

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Makes \$7.5 Million in Technical Assistance and Training Grants Available for Disaster Recovery

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 2020 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald “DJ” LaVoy today announced that USDA is making \$7.5 million in grants available through the [Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program](#) to help rural communities continue their recovery from the devastating effects of hurricanes, fires, tornadoes, floods and other natural disasters.

The \$7.5 million is included in the [Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act](#) that President Trump signed into law on June 6, 2019. The grants may be used for relief in areas affected by Hurricanes Michael and Florence, wildfires in 2018, tornadoes and floods in 2019, and other natural disasters.

Eligible projects must be in a rural area of 20,000 or less where the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided a notice declaring a Major Disaster Declaration and assigned a FEMA disaster recovery (DR) number. USDA does not provide funding directly to individuals under this program.

Electronic applications must be submitted to grants.gov by April 30, 2020, at midnight Eastern Standard Time. Paper applications must be submitted to the applicant’s [nearest USDA office](#) by May 5, 2020, by 4:00 p.m. local time.

Applicants may request technical assistance or other guidance from USDA, as long as requests are made prior to April 27, 2020. Additional information is available on page 9726 of the Feb. 20, 2020, [Federal Register](#).

USDA encourages applications that will support recommendations made in the [Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#) (PDF, 5.4 MB) to help improve the quality of life in rural America. Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic investments in infrastructure, partnerships and innovation. Key strategies include:

- Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America
- Developing the Rural Economy
- Harnessing Technological Innovation
- Supporting a Rural Workforce
- Improving Quality of Life

USDA encourages applications for projects located in rural Opportunity Zones. Localities qualify as Opportunity Zones if they have been nominated for that designation by the state and that nomination has been certified by the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury via his delegation of authority to the Internal Revenue Service.

USDA also encourages applications that will support the Administration’s goal to combat substance use disorder, including opioid misuse, in high-risk rural communities by strengthening the capacity to address prevention, treatment and/or recovery.

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