

Tennessee



The potential to grow and make innovative products in rural America is limitless. Since 2009, the Obama Administration has made targeted investments to help rural businesses grow. Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s projects in affordable housing, energy efficiency, roads and bridges, and internet access, coupled with loans and grants for rural businesses, the Administration has helped to attract and retain a talented rural labor force, improve connectivity and access to information, move products to market, and make rural communities competitive—**ultimately supporting strong local economies and expanded opportunity for rural Tennesseans.**

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL

In Tennessee, the Cumberland Culinary Center used a Rural Business Enterprise Grant to develop a commercial kitchen and small business incubator. Six small businesses that use the kitchen are marketing their products and seven are in development, paying a rental fee for services that would otherwise cost them thousands of dollars.

Local food sales were valued at \$11.7 billion in 2014. In Tennessee, USDA has invested in 897 local food projects, helping to develop food hubs, small-scale processing, farmers markets and other market opportunities in local food.



SUPPORT FOR RURAL BUSINESSES

USDA has made investments to help **408 rural businesses in Tennessee thrive and grow.**

USDA investments in everything from advanced biofuels manufacturing facilities to food hubs help businesses, many of them small, capitalize on emerging markets for rural-made products. **In rural America, small businesses support one in three jobs.**



RENEWING RURAL MANUFACTURING

The rural economy includes more than products that come from farms.

Rural manufacturing supports 95,024 jobs in Tennessee. USDA has invested **\$30.7 million** to help rural manufacturers in **Tennessee** increase production and capacity.



GROWING EXPORTS

In 2013, exports of farm and ranch products alone contributed **\$1.9 billion** to **Tennessee’s** economy.

The President’s Made In Rural America initiative helps rural businesses capitalize on demand for American-made products and identify ways they can participate in global markets.



HOUSING

Access to safe, affordable housing is critical to maintaining the rural labor force. USDA has helped **35,794 Tennessee families** purchase or repair homes.



CONNECTIVITY

USDA has invested **\$236 million** in telecommunications projects serving **rural Tennesseans**, which has helped to expand access to state-of-the-art health care, educational, and cultural resources and helps rural businesses compete in the global economy.



WATER

USDA has invested **\$282.7 million** to support efficient water supply, treatment and storage facilities, and wastewater treatment systems. That investment has **improved the health of thousands of rural Tennesseans** who now have access to clean water and reliable sanitation.