



News Release

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Trump Administration Invests \$1.6 Billion in Rural Electric Infrastructure in 21 States

Funding Includes \$727 Million for Florida

(GAINESVILLE, Fla - June 22, 2020) – The Trump Administration today announced that the [United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) is investing \\$1.6 billion to build or improve rural electric infrastructure in 21 states.](#)

“This project, the largest funding ever to be awarded in Florida by USDA Rural Development, will ensure a reliable, cost-effective source of electricity for rural communities across the state well into the future,” said USDA Rural Development Florida/USVI State Director Phil Leary. “President Trump is reaffirming his administration’s commitment to enhance the quality of life for rural Americans. We at USDA Rural Development work hard every day to assure that when rural America prospers, all of America prospers.”

Background:

USDA is providing loans and loan guarantees to rural electric cooperatives and utilities through the [Electric Loan Program](#). The recipients will use the funds to build and improve 9,138 miles of electric transmission and distribution line, benefiting 1 million rural residents and businesses. The loans include nearly \$386 million for investments in smart grid technology, which uses digital communications to detect and react to local changes in electricity usage.

The investments announced today are being made in Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.

Florida’s Seminole Electric Cooperative is receiving a \$727 million loan to finance a new natural-gas-fired, combined-cycle generation facility and its associated transmission facilities. Seminole Electric, headquartered in Tampa, is one of the top generation and transmission electric cooperatives in the United States. It provides wholesale electric service to nine electric distribution cooperative members, serving about 1.8 million people and businesses in parts of 42 of 67 counties in Florida.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools,

public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

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