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New Self Help Housing Grant For Liberal

On November 2, 2009, representatives from USDA joined City of Liberal and 5 new Self - Help Housing families for a dinner and grant signing. The families were given tool belts, hammers, and tape measures for the construction that they will soon participate in on their houses.

Patty Clark, USDA State Director, Liberal Mayor Joe Denoyer, and Karen LaFreniere Housing and Community Development Director, signed the grant agreement between USDA and the City Of Liberal. The grant provides \$288,000 for construction of 18 new homes in Liberal. The grant will pay for construction salaries, tools, advertising, and other program expenses.

Qualified families obtain construction loans through USDA Rural Development. The construction loans are later converted to mortgages. Each family is also required to put in a number of hours of construction towards the building of their home. This is called "Sweat Equity."

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