



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
4440 NW 25<sup>th</sup> Place, Suite 200  
Gainesville, FL 32606  
[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

# News Release

Contact:  
Danielle Ehlers (352) 338-3422

## **USDA Invests in Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements in 31 States**

*Investments will Benefit Nearly 300,000 Rural Residents*

**WASHINGTON, Oct. 16, 2019** – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald “DJ” LaVoy today announced that USDA is [investing \\$201 million to improve rural water infrastructure in 31 states](#).

“Modern, reliable and accessible infrastructure is critical to economic development and quality of life,” LaVoy said. “Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, USDA is committed to partnering with rural communities to help them improve their infrastructure, because when rural America thrives, all of America thrives.”

USDA is providing the funding through the [Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant](#) program. Eligible applicants include rural cities, towns and water districts. The funds can be used 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 31 states receiving funds to provide Americans with their everyday essentials.

“USDA/Rural Development is a catalyst for rural prosperity, which includes improving water and wastewater systems providing critically needed infrastructure in our communities,” Leary said.

USDA is announcing investments today in Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

The city of Jay located in Santa Rosa County, Fla. Has been approved for a \$216, 000 loan and a \$1,378,900 grant for a water system improvement by replacing 28,000 linear feet of 2-inch cast-iron pipe with 6-inch polyvinyl chloride pipe. The water currently exceeds the maximum contaminant level for iron and manganese due to the existing cast-

iron pipe. These improvements will provide for clean and reliable water for the citizens of the town and is necessary to alleviate a health or a sanitary problem.

USDA awarded nearly \$1.8 billion for Water and Environmental Program loans and grants during fiscal year 2019. 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](http://www.rd.usda.gov).

#

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.*