



MEDIA ADVISORY: For Immediate Release

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RCAP Releases Statement on Administration's Budget Cuts

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Earlier this week, the Trump Administration released its full budget proposal to Congress. The proposal includes deep cuts to programs that will fundamentally hinder the ability for rural communities to thrive. In response to Administration's budget, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) Inc.'s Executive Director Nathan Ohle released the following statement:

"This budget will severely hurt rural communities that have already been left behind. Now more than ever we need to be helping rural communities create opportunities to create good paying jobs, provide safe and affordable drinking water and adequately treated wastewater, and to develop infrastructure that will lead to economic growth."

"There is a universal need for the federal government to support capacity building, technical assistance, and infrastructure funding in every community across America. The majority of small and rural communities that RCAP serves continue to struggle with capacity, expertise and adequate funding resources. They rely not only upon on RCAP's technical assistance and training, but also loan and grant funding provided by the EPA's State Revolving Funds and USDA Rural Development programs."

"Cuts for safe drinking water and wastewater programs, the elimination of programs like USDA's Water/Wastewater Grant and Loan Program, HHS's Rural Community Facilities Program, HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), and HUD's Home Investment Partnership (HOME) Program are unacceptable. These programs were designed to help communities, particularly small rural communities, to invest in infrastructure, public health and economic development in some of the nation's hardest hit areas."

"Rural communities are the lifeblood of this country, and we stand ready to work in partnership with the federal government to improve programs that create healthy, vibrant and economically sustainable regions. RCAP is committed to working with the White House and Congress to show how this budget as proposed would adversely affect rural communities, and welcome the opportunity to engage in productive conversations that will lead to opportunity for every community across the country."

The Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) is a national network of six regional RCAPs working to ensure that rural and small communities through the United States have access to safe drinking water and sanitary wastewater disposal. The Partnership provides a variety of programs to accomplish this goal, such as direct training and technical assistance. For more information, visit www.rcap.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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