



U.S. Department of Agriculture
441 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
www.rd.usda.gov/tn

News Release

Contact:
Charron Culp (615) 783-1300
Charron.Culp@usda.gov

USDA Announces Investments in Community Facilities that will Benefit Almost 200,000 Rural Americans

Hawkins and Sumner County Residents to Benefit from Over \$1 Million in Investments

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 21, 2019 – USDA Rural Housing Service Administrator Bruce Lammers today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is [investing \\$52 million in 45 community facilities projects that will benefit nearly 200,000 rural residents](#) in 16 states. Rural Development State Director Jim Tracy announced that Tennessee will invest over \$1 million in loans and grants to two projects.

“The agency is committed to partnering with rural communities to construct facilities that provide advanced services to those who depend on them,” Tracy said. “Our rural communities thrive when modern and accessible health care, public safety and municipal services are available. This provides a foundation for progress and prosperity.”

USDA is making the investments and has additional funding available through the [Community Facilities Direct Loan Program](#). Interested parties should contact their USDA Rural Development [state office](#) for application and eligibility details.

The 45 projects that USDA announced today are in Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia and Wisconsin. In Tennessee:

- HOPE Family Health will receive a \$1,020,000.00 loan to purchase equipment to combat the opioid crisis as well as purchase a building that will be used to house the Federally Qualified Health Center. HOPE Family Health Services offers medical, behavior health, pharmacy, and dental services. Each of these services help fight the opioid crisis and have an impact on reaching the clientele served. The residents of Westmoreland and surrounding areas will benefit from this project. Previous funding for this project includes \$150,000.00 in grant funds which are targeted for the purpose of supporting projects that address the prevention, treatment, and recovery from opioid misuse.
- The Lakeview Fire Department, Inc will receive a \$36,400.00 loan and \$37,200.00 grant to purchase a new truck that will replace the current, unreliable vehicle that is a financial burden to the Lakeview Fire Department. It will serve the residents of Mooresburg, Tenn

in Hawkins County. More importantly, the new truck will allow four firefighters instead of two to respond to emergency calls, and its four-wheel drive capabilities will allow the department to respond more efficiently to its existing service area. The new truck will provide better public safety service to the community. Additionally, the proposed upgrades will equip the truck with a new pump that will allow it to be fully operable again.

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.

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.

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).

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