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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

WASHINGTON, 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.

“Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, USDA is committed to partnering with rural communities to bring essential facilities and services to rural communities,” Lammers said. “Investments in our rural areas provide a foundation for growth and prosperity that strengthens the Nation’s overall economy.”

Florida State Director for Rural Development Philip Leary, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is pleased to be one of the 17 states whose rural communities are part of today’s announcement.

“We are excited that our rural communities have been provided the resources and tools to ensure they have the help they need to prosper, today and in the future,” said Leary.

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, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington. The following projects for Florida are:

- The Town of White Springs received a loan for \$135,000 and a grant in the amount of \$100,000. It will be used to purchase a pumper fire truck and related equipment. This new truck will replace a 36 year-old truck that is at the end of its useful life and will provide improved emergency response services to the residents of the town and surrounding rural areas.
- The City of Marianna received a loan for \$309,000 and a grant in the amount of \$200,000. The investment will be used to purchase a fire truck and related equipment.

The city of Marianna has two fire trucks that serve the entire service area, and one truck has exceeded its useful life and is no longer dependable. This new fire truck will provide reliable services to all residents of the city.

- The Town of Grand Ridge received a loan in the amount of \$176,200 and a grant for \$91,300. It will be used to purchase a fire truck and related equipment. The town of Grand Ridge has one fire truck that serves their entire service area which has exceeded its useful life and is no longer dependable. This new fire truck will provide reliable services to all residents of the town.
- America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend Inc. will use a \$1.1 million loan to purchase the facility that the organization currently leases. America's Second Harvest provides nutritious food and other items for low-income and unemployed residents in 17 Florida counties. More than 4,000 people are expected to benefit from USDA's funding.

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.

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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