****U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Rural Development**

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

 RALEIGH, Dec. 4, 2018 – State Director for Rural Development Bob Chandler today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing $1 million to help rebuild and improve rural water infrastructure for 1,622 users in North Carolina.

   USDA is providing financing for the water and environmental infrastructure projects through the [Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant](https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program) program. The funding can be used for drinking water, stormwater drainage and waste disposal systems for rural communities with 10,000 or fewer residents.

   Eligible communities and water districts can apply online on the interactive [RD Apply](https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rd-apply) tool, or they can apply through one of USDA Rural Development’s [state or field offices](https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices).

   Below are the North Carolina investments:

* The Town of Grifton is receiving a $441,000 loan to renovate two existing pump stations in Contentnea and Woodlawn benefitting 1,036 users.
* The Town of Norlina is receiving a $626,000 loan to rehabilitate and replace pump stations to reduce operating expenses and improve efficiency. The project will benefit 586 users.

 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 services 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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