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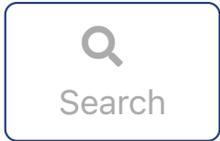
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GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$38 MILLION FOR FLORIDA'S SMALL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

August 21, 2025

ARCADIA, Fla.— Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced more than \$38 million in awards to 19 small and rural Florida communities through the Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. These strategic investments will fund public infrastructure improvements, neighborhood revitalization, housing rehabilitation, and commercial revitalization projects that strengthen communities across the state.

“Our state's small and rural cities drive key industries, support



Florida families, and keep our economy moving,” **said Governor Ron DeSantis**. “Today in Arcadia, I was proud to announce a new round of strategic investments through this program. These funds will support neighborhood revitalization, housing rehabilitation, and infrastructure development in 19 communities throughout Florida.”

The Florida Small Cities CDBG program, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by FloridaCommerce, provides critical resources to municipalities and counties. Since 2019, Florida has awarded more than \$138 million to over 120 communities through this program.

“Under to Governor DeSantis’ leadership, FloridaCommerce continues to invest in critical infrastructure in Florida’s small and rural communities,” **said Florida Secretary of Commerce, J. Alex Kelly**. “These awards strengthen the foundation of these local economies, enhance quality of life and support a more resilient and prosperous future in the heart of Florida.”

Awards Include:

- **City of Arcadia (\$6.4 million)** - to upgrade the William Tyson Wastewater Treatment Plant, benefiting nearly 8,000 residents.
- **City of Florida City (\$5.9 million)** – for wastewater system upgrades across nine service areas, benefiting nearly 12,000 residents.
- **City of Live Oak (\$4.5 million)** - including \$3 million for potable water system improvements and \$1.5 million to rehabilitate or replace 21 homes for lower-income households.
- **City of Webster (\$2.89 million)** - for a new master lift station and emergency generator.

- **City of Lake Butler (\$2.8 million)** - to replace undersized wastewater pipes with 15,000 feet of new force main.
- **City of Port St. Joe (\$1.7 million)** - for neighborhood infrastructure improvements, including underground utilities, sidewalks, and landscaping.
- **City of Green Cove Springs (\$1.2 million)** - for stormwater improvements.
- **City of Blountstown (\$1 million)** - to replace aging water and sewer lines and improve streets.
- **Liberty County (\$1 million)** - to improve Veterans Memorial Park.
- **Santa Rosa County (\$1 million)** - for retention pond construction at Whiting Aviation Park, creating 10 new jobs and retaining 19 jobs.
- **Town of Esto (\$949,000)** - for water plant improvements and water line replacements.
- **Town of Malone (\$912,000)** - to expand and renovate Johnny

Williams Memorial Park.

To rehabilitate or replace homes for low-income families, the following awards were also made:

- \$1.5 million each to Hamilton County and Lafayette County
- \$1.2 million to Columbia County
- \$950,000 to Madison County
- \$900,000 to Hendry County
- \$850,000 to St. Lucie County
- \$750,000 to Levy County

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