notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract. Additionally, the U.S. Government will not pay for response preparation or for the use of any information contained in the response.

To inform the Federal government’s decision-making and establish the Nation’s guiding principles in the promotion of the Rural Energy Pilot Program, USDA now seeks public input on how U.S. Government action might appropriately support the expansion of a nationwide effort. To that end, responders are specifically requested to answer one or more of the following questions in their submissions.

Consortia responses are also encouraged.

1. How might distributed energy technologies, innovations, and/or solutions be deployed to advance environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity?
2. What specific distributed energy technologies, innovations, and/or solutions are available or have the potential to advance environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity through their deployment and/or development?
3. What type of assistance or incentive (made available through a Rural Energy Pilot Program) would encourage the development and deployment of such distributed energy technologies, innovations, and/or solutions?
4. How should USDA measure, assess, and analyze the impacts of distributed energy solutions on environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity?
5. Who should be eligible to receive such assistance?
6. What types of technology and/or infrastructure should be eligible under such a Rural Energy Pilot Program?
   a. Generation;
   b. Storage;
   c. Controller/smart grid.
7. Should a Rural Energy Pilot Program incentivize efficiency, resilience, or some other value?
8. Should the Rural Energy Pilot Program include minimum standards for equipment? Or a recognized standard of development such as commercially available?
9. What types of efforts have proven to be effective to promote the deployment of distributed energy solutions or innovations that advance or have the potential to advance environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity?
   a. What are the technologies associated with these efforts?
   b. Why and how do these technologies advance of environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity?
   c. Should there be a minimum investment requirement?
10. If cost-sharing is required, what minimum level of cost-share (owner contribution) should be required of recipients of funding? What would you consider to be the most cost-effective level of cost-share while also supporting the objective of advancing environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity?
11. What programmatic or administrative structures, policies, incentives, or requirements will support the advancement of environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity through the Rural Energy Pilot Program? What structures, policies, incentives, or requirements might obstruct or otherwise undermine its advancement?
12. What programmatic or administrative and other barriers exist that may limit participation in the Rural Energy Pilot Program or the availability of program benefits? What should be done to ensure equitable program participation by those who would otherwise be unlikely to apply? What specific actions could USDA take to guide a transformation and/or expansion of a Rural Energy Pilot Program, in both the short- and long-term?
13. Given the objective, how should USDA measure the outcomes of the Rural Energy Pilot Program?
14. To what extent should current investments be required to accommodate future, anticipated technologies?
15. Please provide feedback on the effectiveness of any known distributed energy or rural energy pilot program of which you are aware.
16. From your perspective, how much post-award reporting is reasonable for recipients of funding?

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA Programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/ parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD–3027, found online at https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632–9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–9410; or
(2) Email: OAC@usda.gov

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

Mark Brodziski,
Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service’s (RHS or Agency) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Housing Service

[Docket # RHS–21–SFH–0005]

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service’s (RHS or Agency) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the programs under the Code of Federal Regulations.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 1, 2021 to be assured consideration.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shannon Chase, Branch Chief, Single

Family Housing Direct Loan

Origination, 1400 Independence Avenue

SW, STOP 0783, Washington, DC

20250–0783, Telephone: (515) 305–

0399, Email: shannon.chase@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Direct Single Family Housing

Loans and Grants.

OMB Number: 0575–0172.

Expiration Date of Approval: July 31, 2021.

Type of Request: Extension of a

currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Through its direct single

family housing loan and grant programs

(specifically the Sections 502 and 504

programs), RHS provides eligible

applicants with financial assistance to

own adequate but modest homes in

rural areas. The financing and servicing

is provided directly by RHS. The

Section 502 direct loan program

provides 100 percent loan financing to

assist low- and very low-income

applicants purchase modest homes in

eligible rural areas by providing

payment assistance to increase an

applicant’s repayment ability. The

Section 504 loan program provides one

percent interest rate loans to very low-

income homeowners in eligible rural

areas to repair, improve, or modernize

their home or to remove health and

safety hazards. The Section 504 grant

program provides grants to elderly very

low-income homeowners in eligible

rural areas to remove health and safety

hazards, or accessibility barriers from

their home, often in conjunction with a

Section 504 loan.

Applicants must provide the Agency

with a uniform residential loan

application and supporting

documentation (e.g., verification of

income, assets, liabilities, etc.) when

applying for assistance. The information

requested regarding the applicant and

the property is vital in order for the

Agency to make sound eligibility and

underwriting decisions that comply with

the laws and regulations that

govern the programs. The information

requested is comparable to that required by

any public or private mortgage lender.

When servicing loans, RHS offers

servicing options that are standard to

the industry. In addition, RHS offers

unique servicing options (e.g., payment

subsides and payment moratoriums)

and is required to take unique servicing

actions (e.g., review borrowers for their

ability to refinance with private credit).

Borrowers must provide the Agency

with pertinent information when a

servicing option/action is requested/

required in order for the Agency to

make sound servicing decisions that

comply with the laws and regulations

that govern the programs.

Estimate of Burden: Public burden for

this collection of information is

estimated to average .48 hours per

response.

Respondents: Approximately 26,000

applicants seeking direct single family

housing loans and grants from the

Agency and approximately 222,919

existing borrowers who have active

loans and grants under the Section 502

and 504 programs.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

248,919.

Estimated Number of Responses per

Respondent: 2.5.

Estimated Total Number of

Responses: 638,077.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on

Respondents (hours): 305,646.

Copies of this information collection

can be obtained from Lynn Gilbert,

Regulations Management Division at

(202) 690–2682.

Comments: Comments are invited on:

(a) Whether the proposed collection of

information is necessary for the proper

performance of the functions of the

Agency, including whether the

information will have practical utility;

(b) the accuracy of the Agency’s

estimate of the burden of the proposed

collection of information including the

validity of the methodology and

assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance

the quality, utility, and clarity of the

information to be collected; and (d)

ways to minimize the burden of the

collection of information on those who

are to respond, including through the

use of appropriate automated,
electronic, mechanical, or other

technological collection techniques or

other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent by the Federal

eRulemaking Portal: Go to https://

beta.regulations.gov and, in the “Search

Regulations and Federal Actions” box,

select “RHS” from the agency drop-
down menu, then click on “Submit.” In

the Docket ID column, select 0575–0172

to submit or view public comments and

to view supporting and related materials

available electronically. Information on

using Regulations.gov, including

instructions for accessing documents,

submitting comments, and viewing the

docket after the close of the comment

period, is available through the site’s

“User Tips” link. All responses to this

notice will be summarized and included

in the request for OMB approval. All

comments will also become a matter of

public record.

Chadwick Parker,

Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 2021–06488 Filed 3–29–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–XV–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

[Docket Number: RHS–21–CF–0006]

Notice of Request for Extension of a

Currently Approved Information

Collection; Comments Requested

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this

notice announces the Rural Housing

Service’s intention to request an

extension for a currently approved

information collection in support of the

Community Facilities Grant Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be

received by June 1, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robin M. Jones, Management Analyst,

Regulations Management Division,

Innovation Center, U.S. Department of

Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave.

SW, South Building, Washington, DC

20250–1522. Telephone: (202) 772–

1172. Email: robin.m.jones@usda.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office

of Management and Budget’s (OMB)

regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing

provisions of the Paperwork Reduction

Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13) requires

that interested members of the public

and affected agencies have an

opportunity to comment on information

collection and recordkeeping activities

(see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice

identifies an information collection that

will be submitted to OMB for extension

and revision.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether

the proposed collection of information

is necessary for the proper performance

of the functions of the Agency, including

whether the information will have

practical utility; (b) The accuracy of the

Agency’s estimate of the burden of

the proposed collection of information,

including the validity of the methodology

and assumptions used; (c) ways to

enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of

the information to be collected; and (d)

ways to minimize the burden of the

collection of information on those who

are to respond, including through the

use of appropriate automated,
electronic, mechanical, or other

technological collection techniques or

other forms of information technology.