



HUD NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON D.C. 20410

HUD-No. 69-0355
Phone (202) 755-6980

FOR RELEASE:
A. M. Papers
Saturday
May 10, 1969

HUD TENDERS MODEL CITIES
CONTRACT TO WACO, TEXAS

Secretary George Romney, of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, today announced the tender of a \$2,642,000 Model Cities Contract to Waco, Texas.

Waco has also been given assurances for substantial funds from other programs administered by HUD, and by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Department of Labor, and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Today's action by Secretary Romney will enable the city to begin the first year action phase under its comprehensive five-year Model Cities program. State, local and private resources will also be used by the city in its concentrated, coordinated attack on the serious social, economic and physical problems within the Model Cities area.

Of the \$2,642,000 in Model Cities supplemental funds, approximately \$500,000 will be used to generate some \$2,600,000 in capital construction, Secretary Romney said. HUD has approved a \$1,500,000 sanitary sewer project, and expects to approve \$200,000 for a neighborhood facility, an urban renewal program and 100 units of public housing.

HEW has stated that, in addition to substantial HEW funds which presently provide health, education and welfare services to the Waco Model Cities area, HEW agencies have indicated the potential availability of \$663,700. HEW will continue its ongoing efforts with the City of Waco to make these funds available to carry out the Waco plan, to the extent possible under existing program legislation. Included are programs for higher educational activity, the Teacher Corps, maternal and infant care, comprehensive health planning, rehabilitation research and training, and treating the mentally retarded.

A total of \$2,087,000 for a Concentrated Employment Program in Waco, funded by the Department of Labor, will provide work training, work experience and other manpower services for Model Cities area residents.

- more -

The Office of Economic Opportunity indicated that it expects to maintain the present \$621,000 level of annual funding for Community Action Program activity within the Waco Model Cities area.

Secretary Romney, who is the Chairman of the President's Cabinet Committee on Voluntary Action, noted the extensive private involvement in the Waco program. Besides the contributions of private groups in the planning process, which is expected to grow during the action stage, volunteer help is available from such organizations as the McLennan County Medical Society, the American Institute of Architects, the United Fund and the Alta Corporation.

The County Medical Society is contributing \$13,600 towards a coordinated health program. The Alta Corporation is sponsoring a minority home builder to build 14 dwelling units in a Residents Homebuilders project.

"The largest volunteer contribution has been the neighborhood residents themselves," Secretary Romney said.

Commenting on the decision to tender a contract, Secretary Romney explained that this was done after a careful review of the Waco comprehensive plan. The plan was thoroughly studied and analyzed both by the Regional and Washington Interagency Review Committees representing those Federal Departments and Agencies with urban aid programs.

"During the past several months, Waco has done an excellent job in revising its proposals and improving its capability to operate in the first year action program," he said. "Other comprehensive plan approvals and contract tenders are following a similar process and additional announcements will be made over the next several weeks."

A total of 150 communities in 45 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are participating in the Model Cities program. The first applications for planning grants were approved in November 1967.

Attached is a summary of Waco's comprehensive plan which includes descriptions of first year action programs using Model Cities supplemental funds.

For further information:

James J. Miller
Model Cities Office
City Hall
Waco, Texas 76701 (817) PL3-2441

Honorable Howard Dudgeon
Mayor, City Hall
Waco, Texas 76701

#

#

#