



News Release

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Trump Administration Invests \$319,286 to Revitalize and Improve Rural Florida Community

Investment to Assist Apalachicola's Historic Bowery District

GAINESVILLE, Fla. September 8, 2020 – The Trump Administration along with Florida/US Virgin Islands State Director Phil Leary today announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$319,286 to revitalize and improve Apalachicola's Bowery District. USDA is providing the funding through the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG).

“Providing a safe and attractive environment for our rural residents to shop, live, and work is key to attracting young families back into our rural areas,” said Phil Leary, State Director for Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands. “Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, USDA is committed to assisting our rural communities in being in the best conditions possible, because we know that when rural America thrives, all of America thrives.”

This Rural Development investment will be used to construct a sidewalk, parking area, and lighting on Water Street. The project will create quality growth, economic development, and provide a safer environment for consumers to shop. The sidewalk, parking, and lighting project will provide necessary infrastructure for Apalachicola's historic Bowery District to grow, thus increasing local job opportunities.

Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) funding can be utilized to benefit rural areas with a population of 50,000 or less. Some examples of eligible grant purposes are training and technical assistance, rural transportation improvement, community economic development, feasibility studies, rural business incubators, and long-term business strategic planning.

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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