



# News Release

Contact:

Jennifer Dillard – [jennifer.dillard@usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.dillard@usda.gov)

## **Trump Administration Invests \$93,000 to Complete a Market Analysis and Feasibility Study in Rural Florida**

### *Investment to Assist Palatka, Florida Businesses*

**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 \$93,000 to complete a market analysis and feasibility study in Palatka, Florida. USDA is providing the funding through the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG).

“Promoting entrepreneurship and supporting our local small businesses is vital to job creation in our rural communities,” 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 enhancing the quality of life in our rural areas because we know that when rural America thrives, all of America thrives.”

The City of Palatka is receiving \$93,000 to finance a market analysis and business incubator feasibility study that will assist in pinpointing the business climate and the needs of entrepreneurs. The intent of the project is to determine the best path to assist and support small and emerging businesses, which is lacking in most rural communities.

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

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