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# News Release

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## **USDA Invests in Drinking Water Quality and Wastewater Management for 784,000 Rural Residents and Businesses in 42 States**

*Projects will Improve Water Pressure, Address Public Health and Environmental Issues*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 19, 2019** – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald “DJ” LaVoy today announced that the department is [investing \\$635 million in 122 projects to improve water systems and wastewater handling services in rural communities in 42 states](#). USDA is funding the projects through the [Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant](#) program. Tennessee Rural Development State Director Jim Tracy is pleased to announce that \$6.7 million will be invested in two rural east Tennessee communities.

“We are delighted to partner with Jefferson City and the city of South Pittsburg to improve public health and safety,” Tracy said. “Our agency is committed to being a strong partner in addressing rural infrastructure needs to support a more prosperous future in rural communities.”

The projects announced today are in Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Eligible applicants include rural cities, towns and water districts. The funds can be used for drinking water, stormwater drainage and waste disposal systems in rural communities that meet population limits.

In Tennessee:

- Jefferson City will receive a \$4,483,000 loan and \$1,922,800 grant to build a new waste water treatment plant (WWTP) and increase the capacity of the system. Jefferson City, Tenn. is serviced by a 50-year-old waste water plant, which is insufficient for the residential and commercial properties. The Jefferson City Board has received inquiries from the state requesting an updated WWTP be built to handle the increased sewage. Additionally, the age of the WWTP is nearing the end of its useful life. By increasing the

WWTP, Jefferson City will be able to treat all wastewater and provide wastewater services for additional residential and commercial developments.

- City of South Pittsburg will receive a \$294,000 loan to upsize the water main serving the Coburntown Road area to 6-inch and install a fire hydrant in that portion of the system. The Coburntown Road community is serviced by an existing 3-inch water line. The water line is insufficient to provide fire protection flow to the residences and there are no fire hydrants in this vicinity. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Community Public Water Design Criteria requires that the minimum size of water mains to which fire hydrants can be connected be 6-inches. The system should be capable of supplying a minimum of 500 gallons per minute at 20 psi for fire protection. By upsizing the water main serving this area to 6-inches and installing a fire hydrant near the top of the ridge, the system can support a fire truck filling station to improve fire suppression in this community.

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

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