



PRESS RELEASE

ETCOG Housing Partner Closes Doors, Leaves Clients Unserved Approximately 57 Elderly Homeowners in Need of Home Repairs

Kilgore, TX, July 26, 2010: ETCOG Partner, Center for Housing Resources, of Dallas, dissolved its home repair program effective immediately during the Center's board of directors meeting held on July 15. Center for Housing Resources has provided roofing, accessibility, modifications, and home repairs to East Texas residents since 2002 through a partnership with ETCOG. Through the partnership, Center for Housing Resources provided all funding and assigned contractors for all projects. Through ETCOG identified eligible clients and assisted clients with the program intake process. *"This information took us completely by surprise," stated Luke Kimbrough, Director of Public Information and Regional Services. "We are seeking every possible avenue to retain this funding for East Texas residents."*

As a result of the program dissolution, clients expecting services will not be served at this time. Approximately twenty-five clients have already completed paperwork and have been assigned a contractor by Center for Housing Resources and are waiting for their home repairs. An additional thirty-two clients have been determined eligible and have been issued program intake packets. Without funding from Center for Housing Resources, ETCOG cannot project when these clients will be served.

"Since learning of the decision made by the Center for Housing Resources board of directors, we have been working diligently to identify other available resources for funding. Unfortunately, no other funds are available at this time. We will make it a priority to serve these clients first as funds become available, but we cannot estimate when that will take place," said ETCOG Housing Manager, Karen Cline.

ETCOG is working to develop a 501(c)3 non-profit organization within the Housing program to pursue additional Housing funding which is not currently accessible. ETCOG asks for any community organizations who wish to volunteer assistance for these elderly homeowners to contact Ms. Cline at Karen.Cline@etcog.org or 903.984.8641 x220.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors,

employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.