

Senate Democrats Propose Over \$175B in New Investments for Rural America

America's small towns and rural communities are an important part of the backbone of the US economy. From farming to manufacturing, rural communities help to drive our nation's productivity. Yet despite their importance to our economy, rural America's infrastructure is falling further and further behind. According to a 2016 study by the FCC, over 23 million Americans living in rural communities do not have access to high-speed internet, rural water and sewer systems are breaking down, and despite being critical to our freight networks rural roads and bridges are crumbling.

To help address this issue, Senate Democrats are proposing a record level of investment in rural America through their *Jobs & Infrastructure Plan for America's Workers*. Some highlights of those investments include:

- **Over \$45B in New Funding for Rural Roads & Bridges**
 - An increase in federal highway program dollars that given historical spending patterns will likely lead to an increase of \$36 - \$40B in investment on roads in rural areas.
 - A new \$8B rural bridge program
 - Over \$2B in new TIGER Grants for Rural Projects
- **Over \$35B in Water and Sewer Funding for Rural Communities**
 - An increase of \$23B for USDA's Rural Development Water and Waste Water Grant Program.
 - An estimated \$15B in funding for rural water and sewer systems through the EPA's revolving funds.
- **\$40B in New Funding for Broadband Projects**
 - The goal of this new funding is to connect every community that has been left out or left behind in the new internet economy to quality, affordable internet.
- **Over \$6.5B in New Funding for Rural Transit Projects**
 - Rural transit providers cover long distances to provide access to vital services. Our plan would more than double funding for the rural transit program.
- **Over \$25B in New Funding for Tribal and Federal Lands**
 - Senate Democrats Plan includes major increases in funding for federal lands and tribal lands, the vast majority of which are in rural communities.
- **Over \$15B in New Funding for Small and Medium Sized Airports that Serve Rural Communities**
- **An estimated \$9B in New Funding for Rural School Construction**
- **Over \$3.5B for rural Rail Construction and Rail Safety Funding through the CRISI Program.**
- **Over \$5B in New Funding for Economic Development Administration (EDA) Job Creation Projects in Rural Communities**
- **An estimated \$3B in new Housing and Community Development Investments in Rural and Tribal communities through HUD and USDA's Rural Housing Service.**
- **Making it easier for rural communities to access \$25B in New Army Corps Funding**
 - As part of this new funding projects would not necessarily have to meet the existing benefit-to-cost ratio that tends to hurt rural projects. By removing this barrier and greatly increasing the funding we anticipate a significant portion of these funds will benefit rural communities and projects, such as locks and dams.
- **A new office of Technical and Rural Assistance to help rural communities access federal financing tools.**