

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Rural Partners Network Communities to Now Benefit from USDA Update to Funding Priorities

WASHINGTON, June 5, 2024 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Under Secretary Dr. Basil Gooden today announced that the agency is now awarding extra points to program applications seeking funding for projects in selected and future [Rural Partners Network](#) (RPN) communities. The update applies to funding notices published on or after June 1, 2024.

Through RPN, USDA works with federal, state and local partners to make resources available for community-driven plans and projects. The Biden-Harris Administration launched RPN in April 2022 to ensure rural communities receive their fair share of federal funding and support. Currently, RPN supports community networks in Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Puerto Rico.

USDA Rural Development is incorporating the additional points for RPN projects into its existing “[priority points](#)” framework. This framework advances the following Biden-Harris Administration priorities to:

- Help rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure.
- Reduce climate pollution and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.
- Ensure all rural residents have equitable access to USDA Rural Development (RD) programs and benefits from RD-funded projects.

Additional information is available at www.rd.usda.gov/priority-points.

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