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News Release

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USDA Highlights Programs to Support Rural Housing

Department Promotes Resources and Opportunities to Help Rural Residents

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - June 1, 2020 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Deputy Under Secretary Bette Brand today kicked off National Homeownership Month by highlighting USDA’s ongoing role in [supporting rural homeownership](#). President Trump issued a [proclamation](#) on May 29 recognizing June as National Homeownership Month.

“Rural communities are rising to the challenge put forth by the coronavirus pandemic,” Brand said. “Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, USDA is committed to being a strong partner in building prosperity in rural communities and for the people who call them home – especially those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

To assist homeowners facing current hardships, USDA is offering payment moratoriums and modified application processes. USDA Rural Development is also working with new borrowers and their lenders to make special accommodations based on local needs and restrictions. For the most up-to-date information on Rural Development’s response to COVID-19, visit rd.usda.gov/coronavirus. Updates are also distributed via Twitter [@usdaRD](#).

“USDA Rural Development’s home loan and home repair programs are critical to providing quality housing to rural families who would not otherwise have an opportunity to realize the benefits of homeownership,” said Florida / US Virgin Islands State Director Phil Leary. “Homeownership allows those families to build wealth and break the cycle of generational poverty, while also keeping our rural communities thriving.”

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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