



NEWS

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Contact: Gordon Anderson/512.475.4743
Jorge Reyes/512.475.4577

Grayson County Receives \$110,000 State Disaster Relief Grant for Home Repair

(AUSTIN) — Help with home repairs is on the way for two Grayson County households whose homes were damaged or destroyed by a May 2006 tornado, thanks to a \$110,000 grant made to the county today by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). The funds were made available through TDHCA's HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Disaster Relief Program and are designed to repair or replace homes owned and lived in by income eligible households.

"The citizens of Grayson County suffered tremendously in the wake of this storm, yet were unable to access assistance from the federal government," noted Michael Gerber, TDHCA Executive Director. "The Department does not have a dedicated funding source for disaster relief, but by using our funds both wisely and creatively, we were able to make this award and help restore homes and lives back to normal. The citizens of Texas deserve nothing less than this level of commitment from their state government"

On May 9, 2006, a tornado ripped through sections of Grayson County, damaging or destroying several single family homes. TDHCA staff, together with the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Governor's Division of Emergency Management, conducted a preliminary site visit May 11-12 to assess the damage.

TDHCA staff in August 2006 returned to Grayson County to provide technical assistance to county officials applying for disaster relief funds. An application was submitted to TDHCA on December 21, 2006, and today received final approval from the Department's Governing Board. In addition to the \$110,000 grant, the county requested and received \$4,400 in administrative funds, equal to four percent of the project funds, as allowed under the HOME Program rules.

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development is the funding source for the state's HOME Program. Created by Congress in 1990, the program provides multi-year housing strategies to strengthen public-private partnerships and provide more affordable housing via block grants. Households must earn no more than 80 percent of the area median family income to be eligible for assistance under the program.

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About The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is Texas' lead agency responsible for affordable housing, community and energy assistance programs, and colonia activities. The Department annually administers funds in excess of \$400 million, the majority of which is derived from mortgage revenue bond financing and refinancing, federal grants, and federal tax credits.