

USDA Rural Development 2022 Accomplishments in Virginia

Spotlight on Rural Virginia

Your Virginia team led the nation in Fiscal Year 2022 funding for state economic development projects, increasing homeownership opportunities and financing infrastructure improvements.

This \$1.8 billion investment includes projects that touch every aspect of rural living and support a wide range of services to strengthen communities across the commonwealth.

These partnership efforts helped to elevate quality of life in rural Virginia through grants and loans to:

- Lift up communities in need
- Expand the availability of health care, food banks and distribution facilities
- Improve local water and sanitation systems
- Enhance public safety
- Upgrade broadband services to connect rural communities
- Stimulate business growth and creation
- Power sustainable communities
- Help more than 3,100 families buy safe and sanitary housing

We are here to serve the smallest communities with the lowest incomes and look forward to continuing to helping them thrive and grow in the year ahead.

Perry Hickman
Virginia State Director

Going the Extra Mile for Post-Pandemic Health Services

While the number and severity of new cases may be down, the coronavirus continues to have a devastating impact on some of the most vulnerable members of the population. The youth served through the Harvest Outreach Center (HOC) in Rustburg, Va., are the faces of a national pandemic-related mental health crisis but have limited resources for treatment.



Many of the families in this rural community are living at or below the poverty line and must often travel many miles for care. The pre-pandemic caseload of about 100 youth had also doubled with a waiting list of 70 more.

Harvest staff ramped up their already extensive pro bono work following budget cuts to keep children from “slipping through the cracks” but were struggling to meet the demand.

USDA Rural Development stepped in to help with two Emergency Rural Healthcare grants totaling \$1.5 million that not only addressed the lost revenue but also increased the organization’s capacity to provide in-person and telehealth services.

Investments in resources like laptops, phones, virtual meeting platforms and electronic healthcare records will increase capacity to serve clients now and in the future. A new fleet of 7- to 15-passenger vehicles will be used to transport youth to mental health and

summer feeding programs as well as deliver computers for virtual treatments and wireless routers that act as mobile Wi-Fi hotspots.

These resources will position the HOC to continue providing critical services to build strong families and healthy communities. The grant funding will also free up resources to enable HOC directors to serve on a Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services work group tasked with redesigning school-based services for Virginia’s youth.

“We at Harvest are grateful for the grant support from USDA,” said Executive Director Carrington Connelly. “You have taken the time to listen to what we do to serve youth with extreme mental health disorders.

“We could not commit to this project without the stability primarily provided through the lost revenue grant. The ripple effects of your support will contribute to helping children across all of Virginia for many years to come.”

Virginia Rural Development Major Program Assistance in 2022

	AMOUNT	AWARD
Business and Industry Loan Guarantees ¹	\$9,344,000	2
Rural Business Development Grants	\$653,000	5
Renewable Energy Loan Guarantees and Grants ²	\$10,809,444	14
Value-Added Producer Grants	\$2,110,612	13
Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants	\$16,248,700	13
Telecom Loans and Grants ³	\$5,000,000	1
Electric Direct Loans and Loan Guarantees	\$988,320,000	6
Single Family Housing Direct Loans	\$70,708,411	415
Single Family Housing Loan Guarantees	\$577,814,618	2,725
Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants	\$1,337,165	193
Multifamily Housing Loan Guarantees	\$12,684,000	2
Multifamily Housing Grants and Rental Subsidies	\$39,337,472	219
Community Facilities Direct Loans	\$31,468,400	29

¹For all loan guarantee programs, Rural Development backs the loans, which are made by private-sector lenders that partner with USDA to participate in the programs.

²Renewable Energy Loan Guarantees and Grants include the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program.

³Telecom Loans and Grants includes Farm Bill broadband and telecommunications infrastructure loans and Community Connect, Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants.

Data reflect funding levels for USDA Rural Development programs as of January 2023 and are not final.

Thinking Out of the Box to Get More Virginia Families into Affordable Homes

A new collaboration with Fauquier Habitat for Humanity is now helping more Virginians realize their white picket fence dreams through an “out of the box” approach to home ownership called a ground lease.

It has been used to increase the supply of lower-priced houses in states like Hawaii and California, which are known for high land values, but never tried in the commonwealth.

Ground leases enable the purchaser to buy the structure while the trust retains ownership of the land and leases it to the homeowner. Property assessments are tied to the underlying affordable mortgage restrictions, which reduces monthly

taxes and keeps payments low. The owner retains full rights and can sell the home at an affordable price.

Rochelle Hall was one of the first three applicants to benefit from this partnership, celebrating the holidays in a new home. The single mother of two lives on a fixed income due to ongoing health issues caused by an autoimmune disorder.

Being a homeowner gives Rochelle the security of knowing she and her daughters have a lifelong home with an affordable payment.

“I never thought it would be possible to own a home, so I didn’t give it much thought,” said Hall. “After connecting with the Fauquier Habitat for Humanity



and going through this process with the USDA, I have a new prospective on life. I went out and created a will because I am actually investing in something for my daughters’ futures.”

The Virginia team has received more applications and is initiating outreach to other habitat groups to pave the way for additional homeowners to benefit from this opportunity.

Contact our State Office at (804) 287-1500 for more resources and information about our commitment to Virginia’s rural prosperity.

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

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