



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 6, 2013

Contact: Janie Taylor (512) 477.3563

New Dalhart Affordable Housing Development Breaks Ground

(Dalhart)—A groundbreaking ceremony was held today in Dalhart to commence the construction of the Rita Blanca Apartments, a 28 unit affordable rental housing development targeted to low-income agricultural workers. The Rita Blanca Apartments project is being developed by the Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation (GESC), a Texas nonprofit corporation. Joining GESC at the groundbreaking ceremony today were representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC), the entities financing the proposed development.

“Our groundbreaking represents a culmination of experiences to expand housing opportunities available to the community by constructing safe and affordable housing for families who otherwise would not be able to find or afford a suitable place to live,” said Diana Lopez, Executive Director of Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation.

The Rita Blanca Apartments will be constructed on 5.73 acres located on East 9th Street and Maynard Street and will consist of seven four-plex buildings and one community building where educational programs will be available to residents. The units will range from 888 square feet for two bedroom units, 1,074 square feet for three bedroom units and 1,451 square feet for four bedroom units. Each unit will have central heating/cooling, washer/dryer hook-ups, ceramic tile in kitchens and baths, and carpeting in living areas. In addition, all ground floor units will have accessible no-step entrances and will be constructed to meet federal energy efficiency standards.

“We are proud to be partnering with GESC and USDA to create affordable housing for low-income agricultural workers in a part of the state that sees very little new development but greatly needs it,” said David Long, President of the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation.

The Rita Blanca Apartments will be reserved for families earning 60% or less of the area median income, which is \$32,220 for a family of four in Dalhart. All units will receive project based rental assistance from USDA, which allows low-income residents to pay only 30% of their gross income on rent. USDA has committed \$2,686,430 as a deferred forgivable grant and \$100,000 as a permanent loan. TSAHC is providing a 20-year loan for \$356,125. The total construction budget is \$3.2 million. Rita Blanca Apartments is expected to be ready for leasing by the Spring of 2014. Leasing information is available by contacting Matt Archuleta at 505-258-1592.

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About Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation:

The Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC) is a statewide non-profit organization created by the Texas Legislature whose mission is to serve the housing needs of low-income Texans and other underserved populations who do not have comparable housing options through conventional financial channels. For more information, please visit www.tsahc.org.

About Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation:

The Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation (GESC) is a nonprofit corporation who has been assisting low and very-low income families in need of housing, social and community services since 1949. It has since expanded its services to families throughout the Panhandle region of Texas.