



# News Release

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## **USDA Invests in Rural Critical Community Facilities in 28 States and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico**

*Investments will Benefit More Than 38,000 Tennessee Residents and Help Communities Thrive*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.**, Nov. 14, 2019 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald “DJ” LaVoy today announced that USDA is [investing \\$394 million to improve critical community facilities in 28 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico](#). USDA is making the investments through the [Community Facilities Direct Loan Program](#). Tennessee Rural Development State Director Jim Tracy is excited to announce that projects in Clay, Johnson and Shelby County, Tenn. will receive Community Facility Direct Loan funding.

“Our commitment to improving the quality of life in rural Tennessee is solid,” Tracy said. “USDA is committed to being a strong partner in building and modernizing facilities, creating jobs and educational opportunities.”

In Tennessee:

- Clay County will receive a \$7,506,000 loan to construct a new 22,000 square foot facility to house the Clay county sheriff's office and new jail facility. This new facility will alleviate the overcrowding currently seen at the current 4,000 square foot facility by expanding the jail's capacity from 14 beds to 100 beds. This project will allow the jail facility to better serve the needs of the county, as it currently has an average daily population of 62 inmates. This will create expanded administration space, inmate intake and processing space, and dedicated jail space for male and female inmates. Moreover, the new location will give the jail additional space to expand the facility if necessary. This new jail will also provide improved kitchen and laundry facilities and provide the county with inmate program space.
- Johnson County Emergency & Rescue Squad, Inc. will receive a \$110,000 loan and \$50,000 grant to purchase a new 2019 emergency vehicle. The new ambulance will replace one of the existing ambulances for the Johnson County Emergency and Rescue Squad. The average lifespan for well-maintained vehicles is ten years or greater. The applicant currently has two ambulances with ages beyond ten years and greater than 300,000 miles still in operation but needing replacement. The investment will allow the

Johnson County Emergency and Rescue Squad to successfully continue emergency services inside the county limits.

- The city of Lakeland, Tenn., will use a \$60 million loan to construct a high school and refinance middle school debt. Constructing the school will relieve classroom overcrowding.

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.

The investments announced today will benefit 1.6 million people in Alabama, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont and West Virginia.

Interested parties should contact their USDA Rural Development [state office](#) for information about additional funding, application procedures and eligibility details. Also see the [Community Facilities Direct Loan Program Guidance Book for Applicants](#), a detailed overview of the application process.

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](http://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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