



News Release

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USDA Announces Nearly \$12 Million in Funding to Improve Public Facilities in 17 States, Benefiting More Than 200,000 Rural Americans

Anderson, Houston, Meigs and Putnam County Residents to Benefit from Public Facilities Improvement

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 18, 2019 – USDA Rural Housing Service Administrator Bruce W. Lammers today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is [investing almost \\$12 million in 41 community facilities projects that will benefit 214,000 Americans](#) in rural communities in 17 states. Rural Development State Director Jim Tracy is pleased to announce that Tennessee will fund more than \$1.1 million in loans and grants to five projects.

“The improvement of public facilities in Tennessee’s rural communities is vital to the mission of USDA,” Tracy said. “Investments in our rural areas provide a foundation for growth and prosperity that strengthens the overall economy.”

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. Also see the [Community Facilities Direct Loan Program Guidance Book for Applicants](#), a detailed overview of the application process.

The 41 projects that USDA announced today are in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia and Washington. In Tennessee:

- The Meigs Youth Center in Decatur, Tenn., will use a \$388,400 loan and a \$111,600 grant to purchase a building for use as a Boys and Girls Club. The Center provides operational facilities, classrooms, playgrounds and activities that inspire and enable people to reach their full potential. The Boys and Girls Club will serve up to 200 children with the potential to expand.
- Anderson County Volunteer Fire Department – Briceville Unit will receive a \$74,200 loan and \$80,700 grant to build a new fire station in Briceville, Tennessee. The new station will replace a substandard building built on a site not suited for a fire station.

- Anderson County Volunteer Fire Department – Medford Unit will receive a \$25,700 loan and \$31,300 grant to purchase air packs with personal alert safety system alarms. The department is currently using air packs that are ten years old. The new air packs will allow the department to continue to provide fire and rescue services to the community.
- The city of Erin will receive a \$180,000 loan and \$34,000 grant to purchase a new fire truck and equipment to outfit the truck. The fire truck will provide accessibility to multi-level structures and provide the capability to access fire through the roof of buildings with a longer ladder extension.
- The town of Baxter will receive a \$160,000 loan and \$50,000 grant to purchase a brand new 37-yard garbage truck to replace the city of Baxter's deteriorated one. The new truck will only require one employee to operate it thus freeing up two employees to work on other tasks for the city. It will also reduce maintenance costs and provide safer working conditions for sanitation employees.

More than 100 types of projects are eligible for Community Facilities program funding. 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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