TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 5, 2009 Contact: Gordon Anderson 512.475.4743 Jill McFarren 512.475.2844

State housing agency awards \$4 million for new affordable apartment complex in Copperas Cove

(AUSTIN) — Recognizing that young families and older residents living in smaller communities often face great obstacles in securing affordable housing, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) has announced a major funding award to the nonprofit developers of a 108-unit affordable rental property in Copperas Cove. The new property will bring stability to the lives of area tenants and much-needed economic benefits to the local construction industry.

TDHCA awarded \$4 million in rental housing development funds to help finance the construction of the proposed Constitution Court Apartments. The award, made through TDHCA's HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, will help provide decent, affordable rental housing to area low income tenants.

"TDHCA is committed to increasing housing choices in rural Texas," said Michael Gerber, TDHCA Executive Director. "Constitution Court Apartments will provide area residents in the area with a stable, secure home protected from arbitrary rent increases. We are certain that this quality, affordable rental housing development will have a positive impact on its residents, while creating construction jobs and adding to the local economy."

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the funding source for the HOME Program. Under HOME Program rules, Constitution Court Apartments will set aside units for and cap rents affordable to tenants earning no more than 80 percent of the area median family income. The award was made through the portion of the HOME Program reserved for eligible applicants who intend to build, acquire, or rehabilitate affordable rental property. Eligible applicants include qualifying units of local government, public housing authorities, Community Housing Development Organizations and other nonprofit groups, and qualifying for-profit organizations.

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 and energy assistance programs, and colonia activities. The Department annually administers more than \$400 million through for-profit, nonprofit, and local government partnerships to deliver local housing and community-based opportunities and assistance to Texans in need.