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News Release

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USDA Invests in Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements in 25 States

Investments will Benefit 168,000 People in Rural Communities

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23, 2019 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary of Rural Development Donald “DJ” LaVoy today announced that USDA [is investing \\$144 million to improve rural water infrastructure in 25 states.](#)

“Modern and reliable water and wastewater infrastructure systems are foundational to economic growth and quality of life in rural communities,” LaVoy said. “Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, USDA is committed to investing in this critical infrastructure, because when rural America thrives, all of America thrives.”

USDA is investing in 45 projects through the [Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant](#) program. Eligible applicants include rural cities and towns, and water districts. They can use the funds for drinking water, stormwater drainage and waste disposal systems in rural communities with 10,000 or fewer residents.

State Director for Rural Development Philip Leary, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is pleased to announce that Florida is one of the 25 states receiving funds to provide Americans with their everyday essentials.

“The USDA/Rural Development is a catalyst for rural prosperity, which includes improving water, and wastewater systems which is making an impact in our communities,” said Leary.

Below are Florida’s projects to improve rural water infrastructure:

- Immokalee Water and Sewer District received a \$944,000 loan and a \$765,000 grant. This Rural Development investment will be used to help the Immokalee Water and Sewer District make improvements to the existing wastewater treatment plant. Improvements consist of replacing the three oldest clarifiers that are around 25 years old. Due to the age and placement of the older clarifiers, workers are placed at risk when maintaining and cleaning them. These improvements will increase wastewater treatment efficiency and reliability along with addressing the safety concerns of the operators.
- The Town of Greenwood received a \$92,000 loan and a \$276,400 grant. The Rural Development investment will be used to provide additional financing for a water system

improvement project. The town's wells were found to have fecal contamination, and this has affected the quality of the water. The project will construct a 650 gallons-per-minute well to eliminate potential health problems. Approximately 5600 linear feet of existing water mains will be replaced. The project will provide for clean and reliable water for the citizens of the town.

USDA had \$2.9 billion available for Water and Environmental Program loans and grants at the beginning of fiscal year 2019. USDA will make additional funding announcements in coming weeks.

View the interactive [RD Apply](#) tool or contact one of USDA Rural Development's [state or field offices](#) for application or eligibility information.

In April 2017, President Donald J. Trump established the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity to identify legislative, regulatory and policy changes that could promote agriculture and prosperity in rural communities. In January 2018, Secretary Perdue presented the Task Force's findings to President Trump. These findings included 31 recommendations to align the federal government with state, local and tribal governments to take advantage of opportunities that exist in rural America. Increasing investments in rural infrastructure is a key recommendation of the task force.

To view the report in its entirety, please view the [Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#) (PDF, 5.4 MB). In addition, to view the categories of the recommendations, please view the [Rural Prosperity infographic](#) (PDF, 190 KB).

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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