



NEWS

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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State housing agency awards \$250,000 to repair single family housing in Willacy County through new program

(AUSTIN) — The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) and State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. today announced a \$250,000 award to help Willacy County rehabilitate several substandard single family homes, increasing housing options for low income households. 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.

County officials will utilize \$200,000 in project funds and another \$50,000 in capacity building funds to make substantial repairs to 20 single family homes, helping increase its infrastructure for housing and community development specifically in rural portions of the county.

“My colleagues and I in the Texas Legislature increased our state’s Housing Trust Fund last session for programs such as this,” said Senator Lucio. “Rural Texas is in desperate need for more quality affordable housing and while many of our capable non-profit organizations are ready to help, they need that small investment to build their capacity.”

“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 the tools to increase affordable housing options, 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 which for Willacy County equals an annual income of \$41,280 for a family of four.

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.