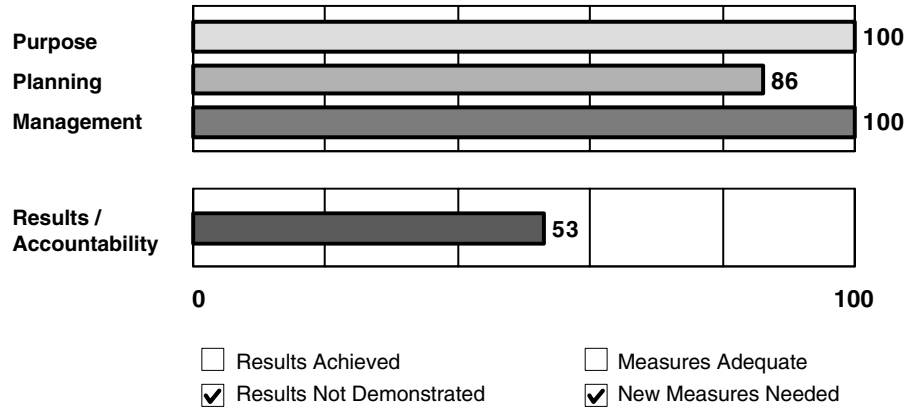


**Program:** Rural Water and Wastewater Grants and Loans

**Agency:** Department of Agriculture

**Bureau:** Rural Utilities Service



**Key Performance Measures**

**Year Target Actual**

Measure	Year	Target	Actual
Long-term Measure: Measure under development			
Annual Measure: Measures under development			
Efficiency Measure: Measures under development			

**Rating:** Results Not Demonstrated

**Program Type:** Mixed

**Program Summary:**

The water and wastewater program provides loans and grants to low-income rural communities of 10,000 or less people. The program finances drinking water, sewer, and solid waste disposal facilities. Priority is given to loans serving smaller communities that have greater financial need, based on their median household income, poverty levels, and size of service population. The community typically receives a combination of loans and grants depending on how much they can afford. The grant is usually for 35%-45% of the project cost (it can be up to 75%). Loans are for 40 years with interest rates based on a three-tiered structure depending on community income.

Results from the PARTs showed the program to be extremely well designed and managed. In addition it found:

1. The program is successful in targeting assistance for water and wastewater infrastructure to poor rural areas.
2. USDA does an effective job of collecting program data and using it to manage effectively. Accordingly, over the life of the program fewer people in rural areas are experiencing access problems to safe, affordable drinking water and wastewater disposal.
3. While this assessment was based largely on existing measures, these measures do not adequately demonstrate results. Improvements to the performance measures need to be made. USDA cannot show that the long term results are directly related to their program. The long-term goal needs to be more strategic and focused in order to allow for better analysis. Currently, the long term measure is the same as the annual measure.

The Administration will:

1. Develop better annual goals; and
2. Create reasonable long-term goals that measure outcomes.

(For more information on this program, please see the Department of Agriculture chapter in the Budget volume.)

[Funding below represents the discretionary program level (grant BA and loan level combined) for this program.]

<b>Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)</b>		
<u>2002 Actual</u>	<u>2003 Estimate</u>	<u>2004 Estimate</u>
1,479	1,479	1,479