



Rural Development

654 Plaza, Suite 601
Muñoz Rivera Ave.
San Juan, PR 00918
Voice 787.766.5095
Fax 1(855) 523-9680

Media Advisory

Contact: Miguel A. Ramirez, (787) 766-5708
miguel.ramirez@pr.usda.gov

USDA Announces *Investments in Community Facilities that will Benefit nearly 715,000 Rural Americans*

San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 9, 2019 – Acting Assistant Secretary for Rural Development today announced that USDA is investing \$68 million to build or improve community facilities and essential services for nearly 715,00 rural residents in 13 states and Puerto Rico.

“Having access to high-quality education, health care, public safety, community infrastructure and municipal services is crucial to achieving prosperity,” Baxley said. “Under the leadership of Secretary Perdue, USDA is committed to partnering with rural community leaders to improve quality of life and economic development in rural America by building or modernizing the essential community facilities that provide building-block opportunities.”

USDA Rural Development State Director for Puerto Rico, Josué E. Rivera, indicated “we are very hopeful that these capital investments will benefit entities and local governments in the municipalities of Arroyo, Añasco, Barceloneta and Las Marias, which result in better access to education, services to citizens, art & culture, as well as new tools and infrastructure to continue transforming the quality of life in our rural communities. The following projects were approved:

- Plenitud Iniciativas Ecoeducativas Inc., is a non-profit organization in the municipality of Las Marias will receive a \$25,100 loan & \$50,000 grant for the acquisition of essential equipment and a vehicle.
- City of Barceloneta will receive a loan of \$564,450 for the rehabilitation of an existing municipal government center building and \$403,785 for the rehabilitation of an existing municipal theater.
- City of Arroyo will receive a loan of \$371,860 to acquire solid waste disposal vehicle and essential equipment.
- MAS Integrated School Masis a non-profit school in the municipality of Añasco will receive \$4,049,098 loan for the construction of a bilingual school to provide the needed space requires to expand its educational services.

654 Plaza, Suite 601, Muñoz Rivera Ave., Hato Rey PR 00918
Phone: (787)766-5095 • Fax: 1-855-523-9680 • TDD: (787) 766-5332

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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More than 100 types of projects are eligible for Community Facilities funding. Eligible applicants include municipalities, Public bodies, non-profit organizations. Applicants and projects must be in rural areas with a population of 20,000 or less.

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 additional information, please visit www.rd.usda.gov or contact Miguel Ramirez, Public Information Officer at (787) 766-55708.