

EXECUTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of all the citizens of Texas that the quality of life be improved in small cities, rural communities, and counties that the State may achieve balanced growth and development; and,

WHEREAS, the Texas Rural Development Commission and its staff are completing a comprehensive study of the problems and potentials of rural Texas, which will be delivered in October, and the findings of that study will require follow-up and the implementation of community services in areas to be served; and,

WHEREAS, Section 4, Subsection 13 of Article 4413 (201), V. A. C. S., authorizes the Governor of Texas to assign to the Texas Department of Community Affairs appropriate functions to assist local governments in overcoming social, financial and environmental problems; and,

WHEREAS, Section 9 of Article 4413 (201), V. A. C. S., authorizes the Director of the Texas Department of Community Affairs to establish such offices and divisions as may be necessary to carry out its functions, including a division of rural services.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DOLPH BRISCOE, Governor of Texas, by Executive Order, do hereby direct the establishment of a Division of Rural Community Services in the Texas Department of Community Affairs with appropriate functions and responsibilities as outlined in Article 4413 (201) and in addition to implementation of the recommendations of the Texas Rural Development Commission as may be assigned to said Department and, further, to assist in the development of a state policy for rural development.

To carry out the functions and responsibilities herein assigned, I am transferring available resources and personnel currently in the Governor's Division of Planning Coordination and used as support to the Texas Rural Development Commission. These resources and staff shall be utilized to assist in the establishment of the Division of Rural Community Services in the Texas Department of Community Affairs.

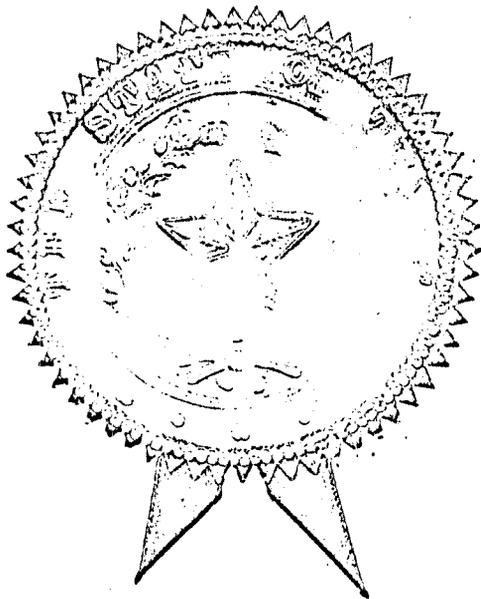
In making this transfer, I recognize that all of the recommendations of the Texas Rural Development Commission cannot and should not be implemented through the Texas Department of Community Affairs. Other state and federal agencies have been and will continue to be involved in rural development, and the Texas Department of Community Affairs is directed to cooperate with those agencies which have been assigned specific responsibilities previously or which may be assigned in the future by executive order or legislative action.

Finally, I would like to recognize and express my gratitude to the Texas Department of Agriculture for its important role in supporting the work of the Texas Rural Development Commission.

I request all public and private institutions and individuals to give full cooperation and support to the Texas Department of Community Affairs in carrying out its mission of providing rural community services.

This Executive Order shall become effective September 1, 1973, and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by me.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND this 23 day of August, 1973.




Dolph Briscoe
Governor of Texas

Office of Governor Dolph Briscoe
March 16, 1973

Governor Dolph Briscoe today announced plans for the creation of a Rural Development Council to assist in formulating a statewide rural development policy and in other matters pertaining to the improvement of Texas' rural areas and small towns.

The Council, whose membership will include representatives of State Government and the private sector, will serve in an advisory capacity to the Governor.

Governor Briscoe said he will ask the Council to work toward the establishment of a permanent Texas Rural Development Commission, and to assist in the preparations for a statewide Governor's Conference on Rural Development that is planned for next fall.

The Governor pointed out that the assignments of the Council will in no way interfere with the work of the present Rural Development Commission which is to make its recommendations and final report to the Governor in October.

"The problems that have befallen our small towns and rural areas deserve to receive our most serious attention, and I am determined that rural development will have this high priority. The problems of declining rural population and increasing urban congestion are inter-related, and by working toward rural solutions, we will, at the same time, benefit Texas urban areas," Governor Briscoe said.

Office of Governor Dolph Briscoe
August 30, 1973

Effective September 1, Governor Dolph Briscoe is extending a helping hand to the rural areas of Texas by issuing an Executive Order creating the Division of Rural Community Services in the Texas Department of Community Affairs. Governor Briscoe, who has listed Rural Development as one of the priorities of his administration, created the new division in response to the urgent needs of rural areas.

In announcing the new office, Governor Briscoe emphasized the role of the Texas Department of Community Affairs to make all state resources available and accessible to local communities as they strive to help themselves. The Rural Community Services Division will provide information and technical assistance to rural communities and will assist in the development of a state policy for rural development. It will serve as a clearinghouse and will be a central state office that rural communities can go to for help.

Raymond L. Prewett, Executive Director of the Texas Rural Development Commission, has been named to head up the Division of Rural Community Services. A major part of his new duties will be to assist rural communities in their relations with State and federal agencies and to direct communities with specific problems to the appropriate agencies.

The Rural Community Services Division's office will be located at 611 South Congress Avenue in Austin.