

Appalachian Regional Development Initiative

USDA



**Rural
Development**

Committed to the future of rural communities.

*Tuscaloosa, AL
December 5, 2011*

- USDA has the unique responsibility of coordinating Federal assistance to rural areas of the nation.
- Rural Development programs are delivered across three primary program areas:
 - Rural Housing Service
 - Rural Utilities Service
 - Rural Business and Cooperative Programs

Vision

A Rural America that is a Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Place to Live and Work.

Mission

To Increase Economic Opportunity and Improve the Quality of Life for all Rural Americans.



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Each year, across the country, USDA Rural Development programs:

- Create or preserve tens of thousands of rural jobs
- Build and update rural infrastructure
- Create or improve more than 60,000 units of quality rural housing



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- In Fiscal Year 2010, Rural Development invested more than \$42 billion in loans and grants to communities, businesses and individuals across rural America.
- Another \$21.2 billion was made available through The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.



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Rural Utilities Service

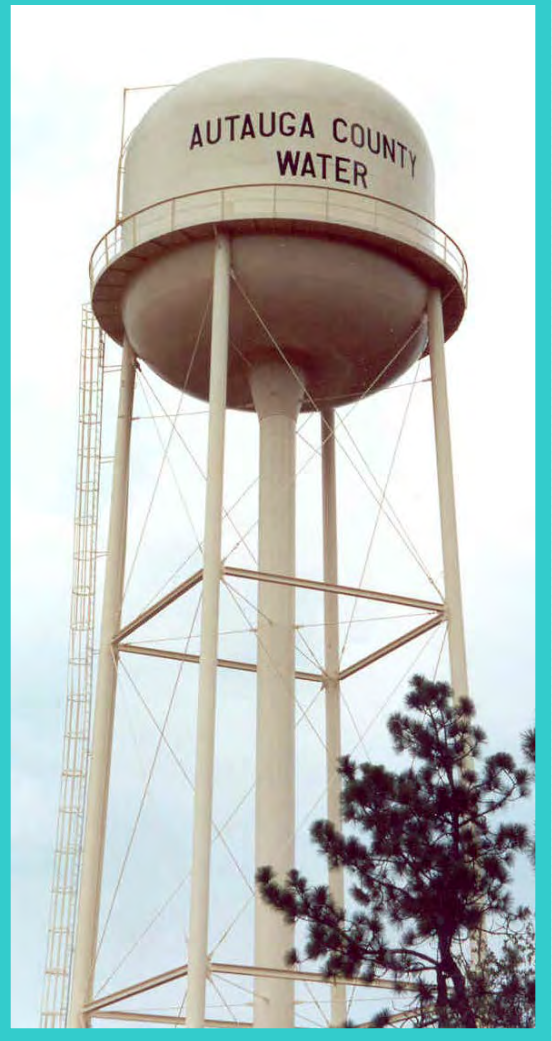
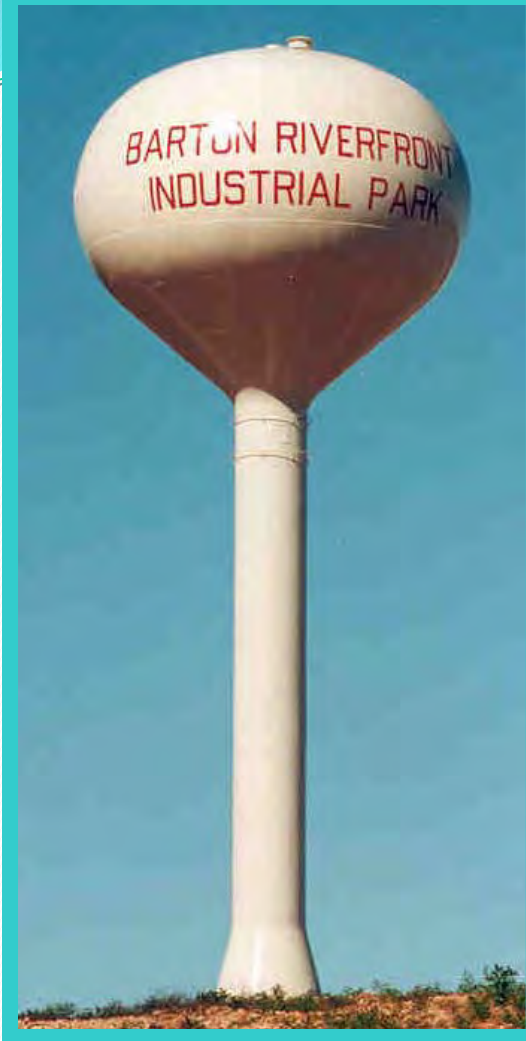
(Community Programs)

- Administers water and wastewater loan and grant programs to improve the quality of life and promote economic development in rural areas
- Telecommunications programs help promote state-of-the-art advanced telecommunications technologies

Water and Environmental Programs



- Direct loans offered to water and wastewater systems, including solid waste disposal and storm drainage
- Eligible applicants include municipalities of 10,000 or less population, counties, special-purpose districts and Indian tribes
- Maximum loan term – 40 years not to exceed useful life of the facility





Bayou La Batre



Bayou La Batre



Earth Day 2011 - Town of Fulton



Telecommunications Programs

- Broadband Loan Program

Construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment for broadband service in rural communities of 20,000 or less population.

Eligible applicant may be nonprofit, Public Bodies and Federally recognized Indian tribe or tribal organization;

Telecommunications Program

- Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program
 - Loans and grants to support advanced telecommunications technologies that provide enhanced learning and health care opportunities for rural residents



- “Community Connect” Grant
 - Grants to establish broadband service in rural communities not currently served
 - Must foster economic growth and deliver enhanced educational, health care and public safety services



Rural Housing Service Community Facilities Program Direct Loans and Grants

- Used to develop projects deemed essential community facilities for public use in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population
- Eligible entities include municipalities, counties and special-purpose districts, as well as non-profit associations and tribal governments

Town of Ariton





Troy-Pike Cultural Arts Center

Crenshaw County Healthcare Authority

Crenshaw Community Hospital



Town of Rutledge



Rural Housing Service Community Facilities Program Direct Loans and Grants

Examples:

- Schools
- Libraries
- Fire and Rescue Stations
- Police Stations
- Community Centers
- Public Buildings
- Hospitals / Medical Clinics
- Childcare Facilities

Purpose:

- Construct, enlarge or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services.
- Can include costs to acquire land, purchase equipment, or pay necessary professional fees.



Local Impact

- In Fiscal Year 2010, USDA Rural Development invested more than \$51 million in loans and grants to communities across rural Alabama.
- Utility programs assisted nearly 36,000 water and waste users
- Community Facilities program provided assistance to 17 organizations/local government entities

Application Tips

- Start addressing environmental concerns early in process
- Follow the application checklist
- Check maps to determine eligibility
- Explore opportunities to leverage funds
- Ensure activities are consistent with program guidelines

Common Mistakes/Problems

- Incomplete applications
- Failure to submit/obtain accurate financial information
- Applicant is not located/doesn't serve an eligible area
- Applicant drives the project / Good project team
- Post-award issues (e.g. reporting, maintenance, project sustainability)

Success Stories

- Community Facility Loan and Grant Funding Provides to Remodel 2 Hospitals in Rural Escambia County
- Loan and Grants Funds Along with ADEM and ADEC Funds Make it Possible to construct needed Wastewater Treatment Plant in Bayou La Batre

USDA Rural Development

Through our more than 40 programs, USDA Rural Development strives to meet its mission to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural American's

“Every Day, Every Way!”



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For more information . . .

- Allen Bowen, Community Program Director
 - (334) 279-3617
 - allen.bowen@al.usda.gov

Website

www.rurdev.usda.gov/al



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Water & Environmental Programs & Community Facilities Program

- Area 1 – Eddie Brooks (Huntsville) 256-544-5795
- Area 2 – Ronnie Wyatt (Dothan) 334-793-7819
- Area 3 – Teresa Long (Tuscaloosa) 205-553-1733
- Area 4 – Rickey Dawson (Camden) 334-682-4116
- Area 5 – Andrew Wackerle (Anniston) 256-831-0663
- Area 6 – Quinton Harris (Opelika) 334-745-7638
- Area 7 – John Vandiver (Cullman) 256-734-6471
- Area 8 – Steven Sigler (Bay Minette) 251-937-3297



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