

# THE RURAL REPORT | JUNE 24TH 2025

Updates on Federal Action and Funding Opportunities  
Supporting Development in Rural Communities

## **House Appropriations Committee Advances FY26 Ag Spending Bill**

The House Appropriations Committee voted along party lines last night to advance its fiscal year 2026 funding bill for the Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration that would cut more than 4 percent from current spending levels. In addition to almost across-the-board funding cuts, the bill eliminates diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives at USDA and reduces the department's workforce to pre-pandemic levels. The bill now heads to the House floor for a full vote.

## **Senate Republicans' SNAP Plan Cut from Reconciliation Bill**

Senate Republicans' plan to force states to share the cost of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to pay for their reconciliation bill was flagged as "extraneous" by the Senate parliamentarian, forcing its removal from the bill. The proposal would've required states to pay for SNAP benefits for the first time using a sliding scale based on their respective payment error rates. Senate Agriculture Committee Chair John Boozman (R-AR) will either have to make changes to the plan or find a new source for cost savings in his committee's section of the bill to comply with the budget resolution passed in April. Losing the cost-sharing proposal would be a huge setback for GOP leadership, which is facing pushback from conservatives in both chambers who don't think the bill does enough to cut spending.

## **USDA Ends Roadless Area Conservation Rule**

Yesterday, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins rescinded a Clinton-era regulation, known as the "Roadless Rule," which establishes prohibitions on road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting on almost 60 million acres of inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands. The rule has been litigated repeatedly over the last 25 years – a trend that will likely continue with this announcement, which comes after Democrats in both chambers introduced legislation earlier this month to codify the Roadless Rule into law.

### [Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Transportation**

The U.S. Department of Transportation offers funding to support communities in both planning and carrying out projects to prevent fatalities and serious injuries on roads and streets involving all roadway users. **Application deadline: 6/26/2025**

### [Intermediary Relending Program](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development provides 1-percent-interest loans to local intermediaries who then relend to businesses to help improve economic conditions and create jobs in rural communities. **Application deadline: 6/30/2025**

### [USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development supports zero-interest loans and grants for current and former eligible Rural Utilities Service borrowers who then use the funds to help local businesses finance projects that create/retain jobs or support community facility projects. **Application Deadline: Quarterly**

### [Intermediary Relending Program](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development provides funds to local lenders or “intermediaries” that re-lend to businesses to improve economic conditions and create new opportunities in rural communities. **Application deadline: Quarterly**

### [Community Facilities Programs](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development provides funding to develop or improve essential public services and facilities. Projects include fire and rescue stations, town halls, health care clinics, hospitals, childcare centers, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centers, public buildings, schools, libraries, and many other community-based initiatives. **Application Deadline: Open**

### [Mutual Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance Grants](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development provides grants to organizations to help them carry out local self-help housing construction projects. Recipients supervise groups of very-low- and low-income individuals and families as they construct their own homes in rural areas. **Application deadline: Open**

### [On-Farm Labor Housing Loans](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development provides low-interest loans to borrowers to develop or rehabilitate rental housing for very-low- to moderate-income farm laborers. **Application deadline: Open until funds are depleted**

### [Rural Housing Site Loans](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development offers specific loans to eligible entities to purchase and develop housing sites for low- and moderate-income families. **Application Deadline: Open**