



U.S. Department of Agriculture
441 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
www.usda.gov/tn

News Release

Contact:
Charron Culp (615) 783-1300
Charron.Culp@usda.gov

USDA Invests in Community Facilities Improvements for 3.3 Million Rural Americans in 23 States

East Tennessee Rural Community to Receive Assistance with Essential Services

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 30, 2019 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald “DJ” LaVoy today announced that [USDA is investing \\$139 million in 56 projects to improve community facilities and provide essential services for 3.3 million rural residents in 23 states.](#) Tennessee Rural Development State Director Jim Tracy is pleased to announce that Greene County will benefit from this Community Facilities investment.

“We are excited to invest in Greene County Emergency Communications District 911,” Tracy said. “Like Greene County, other communities can take advantage of this program in a more affordable way while meeting the needs of the community by ensuring the safety and enrichment of its citizens.”

USDA is making the investments through the [Community Facilities Direct Loan Program](#). Interested parties should contact their USDA Rural Development [state office](#) for information about additional funding, application procedures and eligibility details. Also see the [Community Facilities Direct Loan Program Guidance Book for Applicants](#), a detailed overview of the application process.

Tennessee local investments include:

- Greene County Emergency Communications District 911 received a \$404,500 loan and \$30,000 grant to purchase new emergency communication equipment for the Greene County 911. The purpose of this project is to satisfy the need for new communication equipment which will include new software and hardware equipment. The current equipment will no longer be supported or maintained after Dec. 31, 2019. The need for a new call-taking system is necessary by the end of this year so that the citizens of Greene County can continue to make emergency communication 911 calls.

More than 100 types of projects are eligible for Community Facilities program funding. Eligible applicants include municipalities, public bodies, nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Native American tribes. Projects must be in rural areas with a population of 20,000 or less.

The investments announced today are in Alabama, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Virginia. USDA had \$2.8 billion available for Community Facilities direct loans and grants in fiscal year 2019. USDA will make additional funding announcements in coming weeks.

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/tn.

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 cornerstone 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 is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.