Advancing Water Solutions for Rural Areas

**Speakers:**
- Edna Primrose, Assistant Administrator, Rural Development Water & Environmental Programs
  U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Rick Duncan, Executive Director
  Delaware Rural Water Association

**Moderator:**
- Nathan Ohle, Chief Executive Officer
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Water and Waste Infrastructure Investments in Small and Rural Communities

National Governors Association Water Policy Institute

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Water & Environmental Programs
Water and Environmental Programs (WEP) Overview

• $2.9 billion available in FY 2019
• WEP finances acquisition, construction or improvement of:
  o Drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and distribution
  o Sewer collection, transmission, treatment and disposal
  o Solid waste collection, disposal and closure
  o Storm water collection, conveyance and disposal
• WEP serves populations of 10,000 or less – except for the Loan Guarantee Program, which has a 50,000 limit.
• WEP is administered in partnership with 47 State Offices and hundreds of field offices throughout rural America.
• Engineering & Environmental Staff (EES) provides support to WEP, Telecom, and Electric Programs.
Congressional and Other Set-Aside Funds for Special Programs and Populations

- Native American/Colonias
- Rural and Native Alaskan Villages
- Technical Assistance and Training Programs
- Solid Waste Management
- Household Water Well Systems
- Revolving Loan Funds
- Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG)
- Regional Economic Development (SECD and REAP)
- Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities & Households (SEARCH)
- Predevelopment Planning Grants (PPG)
- Disaster Supplemental Funding
2,187 counties served in all 50 states and 4 territories
26,100,883 rural residents received new or improved water and waste disposal service
9,666,994 households and businesses benefited by improved service

**Average** annual household income of population served = **$37,067**

Rural communities served:
- 83% 5,000 or less population
- 69% 2,500 or less population
- 54% 1,500 or less population
- 44% 1,000 or less population

19.9 billion invested to build new or improved infrastructure
- 66% loan; 34% grant -- 24% leveraged with other funding sources ($4.8 billion)

$134 Million in Guaranteed Loans with private lenders

$288 million in technical assistance funds provided to rural communities
- 941,599 technical assistance visits
USDA WEP Borrowers
For More Information:

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Rural Development’s Website – Water and Environmental Programs
https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/water-environmental-programs

Rural Development’s Website – Link to State Offices
https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/leadership/state-directors
https://www.rd.usda.gov/browse-state