



USDA Rural Development

1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington DC, 20250
www.rd.usda.gov

News Release

Contact:
Press@oc.usda.gov

Trump Administration Invests Nearly \$8 Million in High-Speed Broadband in Rural West Virginia

ReConnect Funding to Connect 2,360 Rural Households to High-Speed Internet e-Connectivity

WEST UNION, W.Va., Oct. 19, 2020 – The Trump Administration today announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing nearly \$8 million to provide broadband service in unserved and underserved rural areas in West Virginia. This investment is part of the \$550 million Congress allocated to the [second round of the ReConnect Program](#).

“So many rural communities across West Virginia and across the nation need this critical infrastructure to prosper,” USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Jim Hubbard said. “This funding will allow for economic expansion, opportunity, and increased quality of life in these rural communities. I appreciate the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Perdue in prioritizing this critical initiative for rural communities across the country.”

Citynet, LLC will use a \$7.6 million ReConnect grant to deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network, which will connect 6,054 people, 58 farms, 41 businesses, three fire stations, two public schools and two post offices to high-speed broadband internet in Barbour, Randolph, Webster and Doddridge counties in West Virginia.

Background:

In March 2018, Congress provided \$600 million to USDA to expand broadband infrastructure and services in rural America. On Dec. 13, 2018, Secretary Perdue announced the rules of the program, called “ReConnect,” including how the loans and grants will be awarded to help build broadband infrastructure in rural America.

On April 20, 2020, USDA announced the Department has received 172 applications for \$1.57 billion in Round Two of the ReConnect Program. The second round will enable USDA to implement innovative new solutions to rural connectivity by leveraging financial options with our partners and continuing the success of the first round of funding. The application window for Round Two closed on April 15.

In Round One of the ReConnect Program, USDA invested \$698 million to bring high-speed broadband e-Connectivity to approximately 167,000 households, 17,000 rural small businesses and farms, and more than 500 health care centers, educational facilities and critical community facilities located in 33 states. To learn more about individual investments, read [USDA’s Broadband ReConnect Program report](#).

USDA received 11 Round Two ReConnect Program applications that are eligible for the \$100 million Congress allocated to the program through the [CARES Act](#).

To learn more about ReConnect Program eligibility, technical assistance and recent announcements, visit www.usda.gov/reconnect.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

###

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.