



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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# News Release

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## **USDA Highlights \$906,000 in Infrastructure Investments in Rural Illinois**

### ***Funding Helps Improve Streets, and Community Structures to Spur Economic Growth and Create Jobs***

CHAMPAIGN, Dec. 14, 2017 – More than \$40 million was invested by the United States Department of Agriculture in FY2017 to help construct or improve infrastructure and boost economic growth in rural communities. More than \$900,000 was directed to Illinois.

“These investments in rural Illinois infrastructure strengthen our communities by providing essential facilities, and ensuring safety and economic viability,” said Doug Wilson, USDA Rural Development Director for Illinois.

Below are three examples of FY2017 infrastructure projects funded in Illinois through the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program:

- In Copley Township, Knox County, a \$250,000 loan and \$20,000 grant is funding a new 60' x 120' building to house township equipment and act as a public meeting place, voting location, food pantry, warming center and host to other public events. The new building will provide an essential community service to the approximately 348 residents.
- The Village of Energy, Williamson County, received a \$251,000 loan to resurface 3,950 feet of the west side of College Street, the major east-west road through the town. This project will repair pot holes and bumps for a safer and more attractive business district for the approximately 1100 residents in the Village.
- The City of Paris, Edgar County, is improving road conditions and traffic flow at the intersection of 1200<sup>th</sup> and Route 1, located near the new high school. The \$405,000 of Rural Development funding will be used for renovations including a turn lane to alleviate road safety hazards in and around that area.

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

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