DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement
[FOA No.: OPPE–016]
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No.: 10.443—
Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers
and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers

Correction
In notice document 2021–15702 beginning on page 39990 in the issue of Monday, July 26, 2021, make the following correction:
On page 39990, in the third column, under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:, in the tenth line “Email: 501Grants@usda.gov” should read “Email: 2501Grants@usda.gov”.

BILLING CODE 0099–10–D

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Business-Cooperative Service
[Docket #: RBS–21–BUSINESS–0021]

Notice of Solicitation of Applications for Inviting Applications for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program for Fiscal Year 2022

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (Agency), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is making an initial announcement to invite applications for loans and grants under the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP) for fiscal year (FY) 2022, subject to the availability of funding. This notice is being issued in order to allow applicants sufficient time to leverage financing, prepare and submit their applications, and give the Agency time to process applications within FY22. Successful applications will be selected by the Agency for funding and subsequently awarded to the extent that funding may ultimately be made available through appropriations. RMAP provides the following types of support: loan only, combination loan and technical assistance grant, and subsequent technical assistance grants to Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDO). An announcement will be made on the Agency website: https://www.rd.usda.gov/ regarding any amount received in the FY22 appropriations. All applicants are responsible for any expenses incurred in developing their applications or any costs incurred prior to the obligation date.

DATES: The deadlines for completed applications to be received in the USDA Rural Development State Office for quarterly funding competitions are no later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) on: First Quarter, September 30, 2021; Second Quarter, December 31, 2021; Third Quarter, March 31, 2022; and Fourth Quarter, June 30, 2022.

The subsequent microlender technical assistance grant (existing MDOs with a microentrepreneur revolving loan fund) will be made, non-competitively, based on the microlender’s microlending activity and availability of funds. To determine the microlender technical assistance grant awards for FY22, if available, the Agency will use the microlender’s outstanding balance of microloans as of June 30, 2022, to calculate the eligible grant amount. MDOs that are in compliance with the terms of their loan agreement may apply for this annual grant.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shamika Johnson at shanika.johnson@usda.gov, Program Management Division, Business Programs, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 3226, Room 5160–S, Washington, DC 20250–3226, or call (202) 720–1400. For further information on this notice, please contact the USDA Rural Development State Office contacts can be found at: http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices.

This funding opportunity will be made available for informational purposes on Grants.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shamika Johnson at shanika.johnson@usda.gov, Program Management Division, Business Programs, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 3226, Room 5160–S, Washington, DC 20250–3226, or call (202) 720–1400. For further information on this notice, please contact the USDA Rural Development State Office contacts is provided at the following link: http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Subtitle E of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (also known as the Congressional Review Act or CRA), 5 U.S.C. 801 et seq., the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Management and Budget designated this action as a major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2), because it is likely to result in an annual effect on the economy of $100,000,000 or more. Accordingly, there is a 60-day delay in the effective date of this action. Application rating, ranking and selection will not begin until after September 30, 2021. Therefore, the 60-day delay required by the CRA is not expected to have a material impact upon the administration and/or implementation of the RMAP Program.

Overview

Administrative: If two or more applications have the same score and funds are not available to fund both projects, the Administrator may prioritize applications to help the program achieve overall geographic diversity. The Agency encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities:

• Assisting Rural communities recover economically from the impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic, particularly disadvantaged communities;
• Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to RD programs and benefits from RD funded projects; and
• Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.

I. Program Description

A. Purpose of the Program. The purpose of RMAP is to support the development and ongoing success of rural Microentrepreneurs and Microenterprises, each as defined in 7 CFR 4280.302. The regulation can be accessed online at https://www.ecfr.gov. To accomplish this purpose, RMAP provides direct loan and grants to MDOs. Loan funds are used by the MDO to establish or recapitalize a revolving