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# News Release

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## USDA Funds Rural New Hampshire Communities, Farmers, and Small Businesses with \$10.6 Million as Part of Biden-Harris Administration Investing in America Agenda

*Transformational Projects Across the State will Lower Costs, Create Jobs and Ensure Healthier, Safer Communities*

CANDIA, NH, July 17, 2024 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres-Small today announced \$10,607,909 in New Hampshire state funding through a mix of USDA Rural Development (RD) programs. She was meeting with U.S. Representative Chris Pappas (NH-1) at the Candia First Stoppe—a USDA [Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#) customer—to take part in a clean-energy roundtable with stakeholders and other program beneficiaries. The [awards announced today](#) were made through the [Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant program](#) (CF), [Rural Business Development Grant program](#) (RBDG), [Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant program](#) (WWDLG) and REAP. The funding is expected to create more than 130 new jobs, produce enough energy to power roughly 70 homes, and benefit 25,818 people with new and safer public facilities as part of President Biden’s *Investing in America* agenda to grow the nation’s economy from the middle out and bottom up.

“President Biden is committed to lowering on-farm energy costs for American producers and improving economic prosperity in rural America. The awards announced today will expand clean energy access, strengthen rural infrastructure, and create vital new jobs,” said Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres Small. “USDA is proud to partner with **Senators Shaheen and Hassan**, and **Representatives Pappas and Kuster** in ensuring rural New Hampshire thrives.”

**Sarah Waring**, RD State Director for New Hampshire, was on-hand to join the roundtable and pleased to take part in the announcement. “It is our job to invest in rural communities, and that means a broad and diverse set of projects,” she said. “We are intent on helping as many people as we can with the programs we have. Homeowners who need hazards removed, small businesses needing a little boost, low-income communities struggling to build a future—these are the folks the Biden-Harris Administration has in mind when it creates historic funding availability for those who need it the very most. I am proud to be part of this transformational change. It’s the change we’ve seen during four years of a strengthening economy, established on the foundational idea of strengthening our infrastructure by cementing our humanity.”

With two requests for help being heard and secured through Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) by U.S. Senator **Jeanne Shaheen**, the residents of Newport are receiving \$7,285,000 to upgrade an outdated and unreliable wastewater treatment facility (\$2.5M through WWDLG), and create a new 19,000+ sq. ft. community center (\$4.785

through CF) that will serve as a meeting place, sports & recreation venue, performance space, program and learning area, among other uses.

The town of Claremont received a \$50,000 RBDG to provide support and technical assistance to local entrepreneurs through a sustainable start-up program to promote their establishment and growth, creating an estimated 15 new jobs. A \$100,000 CF grant to install a fire safety sprinkler system in the historic Claremont Opera House, built in 1897, also came courtesy of Senator Shaheen.

Through REAP, Canaan Hardware and Supply will benefit from a 33.6 kW, roof-mounted solar array that will generate an estimated 38,000 kilowatt hours (kWh), saving the company roughly \$9,800 each year. The Amazing Flower Farm in New Ipswich will save more than \$2,400 by installing a small solar array to offset 98 percent of its historical energy usage. In Lee, the Flag Hill Distillery is using their award to install 110 panels and produce more than 50,000 kWhs of electricity, offsetting roughly 60 percent of its annual usage.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans 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, tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov).

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