



# NEWS

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## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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### **State housing agency awards \$350,000 to Brazos Valley Affordable Housing for new single family housing program**

(AUSTIN) — The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) today announced a \$350,000 award to help a regional nonprofit organization increase its ability to develop affordable single family housing in a seven-county region of Texas. The award was among the first through a newly created program funded through TDHCA's Housing Trust Fund designed to expand affordable housing in rural portions of the state.

The Department made the award to the Brazos Valley Affordable Housing Corporation, a Bryan-based nonprofit providing housing and related services in Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson and Washington counties, but not inside the city limits of Bryan/College Station. Brazos Valley will utilize \$300,000 in project funds and another \$50,000 in capacity building funds to construct 30 single family housing units.

Although Brazos Valley has been active in providing down payment assistance, mortgage loans and homebuyer education services, the organization has never developed a single family housing development. This award will significantly further the organization's efforts to increase capacity in this type of housing.

"TDHCA is committed to increasing housing choices in rural Texas," said Michael Gerber, TDHCA Executive Director, "and we are excited about the potential of this new funding program to expand housing opportunities in small towns across the state. We are providing rural Texas and their housing partners the tools to increase affordable workforce housing, maintaining the economic health of these communities while creating numerous construction jobs and related services."

Funding for this award came through the Rural Housing Expansion Program, a new initiative that is part of TDHCA's Housing Trust Fund. The goal of the program is to increase the capacity of rural Texas communities to develop affordable housing by providing qualifying applicants capacity building resources and funds for direct housing delivery. By having a commitment of direct delivery funds, TDHCA believes the recipients would be better positioned to develop capacity through training, technical assistance, and hands-on experience.

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Each organization receiving funds through the Rural Housing Expansion Program must undergo an intensive capacity assessment performed by a third-party technical assistance provider to be determined by TDHCA. Based on the assessment, the technical assistance provider will identify a plan for each organization that covers what their capacity needs are and how to achieve them, and will provide some of the technical assistance skills to enhance capacity.

The Trust Fund is Texas' only state-funded program for the acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction of affordable housing. Funds are awarded to rural cities and counties, nonprofits serving rural cities and counties, or consortia of several such entities.

The Department places a strong emphasis on allocating Housing Trust Fund awards to properties catering to rural communities, elderly individuals, persons with disabilities, and extremely low income households. Rural Housing Expansion Program is designed to serve households earning no more than 80 percent of the area median family income.

For more information regarding this award, please contact Brazos Valley Affordable Housing Corporation at (979) 595-2809.

#### **About The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs**

*The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is the state agency responsible for affordable housing, community services, energy assistance, colonia housing programs, and disaster recovery housing programs. It currently administers over \$2 billion through for-profit, nonprofit, and local government partnerships to deliver local housing and community-based opportunities and assistance to Texans in need.*