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News Release

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USDA Announces Investments in Rural Community Facilities that will Benefit Three NC Communities

RALEIGH, March 19, 2019 – State Director for Rural Development Bob Chandler today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$9 million to build or [improve community infrastructure and essential services](#) for three communities in North Carolina.

USDA is funding 16 projects through the [Community Facilities Direct Loan Program](#). The funding helps rural small towns, cities and communities make infrastructure improvements and provide essential facilities such as public schools, libraries, courthouses, public safety facilities, hospitals, colleges and day care centers. In North Carolina:

- the Town of Spencer will use a \$2.5 million loan to renovate a vacant building into space for a new town hall and the police department. This project will benefit 3,267 residents;
- the Town of Pembroke will use a \$1.6 million loan for streetscape redevelopment; and
- the Northeast Academy for Aerospace & Advanced Technologies in Elizabeth City will use a \$5.7 million loan to purchase, renovate and convert an existing building into an educational facility. It will provide an additional 65,000 square feet of space for a rapidly growing public charter school.

More than 100 types of projects are eligible for Community Facilities funding. Eligible applicants include municipalities, public bodies, nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Native American tribes. Applicants and projects must be in rural areas with a population of 20,000 or less.

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 key 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).

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/nc.

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