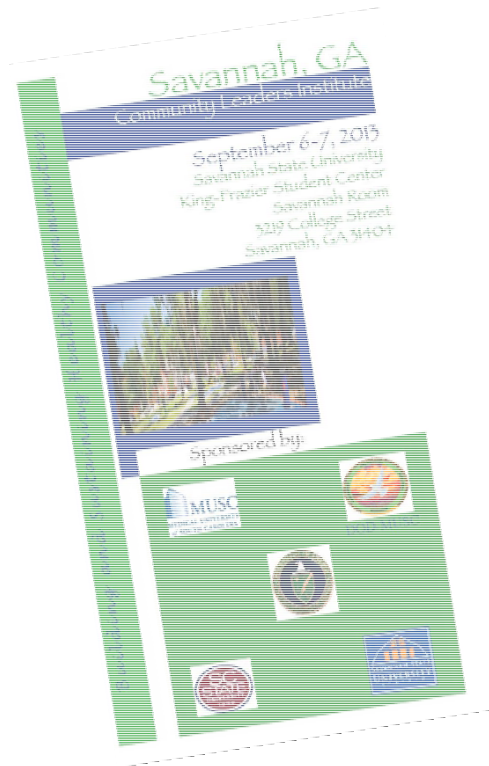




United States Department of Agriculture

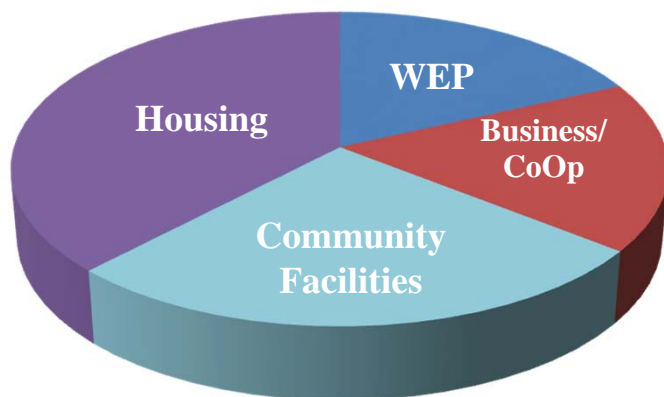


Stimulating Economic Development Using USDA Rural Development Programs

Quinton N. Robinson, State Director
USDA Rural Development, Georgia



Funding Allocations- Georgia, FY 2013 (October 1, 2012- September 30, 2013)



USDA, through its **Rural Development** mission area, has a portfolio of programs designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

Water and Environmental Programs

Direct Loans	\$36,400,000
Grants	\$11,528,000

Community Facilities Projects

Direct Loans	\$69,637,630
Grants	\$ 393,290
EI Grants	\$ 231,760

Business and Cooperative Programs

B&I Guaranteed Loans	\$36,400,000
Rural Business Enterprise Grants	\$11,528,000
Rural Energy for America Program	\$ 6,226,000

Housing

Home Ownership Loans:

Direct Loans	\$ 24,023,000
Guaranteed Loans	\$735,603,334
Home Repair Grants	\$ 993,000
Home Repair Loans	\$ 953,000



Addressing Outdated, Over Used and Underserviced Water Infrastructure with USDA's Water and Environmental Programs

Water and Environmental Programs (WEP) provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less. Public bodies, non-profit organizations and recognized Indian tribes may qualify for assistance. WEP also makes grants to nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance and training to assist rural communities with their water, wastewater, and solid waste problems.

EXAMPLE: Sewerage System Improvements

The City of Hogansville, GA , with a population of 2,912, is served by a 0.65 mgd wastewater treatment facility, constructed in 1964. The nearby KIA Car Manufacturing Facility in WestPoint, GA has brought industrial and residential growth.

\$6.7 million Sewerage System Upgrades needed: Based on Life Cycle Cost Analysis of the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant, the need to support a larger population, and to meet Georgia EPD Consent Order corrective actions.

\$2,581,000 Loan /\$2,500,000 Grant combination is being obligated by USDA for this project.

The upgrades will include a sewage pump station, grit removal equipment, sequencing batch reactors, blower building, flow equalization structure, sludge dewatering equipment and building, chemical storage, tertiary filters, UV disinfection, stand-by generator, instrumentation and controls, and converting the effluent discharge from the existing land application system to direct treatment discharge into the Yellow Jacket Creek. Additionally, the treatment plant capacity will be increased from 0.656 mgd (.81 mgd permitted limit) to 1.5 mgd, which will provide reserve capacity for utility customers of Hogansville and Meriwether County.



United States Department of Agriculture

Community Facility Programs

provide loans, grant and loan guarantees for essential community facilities in rural areas. . .

Priority is given to health care, education and public safety projects.

[Community Facilities Direct and Guaranteed Loan Program](#)

[Community Facilities Grants](#)

Grants are authorized on a graduated scale. Applicants located in small communities with low populations and low incomes will receive a higher percentage of grants.

[Rural Community Development Initiative](#)

To develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, and low income rural communities to improve housing, community facilities, community and economic development projects in rural areas.





United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Health Information Technology: Creating Smart Rural Communities

USDA program dollars can be used for Rural Health Information Technology (RHIT) solutions such as telemedicine, electronic billing and scheduling systems, the use of electronic health records (EHRs) and automated processes for clinical care.



During USDA's Smart Rural Communities August 2013 Conference, Paula Guy of the Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth, Inc. gave a demonstration of telemedicine in action via live feed from the school clinic at Ware County High School where a primary care physician was linked to the nurse at the school to provide accurate diagnosis. "Connecting schools via telemedicine is giving schools high quality, efficient and cost effective care, it's like the school has a physician, a psychiatrist and other health specialists right on staff."



United States Department of Agriculture



Workforce Development, Creating Smart Rural Communities Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education

With a renewed focus on manufacturing jobs and workforce development, public bodies such as rural boards of education and chambers of commerce are participating in the Initiative by using the CF program to assist with various Robotic, computing and science lab equipment designed to enhance the quality of the rural education experience through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Georgia Rural Development has obligated funding for the following STEM Education projects in FY 2013:

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College Foundation- \$55,000 CF Grant for the creation of the Interactive STEM Center (ISC) on the Ben Hill-Irwin Campus for Pre-K through 12th grade students, teachers, communities, businesses and others interested in STEM education and careers. Robotic competitions, lectures, and career fairs will be part of the events and activities of the ISC.

South Georgia Technical College- \$28,800 Economic Impact Initiative Grant for new chemistry and physics laboratories

Dodge County School System- \$50,000 Economic Impact Initiative Grant to purchase computers, tables, chairs and related wiring to install new computer labs at two elementary schools and upgrade computers at middle and high school

Telfair County School System- \$62,100 Economic Impact Initiative Grant to purchase approximately 325 ChromeBook laptop computers and 13 charge carts for science and math instruction

Application is in process for this additional STEM project which is on target to be funded in FY2013:

Lamar County School System- \$25,000 grant will add new computer labs to the Lamar County College and Career Academy. This project will allow instructors to access to teaching and interpretation software to provide students an in-depth understanding and knowledge of the STEM related courses and programs.



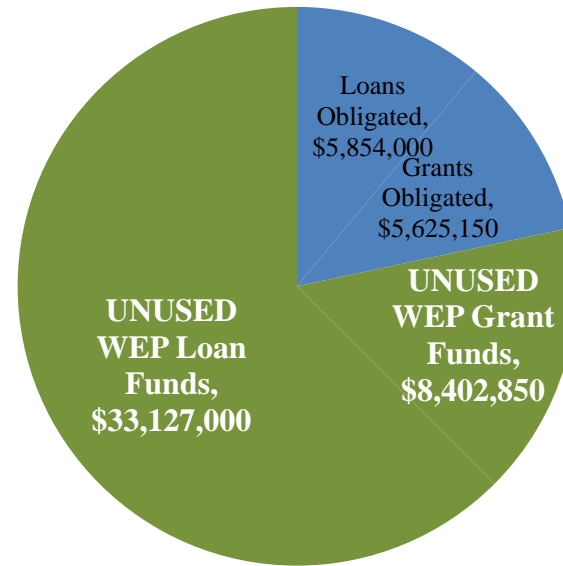
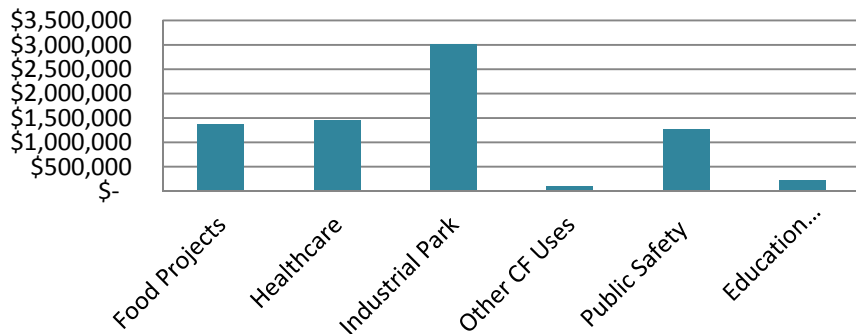
“Community prosperity and well-being are directly dependent upon a sufficient supply of clean water. In addition to basic human health and sanitation, a clean and adequate water supply provides crucial benefits such as irrigation for agriculture, habitat for myriad plants and animals, aesthetics, recreational opportunities, and a symbol of vitality” - *Smart Communities Network*

<http://www.smartcommunities.ncat.org/efficiency/weinfo.shtml>

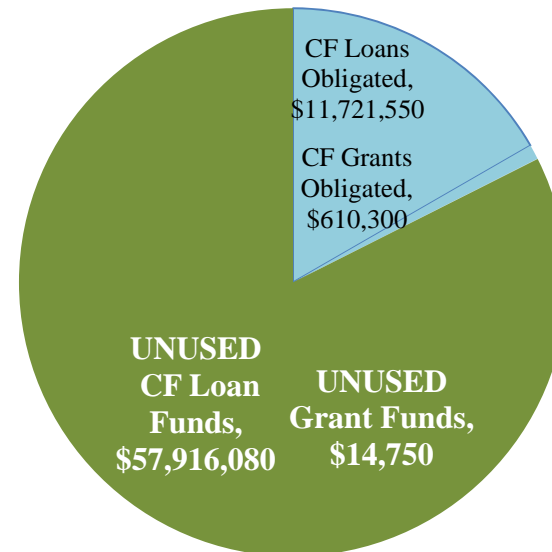
Public bodies, non-profit organizations and recognized Indian tribes in small cities and towns with population of 10,000 or less may qualify for USDA WEP and Community Facilities Program Assistance.

Community Programs Division: (706) 546-2171
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/gawaterandenv.html>

FY2013 Georgia Community Facilities Funds Use



FY2013 WEP Funds Unused as of 9/6/2013



FY2013 CF Funds Unused as of 9/6/2013



Smart Rural Communities Rely on Broadband

A smart rural community relies on broadband networks to leverage innovative Economic development and commerce, top notch education, first rate health care, cutting edge government services, enhanced security and more efficient utilities use.

The Department of Agriculture's broadband goal is to increase the number of rural Americans with access to robust broadband service and provide the speeds and bandwidth for health care, public safety, educational, business and social services. Rural Utilities Service (RUS) provides financing that facilitates broadband service providers offering affordable, broadband service to residents and businesses, expanding access to education and health care, creating high-skilled, high-wage jobs, and increasing economic opportunities across rural America.

This infrastructure investment creates jobs when projects are planned and built, adds jobs when these projects become operational and again as these services are used by communities to spur further economic

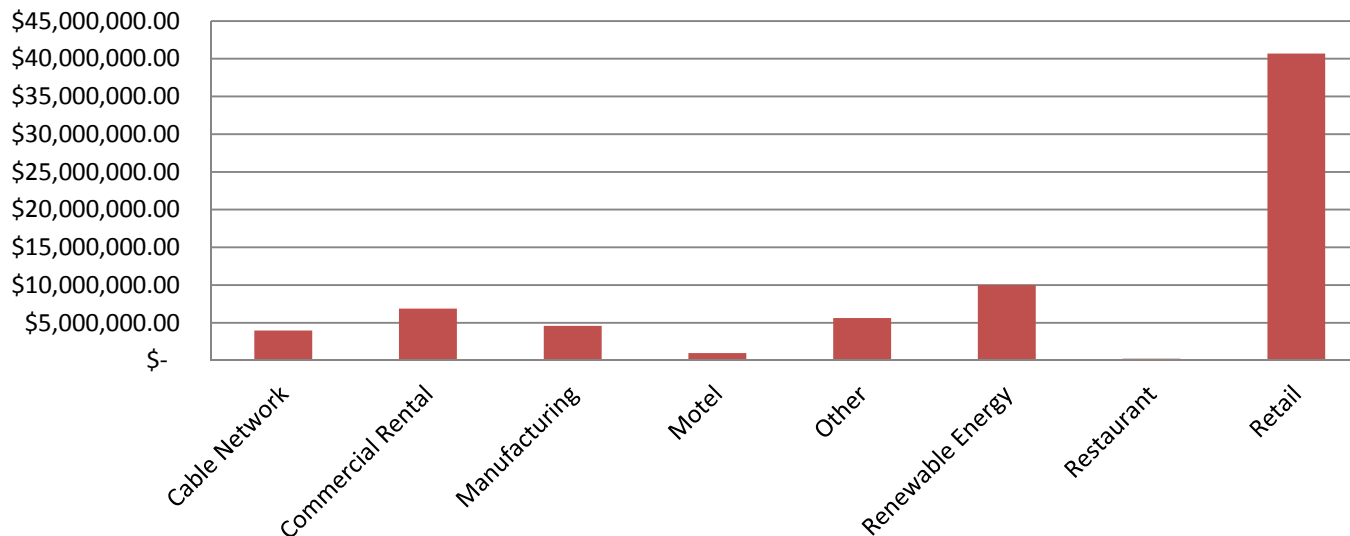




Business & Industry Guaranteed Loans

Program purpose is to improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. Achieved by bolstering the existing private credit structure through the guarantee of quality loans which will provide lasting community benefits.

FY 2013 Georgia B&I Guaranteed Loan Funds Use





Rural Business Enterprise Grants

The RBEG program provides grants for projects that finance and facilitate development of small and emerging rural businesses, help fund distance learning networks, and help fund employment related adult education programs. To assist with business development, RBEGs may fund a broad array of activities

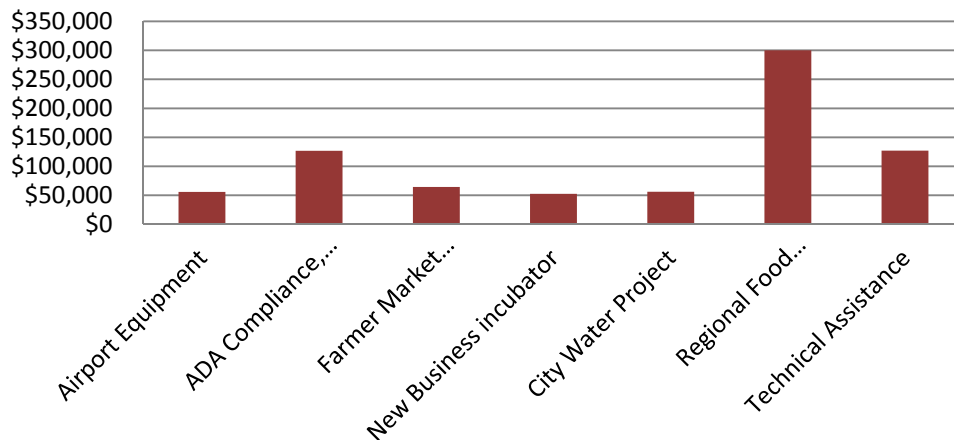
EXAMPLE:

Regional Food Processing

Lanier County Development Authority received a RBEG used toward the purchase of a \$469,120 Alfa Laval olive oil press to advance the processing capacity of Georgia's emerging olive industry. "The installation of the Alfa Laval equipment will reduce transportation costs and create the fundamental infrastructure to support the Southeast's increasing olive grove acreage," explained Dub Music, Chairman of the Development Authority.

\$300,000 Grant obligated by USDA for this regional project that will help to keep food processing jobs in south Georgia while assisting at least 30 small, rural emerging businesses with connections to the olive oil industry

FY2013 Georgia RBEG Use



USDA StrikeForce Initiative, For Rural Growth and Opportunity

The purpose for StrikeForce is to leverage USDA and partner’s resources to systemically mitigate persistent poverty in StrikeForce areas. Recognizing that 90 percent of all persistent poverty counties are in rural America, USDA, through the StrikeForce Initiative, intends to create self-sustaining, long-term economic development in areas of pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general distress. StrikeForce aims to improve food security by increasing access to safe and nutritious foods. Lastly, by expanding the USDA program knowledge of USDA employees, its partners and the public, StrikeForce will effectively expand economic opportunities in these impoverished regions.

StrikeForce Strategic Goals:

1. Support Economic Viability
2. Promote Food Security
3. Expand Program Education
4. for USDA Employees, USDA Partners and Others

