



News Release

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Trump Administration Invests \$600,494 to Assist Rural Businesses in Puerto Rico to Create Jobs and Increase Economic Opportunities

The Investment will Promote Job Creation and Increase Economic Opportunities

San Juan, August 19, 2020 – The Trump Administration today announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$600,494 to assist Rural Businesses on job creation and to increase economic opportunities in Puerto Rico. These funds are being provided by USDA, Rural Development, through the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG).

“These grants are strategic investments in non-profits entities that support rural businesses and they will ensure that these entities provide technical training and development that will strengthen the economy during these trying times”, said Josué E. Rivera, State Director. “Under the leadership of the President and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, USDA-RD has been working tirelessly to be a strong partner to rural areas in Puerto Rico in building stronger and healthier communities, because we know that when rural America thrives, all of America thrives”.

Recipients can use RDBG funding to support targeted technical assistance, training and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging businesses. **Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension, Inc. (PRiMEX)** was awarded \$246,494 for the creation of the “Business Competitiveness Project”. This project will be serving eleven rural municipalities in Puerto Rico. The project focusses on strengthening the capacity of existing small manufacturers to generate business economic impact to adjacent communities. **Para La Naturaleza, Inc.** was awarded \$95,000, to provide technical support to rural communities in San German, Coamo and Yauco. They will be performing and developing economic activities to increase the resilience of Puerto Rico, while improving existing capacities, resources, and employment opportunities.

State Director Rivera indicated that five more entities received awards in Puerto Rico: **Puerto Rico Ranchers Association**, \$65,000; **Fondo Fomento Industria de Carne de Cerdo**, \$65,000; **Forbes Foundation**, \$59,000; **Fundacion Sila M. Calderon**, \$40,000; and **Oficina para la Promocion y el Desarrollo Humano (OPDH)**, \$30,000.

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.

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