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News Release

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USDA Announces Investments in Community Facilities that will Benefit 631,000 Rural Americans

East Tennessee Rural Community to Receive Assistance with Essential Services

NASHVILLE, Tenn., June 24, 2019 – Acting Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Joel Baxley today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has more than \$2 billion still available this year to invest in community facilities and infrastructure projects in rural areas. Baxley also released the names of [40 rural communities that are receiving a total of \\$50 million for projects that will benefit 631,000 rural residents](#) in 17 states. Tennessee Rural Development State Director Jim Tracy is pleased to announce that one of the 17 states to benefit is Tennessee.

“It is extremely important that communities have the essential services they need,” Tracy said. “By taking advantage of the [Community Facilities Direct Loan Program](#) communities can, in a more affordable way, meet the needs of the community by ensuring the safety and enrichment of its citizens.”

USDA is making the investments and has additional funding available. Interested applicants should contact their USDA Rural Development [state office](#).

The 40 projects Baxley announced today are in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Virginia. In Tennessee:

- The Campbell County Rural Fire Service, Inc. located in LaFollette, Tenn will receive a loan for \$11,300 and grant for \$49,500 to purchase fire and rescue equipment. The equipment will help the department improve service to the city, which has seen an increase in rescue calls.

More than 100 types of projects are eligible for funding under USDA’s Community Facilities program. Eligible applicants include municipalities, public bodies, nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Native American tribes. Projects must be in rural areas with a population of 20,000 or less.

USDA will make additional funding announcements in coming weeks. Congress appropriated \$2.8 billion for Community Facilities direct loans and grants in fiscal year 2019.

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 cornerstone 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/tn.

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