

{As prepared for delivery}

Talking Points
For
Under Secretary Thomas Dorr
Homeownership and Broadband Grant Event
Anthony, New Mexico
Friday, May 30, 2003

- **Thank you Jeff (Condrey).**
- **Acknowledge Congressman Stevan Pearce.**
- **As Jeff can tell you, Rural Development has an extensive array of programs that can impact virtually all aspects of life in rural America.**
- **Today, I would like to touch on two that are important to rural New Mexico. Homeownership and access to modern information technology infrastructure.**

- **Homeownership is the bedrock of the Bush Administration's efforts to bring economic opportunity to rural America.**
- **As you have heard this morning, the Garcia family and other families in the Tierra Dorada subdivision have come together, rolled-up their sleeves and as a community put their sweat and muscle into an investment for the future of their families.**
- **Today, Luis and Guadalupe will realize their long-awaited dream of homeownership. They saw a dream for their family and used determination and commitment to build this home for Laura and Luis, Jr. We celebrate with you your tremendous accomplishment.**
- **We also recognize that this could not have happened without the help of many partners who are here today. Each of you can be proud of your role in supporting the Garcias' dream.**
- **This region of America is especially important to President Bush and USDA because it represents America's gateway to prosperity and opportunity.**

- **USDA Rural Development believes, as does the President that together we can assist families and communities in the Colonias access economic opportunity and an improved quality of life by combining resources to offer families like the Garcias support through programs such as the rural housing self-help program.**
- **There is no greater reward than to see and enjoy the fruits of your labor. It is the American dream.**
- **Congratulations Luis and Guadalupe on becoming new homeowners.**
- **Also important to economic opportunity and the quality of life is the ability for families and businesses to access information technology for educational and health services, and to create a venue for business development and competition.**
- **Today, I am pleased to present a check for \$607,600 to representatives of the Ramah Band of Navajos to expand such access to broadband connectivity through microwave technology.**

- **And a check for \$444,488 to the UpHi.Net that will provide high-speed wireless Internet technology to community organizations in Mountainair. These organizations include police department, volunteer fire and rescue department, senior center, public library, medical clinic, and elementary and high schools.**
- **Whether it is families or businesses in larger communities like Albuquerque or areas more rural and remote, New Mexico needs access to technology that serves local community needs and expands business opportunities beyond the borders of New Mexico and America as a whole.**
- **I have seen first hand the impact this access to information technology can have on communities and individual lives. When Secretary and I announced on January 29, 2003 nearly \$1.5 billion in loan funds to assist with financing of broadband technology we were joined by several individuals from various parts of the country who told compelling stories of how this technology increased business and employment opportunities, and brought them greater access to educational and life saving medical services.**

- **To help more rural communities access such technology and to supplement this loan program, USDA announced on May 16, 2003 the selection of 40 grant recipients to receive over \$20 million in broadband community infrastructure grants including \$1.7 million here in New Mexico – Grants that I might add, made available as a result of the leadership of President Bush, Congressman Pearce and his colleagues in Congress. It was through their efforts that USDA is able for the first time to provide such grant funds for broadband infrastructure.**
- **Communities selected to receive grant funds do not currently have access to broadband connectivity for essential services of police, fire protection, hospitals, libraries and schools. Through these grants, the communities will now be able to participate and take advantage of the high-speed telecommunications tools needed to be a part of the global digital community.**
- **The technology funds will not only allow for greater economic opportunity, but also extend the potential for improving the quality of life for all residents in the areas to be serviced by the infrastructure.**

- **Here as in other parts of the country, \$8.2 million of the grant funds will benefit 13 Native American and Native Alaskan communities including the Ramah Band of Navajos and the Pueblo of Pojoaque in New Mexico.**
- **At this time I would like to ask you to come forward to receive these investment checks from USDA Rural Development to assist you in building community technology infrastructure.**

Closing

- **Today, we celebrate the realization of a dream for the Garcia family. They represent what can be achieved through hard work and determination.**
- **We also celebrate the prospect for greater economic and social opportunities for families living in areas that do not have access to crucial information technology infrastructure.**

- **Rural America is a place that holds great economic opportunity along with improved quality of life. It is USDA Rural Development's mission to utilize venture capital investments to support the realization of increased opportunities for more rural families and businesses here in New Mexico and throughout rural America. Today, we believe we have come another step closer to fulfilling our mission.**
- **Thank you.**

Homeownership Event
Anthony, New Mexico
Friday, May 30, 2003

Self-Help Housing

- **The name of the borrowers: Luis A. & Guadalupe Garcia.**
- **Two children: Laura, 8 yrs. old and Luis, Jr, 11.**
- **Occupation: Mr. Garcia is a machine operator with Tyson Foods.**
- **Address: 402 Tierra Dorada, Tierra Dorada Circle, Anthony, N.M.**
- **Specifications on Home: 3 bedroom, 2 bath home, 1153 sq. ft. home.**
- **Background on Participation in Rural Development housing program: The Garcias received a self-help loan that closed on 12-10-02, and along with four other families. Final inspections on the homes will be completed on 5-30-03.**

Broadband Grants

Attending Ceremony:

Ramah Band of Navajos; Mountain View, New Mexico; \$607,600 Grant; County Served: Cibola; Contact Person: Jay Moolenijzer; Telephone No.: 505-775-7110; Fax No.: 505-775-7103; Congressional District: 2nd

This applicant plans to use RUS Grant funds to make broadband connectivity accessible to those living on the Ramah Band of Navajos Reservation via microwave technology.

As a result significant economic, educational and social barriers will be removed.

Broadband telephonic communications will be made available to all critical institutions and every household of the Ramah Band of Navajos, thereby creating jobs and educational opportunities and access to mainstream America.

UpHi.net L.L.C.; Mountainair, NM; \$444,488 Grant; Area Served: Community of Mountainair, County of Torrance; Contact: Darlene F. Campbell (505) 847-0036; Fax: (505) 847-0036; Congressional District: Applicant 1st / Project 1st

UpHi.net L.L.C. will use RUS grant funds to provide high-speed wireless Internet technology to the participating community organizations including the police department, volunteer fire and rescue department, senior center, public library, medical clinic, and elementary and high schools. The police and fire departments will be able to interact with national databases as well as recruit and train via the Internet. The local, small medical facility will be able to obtain the latest in medical treatments, and access referrals. The grant funds will also be used for the construction of the community public access building. The population of 1,116 will benefit from this grant.

Not Attending Ceremony:

Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Willcox, AZ; \$199,960 Grant; Area Served: Columbus, Luna County, NM; Contact: Judy Bruns (520) 384-2231; Fax: (520) 826-1064; Congressional District(s): Applicant AZ 5th, NM 2nd / Project NM 2nd

Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc., an RUS borrower, is an incumbent local exchange carrier serving telephone subscribers in southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona. The applicant proposes to use RUS grant funds to provide digital subscriber line (DSL) broadband service to the Village of Columbus, New Mexico. The village is located in poverty-stricken southern Luna County where the unemployment rate is 14.2 percent, 55 percent of the households earn less than \$15,000 in annual income, 50 percent of the adult population have less than a ninth grade education, and only six percent of the population possess a bachelor's degree. The community relies on distant providers for medical, police, and fire and rescue services. The project will result in broadband access to all residents of the community who desire such service. In addition, the project will include the establishment of a community center, which will be located in the village library. The community center will aid residents in developing online

Pueblo of Pojoaque; Santa Fe, New Mexico; \$579,767 Grant; Area(s) served: Pojoaque Pueblo, Santa Fe County; Contact: Mr. Jim Pierce: (505) 455-3254; FAX (505) 455-0620; Congressional District: 3rd

Pueblo of Pojoaque is one of nineteen federally recognized Native American Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico. The current tribal population consists of 333 persons. Pueblo of Pojoaque will use RUS community-oriented connectivity grant funds to provide wireless broadband access to nine critical community facilities, 16 tribal businesses, 80 tribal residences and one 3,000 square foot I.T. Community Learning Center. All of these facilities will receive broadband transmission service free of charge for at least two years from the date of installation. The I.T. Community Center will be open and available for use by the community six day a week, thirteen hours per day on Monday through Friday and eight hours on Saturday. By providing broadband telecommunications service to the community, this project hopes to attract new business and grow local business on the tribal lands, create new job opportunities, provide tribal police, courts and legal departments with real-time access to the National Crime Information and New Mexico Crime Information on traffic violators, and support a rural medical center with connectivity to regional centers.