****

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**

654 Plaza Suite 601,

San Juan, PR 00918

[www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov)/PR

 ­ Contact:

Miguel Ramírez (305) 342-9153, miguel.ramirez@usda.gov

# USDA Seeks Applications to Help Build and Repair Household Water Systems in Rural Communities

**San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 9, 2021** – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that is seeking applications for grants from qualified organizations to create loans to help rural homeowners finance household water systems.

 Luis R. Garcia, Acting State Director indicated, that USDA is making funds available through the Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant program. Through this program, USDA awards grants to qualified nonprofit to provide affordable loans to homeowners who need new household water systems.

USDA has expanded the use of funds to include building or repairing septic systems. Additionally, lending institutions can now use funds to provide grants to homeowners who earn less than 60% of the area median income.

These changes are expected to greatly increase the number of households that can participate in the program, providing safe, clean water throughout rural America. Eligible applicants are required to provide 10% matching funds.

Applications must be submitted electronically using Grants.gov no later than 11:59 Eastern Time in July 19, 2021. Additional information is available in Grants.gov.

 Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, creates jobs, and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety, and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov/pr](http://www.rd.usda.gov/pr) . If you’d like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our [GovDelivery subscriber page](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/subscriber/new?email=&commit=Sign+Up) or follow us at @RD\_PuertoRico.

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.*