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# News Release

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## USDA Invests in Rural Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in 29 States

*Investments will Benefit 169,000 Rural Americans*

**FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA., June 26, 2019** – Acting Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Joel Baxley today announced that [USDA is investing \\$192 million in 71 projects located across 29 states to improve rural water infrastructure.](#)

“President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue were very clear when they directed Rural Development to identify and meet rural water needs as a foundational pillar in improving rural infrastructure,” Baxley said. “Safe and reliable water infrastructure is critical to the health, safety and economic vitality of rural America. Without access to safe water and functional wastewater treatment, sustainable growth in rural areas is not possible.”

USDA is making the \$192 million investment through the [Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant](#) program. Rural communities, water districts and other eligible entities can use the funds for drinking water, stormwater drainage and waste disposal systems in rural communities with 10,000 or fewer residents.

Florida has been awarded the following:

- The city of Apalachicola, Fla., population, 2,328, is receiving a \$474,000 loan and a \$1.2 million grant to improve the central water system treatment facility. The filtration processes will be upgraded to reduce the level of disinfection byproducts in the treated water. The system serves 1,463 customers.

USDA is announcing investments today in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

Congress appropriated \$2.9 billion for USDA [Water and Environmental Program](#) loans and grants in fiscal year 2019. USDA will make additional funding announcements in coming weeks.

View the interactive [RD Apply](#) tool or contact one of USDA Rural Development’s [state or field offices](#) for application or eligibility information.

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](http://www.rd.usda.gov).

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