



STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA CERTIFIES ADDITIONAL RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANIES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19, 2018 – Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett today announced the certification of two new Rural Business Investment Companies under USDA’s Rural Business Investment Program.

Midwest Growth Partners II LP, based in West Des Moines, Iowa, will invest in companies with high-growth potential in the food and agribusiness sectors. The fund manager expects to begin investing more than \$100 million in private equity into rural businesses during the first half of 2019.

Blue Highway Growth Capital Fund, which has principal offices in Biddeford, Ma., Boston Ma. and Philadelphia, Pa., will make investments primarily in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Its fund managers make investments across a broad range of industries.

Midwest Growth Partners and Blue Highway Growth Capital Fund are, respectively, the fourth and fifth non-leveraged funds USDA has certified under the Rural Business Investment Program. The program provides licenses to private capital funds to assist in meeting the capital needs in rural areas.

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