

Ever wonder what it takes to build great rural communities?

At USDA Rural Development, we understand that building great communities requires local leaders with vision, drive, and the resources to succeed.

I'm Dallas Tonsager, Under Secretary for Rural Development at USDA - our mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans.

A variety of loan and grant programs are available through USDA Rural Development to build or improve community facilities and infrastructure in rural communities. For example, loans and grants are available for building or improving essential facilities such as schools, libraries, child care centers, hospitals, medical clinics, police, fire and rescue stations, and public buildings.

Loans, grants and loan guarantees are also available to supply drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm water drainage facilities. Rural communities that need technical assistance and training with their water, wastewater, and solid waste management issues may receive grants to help them meet their needs.

Building and maintaining America's vast rural electric, telephone, and broadband infrastructure is an important financing responsibility of USDA Rural Development as well. The grants, loans and loan guarantees not only bring light to rural homes and businesses, it minimizes the digital divide and allows businesses and communities to compete economically in a global marketplace, and brings advanced educational and health care services to more remote rural areas.

Building rural communities is about economic opportunities, and it's about improving the quality of life for its residents. USDA Rural Development has 500 local and state offices and nearly 6,100 professional throughout America ready to help communities build strong and viable 21st Century communities.

Creating great places to live, raise families, provide recreational opportunities, and infrastructure for high paying jobs is very important to our efforts at USDA.
