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News Release

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USDA Invests in Rural Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in 20 States

West Tennessee Project Investment to Benefit More Than 1,100 Residents

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 13, 2019 – Acting Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Joel Baxley today announced that [USDA is investing in 40 projects in 20 states to improve rural water infrastructure](#). Tennessee Rural Development State Director Jim Tracy is pleased to announce that one of these projects is in Tennessee.

“Clean water is vital to the prosperity of our rural communities,” Tracy said. “We are excited to partner with the town of Rutherford to provide a safe and sanitary wastewater system for its citizens.”

USDA is investing \$82 million through the [Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant](#) program. Rural communities, water districts and other eligible entities can use the funds for drinking water, stormwater drainage and waste disposal systems. The projects must be in rural communities with 10,000 or fewer residents. In Tennessee:

- The town of Rutherford received a \$740,000 loan that will be used to construct a 100,000-gallon clear well or pre-sedimentation basin at the water treatment plant in Rutherford. The well will be constructed of pre-stressed concrete and glass-coated steel that will withstand seismic events and normal weathering. Also, the new well will more effectively remove sediment from water. This project will serve Rutherford's 1,140 residents.

In addition to Tennessee, USDA is also announcing investments today in Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia.

View the interactive [RD Apply](#) tool or contact one of USDA Rural Development's [state or field offices](#) for application or eligibility information.

In April 2017, President Donald J. Trump established the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity to identify legislative, regulatory and policy changes that could promote agriculture and prosperity in rural communities. In January 2018, Secretary Perdue presented the Task Force's findings to President Trump. These findings included 31 recommendations to align the federal government with state, local and tribal governments to take

advantage of opportunities that exist in rural America. Increasing investments in rural infrastructure is a key recommendation of the task force.

To view the report in its entirety, please view the [Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#) (PDF, 5.4 MB). In addition, to view the categories of the recommendations, please view the [Rural Prosperity infographic](#) (PDF, 190 KB).

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/tn.

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