designed to strengthen the economy and infrastructure of rural areas. Through its support of the growth and development of communities, the agency works to improve the quality of life in rural America.

“USDA Rural Development is very pleased to be able to provide housing rehabilitation funding for rural Texans,” said State Director, Bryan Daniel. “It is our goal to ensure rural residents are afforded an opportunity to live in decent housing that meets health and safety standards and provides the benefits of energy efficient features.”

USDA Rural Development funds will be used to assist 25 families with essential home repairs in Starr County. The repairs will correct health and safety hazards and improve living conditions of the homes owned and occupied by very-low and low-income individuals.

In Fiscal Year 2005, a total of \$637,982 in Housing Preservation Grants was obligated in Texas. The purpose of the HPG Program is to promote continued economic development in rural communities by making grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of low and very-low income housing. Grants are competitive and are made available in areas where there is a concentration of need.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Rio Grande City Local Office at (956) 487-5576, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>. For further information regarding the HPG application process and other HPG questions you may contact Gayle Ledyard, Rural Housing Program Director, at (254) 742-9770.

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