

Rural Data Gateway: USDA Rural Development's Public-Facing Rural Investments Dashboards

At USDA Rural Development, we understand rural investors, partners, and local officials need accurate data to make informed decisions. Good decision-making helps ensure rural people can thrive in communities where business owners, farmers and ranchers can tap into modern infrastructure, families have access to modern, affordable health care, kids and teachers can use world-class academic resources, and entrepreneurs can find creative funding options.

For these reasons, we're launching a new federal resource – the Rural Data Gateway – to make USDA Rural Development's investment portfolio more open and accessible to its partners and people across rural America. This is one of the many steps we're taking to be a better, more strategic partner with the communities we serve.

The 20 dashboards are presented under five headings: Overview, Program Area, Socially-Vulnerable Communities, Geography by County, and Geography by Congressional District – and reflect loan, grant, and loan guarantee data from fiscal year 2012¹ to the most recent month indicated on the dashboard. The investments support rural communities in the United States and US territories: Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam – as well as in freely associated states: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

NOTE: This information is not intended to be used for audits or in official financial reports. Our most recent financial report is available at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3v5puyif> (PDF)

About the Data

Update Frequency: Dashboards are updated monthly and include all publicly-announced investments.

Data Subject to Change: Dashboards represent active financial data that can change with project status. For example, a project might be cancelled, or its funding might be adjusted. Dashboards reflect these changes monthly and therefore, cannot be considered static investment snapshots.

¹ The fiscal year begins on October 1 of each year and ends on September 30 of the following year.

About the data...continued

Personally Identifiable Information: To ensure the privacy of RD loan and grant recipients, Personally Identifiable Information (PII) is not included. We comply with federal standards to protect PII and prevent identities from being directly or indirectly inferred. For this reason, data regarding Single Family Housing loan and grant programs and Multifamily Housing Rental Assistance and Tenant Voucher programs are aggregated at the county level.

Project Location: A project's location typically reflects where the project work is being done. In some instances, this will be the main facility within a utility, a business headquarters, or an area that does not reflect the entire community being served. For example, the project location for a rural hospital might specify one county even though the hospital serves residents of multiple counties.

Electric and Telecommunications Programs: Electric and Telecommunications programs data are displayed in the Program Area dashboards, but not in the Socially Vulnerable Communities, Geography by County, or Geography by Congressional District dashboards. This is because Electric and Telecommunications program investments often reflect facilities that serve multiple counties, districts, or in some cases, states. These service areas cannot be assigned a specific geography on the dashboards. You will find a USDA-RD Telecommunications Program Funded Service Areas Map at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ycxt49a9>.

Intermediary Programs: We administer programs known as “intermediary programs” by partnering with third parties – such as nonprofits or Tribal organizations – that relend funds or provide technical assistance to rural people and entrepreneurs. These programs typically serve multiple counties and congressional districts. Therefore, the project locations for intermediary programs reflect the address of the lender or technical assistance provider. Intermediary programs and weblinks include:

- Agriculture Innovation Center Program - <https://go.usa.gov/xzDXm>
- Housing Preservation Grants² - <https://go.usa.gov/xzDsY>
- Intermediary Relending Program - <https://go.usa.gov/xzDXs>
- Meat and Poultry Intermediary Relending Program - <https://go.usa.gov/xzDXM>
- Rural Business Development Grants - <https://go.usa.gov/xzDXt>
- Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program - <https://tinyurl.com/383r77nt>
- Rural Community Development Initiative Grants - <https://go.usa.gov/xzD7M>

² Responsibility for the administration of the Housing Preservation Grant Program was transferred from RD Multifamily Housing to RD Single Family Housing in fiscal year 2022. All data for this program – including historic data – is reflected as Single Family Housing investments.

About the data...continued

- Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program - <https://go.usa.gov/xzD5r>
- Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants - <https://go.usa.gov/xzDwc>
- Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program - <https://go.usa.gov/xzD5Z>
- Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant - <https://go.usa.gov/xzD58>

Program Data Exclusions: The information in the dashboards represents about 99 percent of the total dollar amount of USDA-RD investments during the specified period. Regular reconciliation and data check processes help us ensure accuracy. However, the timing of reporting sometimes is adjusted for congressional release, or in coordination with other USDA agencies. In other instances, investment information data is not available for dashboard release because of operational and timing considerations that make monthly reporting unachievable.

Investments made through the following technical and financial assistance programs are not included in the dashboards:

- Circuit Rider Program - Technical Assistance for Rural Water Systems (the program webpage is available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xzBKr>)
- Mutual Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance Grants (the program webpage is available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xzD6T>)
- Housing Preservation Grants – Supporting third-party loans, grants, and other assistance for single and multi-family property owners and homeowners needing property repairs (the program webpage is available at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/mryjhb97>)

Investments in partnership with the following regional economic development organizations are not included in the dashboards:

- Appalachian Regional Commission – (information is available at this link: <https://www.arc.gov/>)
- Delta Regional Authority - (information is available at this link: <https://dra.gov/>)
- Northern Border Regional Commission (information is available at this link: <https://www.nbrc.gov/>)

To learn more about using and navigating the dashboard, use our Quick Reference Guide (available at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3n5927tz> - PDF). If you would like information regarding the above-listed programs, email us at USDA_RD_Data@usda.gov.

Last updated March 2023

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