



Rural Development

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News Release

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USDA Helped Improve Essential Services for 7 Million Rural Residents in 2017

Funding Supports Schools, Libraries, Municipal Centers, First Responder Vehicles and Equipment, Other Community Needs

NORTH CAROLINA, January 25, 2018 - Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue today announced that USDA invested in nearly 400 projects to provide essential services for more than 7 million people in rural areas across the country in Fiscal Year 2017.

“Partnering with our small towns and cities to support essential services that rural residents need is one way USDA is facilitating prosperity in rural America,” Perdue said. “These investments will help communities significantly improve their schools, hospitals and public safety facilities and improve the quality of life.”

USDA infused \$1.5 billion into rural areas [in 2017](#) through the [Community Facilities Direct Loan Program for](#) projects such as schools, libraries, municipal centers, first responder vehicles and equipment, social service buildings, recreational activities and other community needs. These investments are helping improve the lives of nearly 7 million rural residents.

The projects are in Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

In North Carolina, USDA invested \$127 million through the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program. Below are some of the projects USDA helped finance in North Carolina in 2017:

- The Willow Oak Montessori Foundation Inc., in Pittsboro received a \$5.6 million loan to construct three, 11,000-square-foot buildings for students at the Willow Oak Montessori Charter School. The school will add an 8th grade and kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year when the project is completed. It currently serves children in grades 1 through 7.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter USDA all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to by mail to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

- The Town of Green Level received a \$1,147,900 loan to construct a Town Hall which will include space for the Town Manager and staff.
- The Bolivia Fire Department in Bolivia, received a \$354,000 loan to assist with the construction of the new fire department.
- A Child's Garden School, Inc. in Louisburg, received a \$6,800,000 loan to construct a new facility to accommodate the existing student population and to grow enrollment to 360 students.
- Oxford Preparatory High School, Inc. in Oxford, received a \$8,680,000 loan to purchase the 11.5 acre campus and the 38,000 square foot building. The school is currently chartered for 400 students.
- The Academy of Moore County in Aberdeen, received a \$4,973,000 loan to construct a 18,000 square foot building adjacent to the existing school building. The new building replaces temporary modular units and will provide needed space to accommodate the Kindergarten to 2nd grade expansion.
- The Town of Bethel received a \$170,000 loan to purchase a fire truck to replace a 1968 model tanker.
- The Town of Stoneville received a \$18,000 loan to purchase a public works vehicle used to serve the town citizens.
- Lake Lure Community Education Foundation, Inc. received a \$11,831,050 loan to purchase a 34 acre campus, an existing school and construct a multi-purpose building adjacent to the existing school.

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, which included 31 recommendations to align the federal government with state, local and tribal governments to take advantage of opportunities that exist in rural America. 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](#). In addition, to view the categories of the recommendations, please view the [Rural Prosperity infographic](#).

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

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high-speed internet access in rural areas. USDA Rural Development annually invests \$1.5 billion, on average, in North Carolina's rural communities. USDA Rural Development has Area Office locations in Asheville, Shelby, Lumberton, Asheboro, Henderson and Kinston. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov/nc.

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