



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS CEREMONIAL CHECKS TO NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF DIMMIT COUNTY, INC.

CARIZZO SPRINGS, TEXAS, October 6, 2006 – Bryan Daniel, Texas State Director, USDA Rural Development today presented two ceremonial checks to Neighborhood Housing Services of Dimmit County, Inc. for a \$750,000 loan through the USDA Rural Development Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) and a \$200,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG).

“Utilizing organizations such as Neighborhood Housing Services of Dimmit County, Inc. to bring new economic opportunities to rural areas is an important part of creating new jobs in rural America,” said Daniel. “This loan and grant will give rural residents the opportunity to expand and improve local businesses and economies.”

The Intermediary Relending Program is administered through USDA Rural Development Business Programs, and during Fiscal Year 2005, over \$3.47 million was obligated in Texas. The loans are awarded on a competitive basis and are intended to foster rural development through business loans for real estate, equipment, working capital, and refinancing for non-farm businesses.

The Rural Business Enterprise Grant will be used to establish a greenhouse operation, centered on hydroponic systems to grow high value, organically grown produce for the South Texas market. In Fiscal Year 2005, Texas USDA Rural Development obligated over \$1.3 million in Rural Business Enterprise Grants. Potential businesses in rural communities interested in the RBEG Program must employ 50 or fewer new employees and have less than \$1 million in gross annual revenues. Public bodies and not-for-profit entities including federally recognized Indian Tribes located in rural areas or in communities below 50,000 in population are eligible for the RBEG Program. Priority is given to applicants from communities of 25,000 or less.

USDA Rural Development serves as the leading Federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical assistance. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting the Uvalde Local Office at (830)278-9503, Extension 4, or by visiting the USDA web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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