

Public Private Partnerships for Rural Infrastructure Frequently Asked Questions

Earlier this year the White House Rural Council convened the inaugural Rural Opportunity Investment Conference (ROI) to promote the investment opportunities that exist throughout rural America. At the event the Rural Council announced a new public private partnership to drive more investment to rural infrastructure. This fund, the U.S. Rural Infrastructure Opportunity Fund, represents a new approach to catalyzing private investment in infrastructure projects in rural America. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions about the private fund:

1. What is the U.S. Rural Infrastructure Opportunity Fund?

The purpose of the Fund is to serve as a new source of capital for rural infrastructure projects, promoting financing for infrastructure projects in rural America and the resulting creation of jobs in rural communities. The Fund is supported entirely by private sector dollars and offers a sustainable platform for new kinds of investors that traditionally do not have access to these markets to invest billions in infrastructure projects.

The Fund is designed to complement existing government loan and grant programs by making debt investments in a wide range of projects in America's rural communities. Its activities will include:

- Recruiting new sources of private capital to support rural infrastructure projects;
- Serving as a co-lender for borrowers financing projects where the government's program limits or resource constraints warrant the fund's involvement; and
- Promoting private lending in support of projects capable of meeting market terms.

The Fund will target its investments across a broad range of rural infrastructure projects, including rural community facilities (especially health care and education facilities), rural water and wastewater systems, rural energy projects, and rural broadband. Additionally, investments in agribusiness and other rural opportunities may be considered.

2. What is USDA's role in the fund?

USDA's role is to work with the Fund, as it does with all interested private sector partners, to connect important infrastructure projects with new sources of private capital. Through USDA's extensive work in rural America it can help to identify rural projects in need of financing. USDA does not provide capital to the fund.

USDA and other agencies will help to identify rural projects in need of financing through the new fund and through other such private sources and public-private partnerships. Target investments will include rural community facilities (especially health care and educational facilities), rural water and wastewater systems, rural energy projects, rural broadband expansion efforts, local and regional food systems, and other rural infrastructure.

3. Does USDA plan to work with other private sector partners in a similar fashion as they are working with the fund?

USDA has and will continue to work with all parties interested in investing in rural America. . For example, the Department identifies promising investment opportunities in rural communities for investors through public-private partnerships like the new Fund, through established relationships with local lenders and foundations, as well as the previously announced \$150 million Rural Business Investment Company, which allows USDA to facilitate private equity investments in agriculture-related businesses, and other innovative vehicles for private investment.

4. Will the Fund change any USDA lending programs?

No. The Fund allows USDA to help match investors with rural projects in need of financing

5. Will USDA manage any of the money in the Fund?

No. USDA has no role in the management, investment or decision-making of the Fund.

6. Who should I talk to about questions regarding the USDA's work around public/private partnerships?

For specific questions on USDA's work on increasing investments in rural America and public private partnerships, please email ruralinvestment@osec.usda.gov.

7. How can I get a project financed by the fund?

For parties interested in securing funds to finance their projects from the fund, please visit <http://www.capitol-peak.com> or email project details to matthew.davis@capitol-peak.com and beverly.karns@capitol-peak.com.

For more information on the new Rural Infrastructure Opportunity Fund, [click here](#).

For more information on Administration investments in rural America, [click here](#).