



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS SUPPORT FUNDING IN THE FY2018 APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

ACTION NEEDED: Urge your members of Congress, especially those serving on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, to fund the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development programs at \$2.9 billion as part of a final fiscal year (FY) 2018 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations measure.

On March 16, the President released an outline of the administration's FY2018 budget proposal titled "America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again." The proposal recommends elimination of USDA Rural Development programs including Water and Wastewater loans and grants and Rural Business and Cooperative Service discretionary programs. The budget outline calls for a reduction of \$54 billion from non-discretionary domestic funding while increasing defense spending by the same amount.

BACKGROUND: USDA Rural Development operates a number of grant and loan programs that are important to rural communities and regions. These programs include grant funding and loan financing for water/wastewater projects, community facilities, broadband, and business development.

LATEST ACTION: Congress has passed an omnibus spending plan to fund the federal government through September 30, 2017. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 was passed by the U.S. House on May 3; the U.S. Senate approved the spending bill on May 4, and President Trump signed the bill into law.

The final FY2017 spending package allocates \$2.9 billion for USDA Rural Development programs and services. The agency received a slight increase of \$166 million above the FY2016 funding level. Below is the breakdown of FY2017 approved spending levels for loans, grants, and programs:

Business and Industry Loans: \$920 million, level with the FY2016 funding

Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Loans: \$1.2 billion, level with FY2016 funding

Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Grants: \$571 million, an increase of \$49 million above FY2016 funding

Rural Electric and Telephone Infrastructure Loans: \$6.94 billion, level with FY2016 funding

Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program: \$25 billion in loan authority, an increase of \$100 million above FY2016

Rental Assistance for Rural Housing: \$1.405 billion, an increase of \$16 million above FY2016 funding

For more information, please contact Susan Howard, Legislative Director, at 202.624.8590 / showard@nado.org.

For a list of members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees for the 115th Congress, see below.

U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee

Majority:

Thad Cochran (R-MS)*, Chairman
Mitch McConnell (R-KY)*
Richard Shelby (R-AL)
Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
Susan Collins (R-ME)*
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
Lindsey Graham (R-SC)
Roy Blunt (R-MO)*
Jerry Moran (R-KS)*
John Hoeven (R-ND)*, Subcommittee Chair
John Boozman (R-AR)
Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)
James Lankford (R-OK)
Steve Daines (R-MT)
Marco Rubio (R-FL)*
John Kennedy (R-LA)

Minority:

Patrick Leahy (D-VT)*, Ranking Member
Patty Murray (D-WA)
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)*
Richard Durbin (D-IL)
Jack Reed (D-RI)
Jon Tester (D-MT)*
Tom Udall (D-NM)*
Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Subcommittee Ranking Member
Chris Coons (D-DE)
Brian Schatz (D-HI)
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)*
Chris Murphy (D-CT)
Joe Manchin (D-WV)
Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

**Indicates Senator serves on the U.S. Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee*

U.S. House Appropriations Committee

Majority:

Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Chair
Harold Rogers (R-KY)
Robert B. Aderholt (R-AL) +
Kay Granger (R-TX)
Michael K. Simpson (R-ID)
John Abney Culberson (R-TX)
John R. Carter (R-TX)
Ken Calvert (R-CA)
Tom Cole (R-OK)
Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)
Charles W. Dent (R-PA)
Tom Graves (R-GA)
Kevin Yoder (R-KS)*
Steve Womack (R-AR)
Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE)
Tom Rooney (R-FL)*
Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN)
Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA)
David Joyce (R-OH)
David Valadao (R-CA)*
Andy Harris (R-MD)*
Martha Roby (R-AL)
Mark Amodei (R-NV)
Chris Stewart (R-UT)
David Young (R-IA)*
Evan Jenkins (R-WV)
Steven Palazzo (R-MS)*
Dan Newhouse (R-WA)
John Moolenaar (R-MI)
Scott Taylor (R-VA)

Minority:

Nita M. Lowey (D-NY), Ranking Member
Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
Peter J. Visclosky (D-IN)
José E. Serrano (D-NY)
Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)*
David E. Price (D-NC)
Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
Sanford D. Bishop Jr. (D-GA) #
Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Betty McCollum (D-MN)
Tim Ryan (D-OH)
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)
Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)
Henry Cuellar (D-TX)
Chellie Pingree (D-ME)*
Mike Quigley (D-IL)
Derek Kilmer (D-WA)
Matt Cartwright (D-PA)
Grace Meng (D-NY)
Mark Pocan (D-WI)*
Katherine Clark (D-MA)
Pete Aguilar (D-CA)

+Indicates Chair of the U.S. House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee

#Indicates Ranking Member of the U.S. Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee

**Indicates Representative serves on the U.S. House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee*