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**USDA Invests in Rural Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in North Carolina**

**RALEIGH, May 13, 2019** – State Director for Rural Development Bob Chandler today announced that [USDA is investing in City of Marion to improve storm water facilities.](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/WEP_NR_CHARTMay132019.pdf)

   USDA is investing through the [Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant](https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program) program. Rural communities, water districts and other eligible entities can use the funds for drinking water, stormwater drainage and waste disposal systems. The projects must be in rural communities with 10,000 or fewer residents.

   View the interactive [RD Apply](https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rd-apply) tool or contact one of USDA Rural Development’s [state or field offices](https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices) for application or eligibility information.

 USDA is announcing investments today in Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia.

  The North Carolina investment USDA is making will improve and repair storm water facilities near the community park and town hall in the city of Marion. The upgrades will prevent further development of sinkholes in the area.

 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](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/rural-prosperity-report.pdf) (PDF, 5.4 MB). In addition, to view the categories of the recommendations, please view the [Rural Prosperity infographic](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/rural-task-force-infographic.pdf) (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](http://www.rd.usda.gov).

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