

# USDA Rural Development

by David A. Miller, P.E.,  
*USDA Community Programs Director*

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## Achieving Affordability/Sustainability for Drinking Water and Wastewater Projects

It has never been more critical to achieve the maximum impact for every dollar spent on drinking water and wastewater improvement projects undertaken by your Town or Village. The project must have broad community support and be both affordable and sustainable by the benefitted users. The projects that we have funded and/or cofunded have user costs of between \$550 to \$650 or \$1.50 to \$1.78 per day.

There is assistance available to you through technical assistance providers at your NYRWA, the NYS Environmental Facilities Corp., RCAP Solutions, the NYS DOS, the USDA Rural Development Community Projects Local Area Offices and others. I encourage you to reach out to any of these providers for advice and assistance as you move forward to achieve your needs.

There is grant assistance available to some communities to address funding for Preliminary Engineering reports and other “upfront” needs.

Options such as Project Phasing, the use of intermunicipal agreement, “self-help” and other “creative” approaches should be discussed and evaluated by your community.

I know that it is not “easy” to initiate a major infrastructure project today. To facilitate this process, it is important to benefit from other community experiences as well as your Association of Towns, Conference of Mayors or NYRWA, etc. experiences.

I hope this very brief discussion will have you initiate a call or e-mail to me to discuss your particular, specific needs. Allow me to advise you on the most appropriate course of action.

Please contact me at 315-477-6427 or email [david.miller@ny.usda.gov](mailto:david.miller@ny.usda.gov). ●