

United States Department of Agriculture

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News Release

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USDA Invests \$2.08 Million in Water Infrastructure for New Hampshire Manufactured Housing Community

Funding Part of Colebrook Homeowners Cooperative Project to Upgrade Water & Waste Systems, Electric Infrastructure

COLEBROOK, N.H., July 19, 2022 – Today, the United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Development (RD) announced \$2,084,000 in funding for the Colebrook Homeowners Cooperative (CHC) in Colebrook, New Hampshire. The investment will address new and upgraded water, sewer, stormwater and electrical infrastructure for the resident-owned community (ROC).

Funds are packaged as a \$187,000 <u>Community Facilities direct loan</u>, a \$475,000 <u>Water & Waste Disposal loan and \$1,422,000 Water & Waste Disposal grant</u>. In addition, pending Governor & Council approval, the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority has awarded \$500,000 through a Community Development Block Grant.

State Director of RD in Vermont and New Hampshire, Sarah Waring, was pleased to make the recent announcement. "The impacts of this funding are transformational and timely," she said. "The Colebrook Homeowners Cooperative is an important and popular affordable-housing option for families and workers in the North Country. These infrastructure additions incorporate public health and environmental improvements, and create a model for other communities to follow. With this initiative, we are proud to further the mission of the Biden-Harris Administration and collaborate with our partners at the State and the CDFA."

CHC President Dawn Cameron was also happy to see the project get underway. "We are so excited to secure this funding, as the future of our homes depended on it," she said. "This investment will have immediate impact on people who live here now, and will help our community attract the residents we hope to gain once the project is complete. Looking ahead, this is the first step to ensuring our grandkids have affordable housing and access to safe electricity and water. The residents of this community dedicated countless hours and made hundreds of sacrifices to make this happen. It's what a ROC is all about. I couldn't be prouder to be their neighbor."

Upgrades include a beautified neighborhood area through streetscaping and green infrastructure, and electric service trenching and weather-proof conduit installation to better protect phone, electrical and high-speed internet cables. CHC has 47 total lots and roughly half of them are occupied. Once the improvements are complete, the healthier, safer community will offer a more attractive place to live, work and raise a family.

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 housing, infrastructure improvements, business development, high-speed internet access, and community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care. For more information, visit <u>www.rd.usda.gov</u>. If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our <u>GovDelivery subscriber page</u>.

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