

USDA Broadens Infrastructure Partnerships

USDA Rural Development is partnering with the [MN Telecom Alliance](#) and [DEED's Office of Broadband Development](#) to ensure that our staff has the most current information necessary to provide those in need of connectivity infrastructure with the best resources available. Minnesota State Director for Rural Development Brad Finstad continues to support this Administration through the priorities set forth by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett. These priorities - Innovation, Partnerships, and Infrastructure – provide the foundation of Rural Development's current mission area and are meant to help drive our customer service for stakeholders and residents in rural America. Thank you to MN Telecom Alliance and DEED's Office of Broadband Development for partnering with Rural Development to help continue its mission. We look forward to the successes this partnership, and those formed as a result, is sure to bring.

For information on how Rural Development can help provide financing to bring broadband infrastructure to your rural community, contact our Telecom General Field Representative (GFR) at Dominic.henderson@wdc.usda.gov or (218) 820-9168.

In addition to assisting with rural connectivity to broadband, Rural Development also helps with financing for electric connectivity. Finstad recently announced nearly [\\$43 million in investments](#) for rural electric infrastructure to improve system efficiency and reliability throughout Minnesota. Thank you to all the partners involved in making these investments a reality. We are working to expand the partnership network in this area as well, so if you know of a project or an area in need of [Electric](#) infrastructure assistance, visit www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/electric-gfr to contact your local Electric GFR.

Rural Development also provides financial assistance for housing, community facilities, rural small businesses, water and wastewater infrastructure, and energy. For more information on any of Rural Development's programs, please contact (651) 602-7800 or your local [Area Office](#).

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