



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE DAY HELD WEEKLY IN RIO GRANDE CITY

RIO GRANDE CITY, TEXAS, June 22, 2010 –USDA Rural Development representatives will be holding a Rural Development Office Day for Starr County every Thursday beginning July 1st, 2010, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm to present program information and applications to the public. The office days will be held at the USDA Service Center, 4400 East Highway 83, Rio Grande City. Information will be provided about USDA Rural Development Housing, Community and Business and Cooperative loan and grant programs.

USDA Rural Development works to ensure rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy through technical assistance and programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. Rural Development loans and grants assist rural communities meet their basic needs by building water and wastewater systems, financing decent, affordable housing, supporting electric power and rural businesses, including cooperatives and supporting community development with information and technical assistance including broadband initiatives. USDA Rural Development representatives will be available during the office day to answer questions and assist individuals with applications in all program areas.

USDA Rural Development Housing Programs offer loans and grants to families with very low to moderate income levels in towns and cities meeting certain population requirements. Loans are primarily used to help income eligible individuals or households purchase homes in rural areas. Funds can be used to build, repair and renovate a home, or to purchase and prepare sites with water and sewage facilities. For very low income families who own homes in need of repair, the Home Repair Loan and Grant Program offers funding for renovations. Funding has previously been requested to repair a leaking roof, make a home wheelchair accessible, repair damaged or faulty wiring and to install a waste disposal system.

USDA Rural Development Community Programs enhance the quality of life for rural Texans by providing funds to governmental entities, nonprofit organizations and Indian Tribes for essential community facilities and services. Funds may be used for a variety of community projects. Previous funds have been used to enlarge, improve or construct schools, libraries, farmers markets, medical clinics, assisted living centers, public buildings, community centers or fund new and improved water and wastewater facilities. Funds are also available to purchase public safety equipment such as ambulances, firefighting equipment and other required emergency service gear.

Entrepreneurship plays a vital role in the economic stability of rural Texas. With USDA Rural Development Business and Cooperative Programs, rural businesses can gain access to funds that are normally not available to them. USDA Rural Development Business and Cooperative Programs provide the needed capital to expand economic opportunities and development in rural areas throughout Texas by working with banks and community lenders. The Rural Energy for America Program offers grants and guaranteed loans to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficient improvements.

We invite anyone who is interested in learning more about these or any of our programs to come by and visit with us. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, please contact the Edinburg Sub-Area Office at (956) 383-4928, ext. 4 or by visiting our website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).