and a staff characteristics survey of the 382 contacted, 135 will be State staff and 247 will be local staff.

**Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:** SNAP participants will be asked to participate in an intervention (which includes several possible notifications), as well as a possible in-depth interview, survey (which includes several possible notifications), and focus group for an average total of 3.40 responses across all instruments or activities. State and local program staff will respond to a semi-structured interview, administrate data request, or a brief questionnaire for a total of 1.63 responses each.

**Estimated Total Annual Responses:** 249,401.

**Estimated Time per Response:** The estimated time of response for respondents varies from 1 minute to 8 hours depending on the respondent group, with an average estimated time of 0.062 hours (3.72 minutes).

**Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:** The total estimated burden on respondents and non-respondents is 17,254 hours (1,035,235 minutes). The total burden on respondents, excluding non-respondents, is 15,458 hours (927,458 minutes).

Cynthia Long, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 2022–08011 Filed 4–13–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–30–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Rural Business-Cooperative Service**

[Docket RBS–22–CO–OP–0008]

**Notice of Solicitation of Applications for the Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant**

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Solicitation of Applications.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (Agency) is inviting fiscal year (FY) 2022 applications for the Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant (SDGG) program, 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 FY 2022. The purpose of this program is to provide technical assistance to socially disadvantaged groups in rural areas. Eligible applicants include cooperatives, groups of cooperatives, and cooperative development centers. This program supports Rural Development’s (RD) mission of improving the quality of life for rural Americans and commitment to directing resources to those who most need them. Detailed information can be found on the SDGG website located at https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/socially-disadvantaged-groups-grant. Expenses incurred in developing applications are the responsibility of the applicant. An announcement on the website at https://www.rd.usda.gov/newsroom/federal-funding-opportunities will identify the amount available in FY 2022 for SDGG applications. All applicants are responsible for any expenses incurred in developing their applications.

**DATES:** Completed applications for grants must be submitted electronically by no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time June 13, 2022, through https://www.grants.gov to be eligible for grant funding. Please review the Grants.gov website at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html for instructions on the process of registering your organization as soon as possible to ensure that you are able to meet the electronic application deadline. Applications received after the deadline are not eligible for funding under this notice and will not be evaluated.

**ADDRESSES:** You are encouraged to contact your USDA Rural Development State Office well in advance of the application deadline to discuss your project and ask any questions about the application process. Contact information for State Offices can be found at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices.

Program guidance as well as application templates may be obtained at https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/socially-disadvantaged-groups-grant or by contacting your State Office. To submit an electronic application, follow the instructions for the SDGG funding announcement located at https://www.grants.gov. You are strongly encouraged to file your application early and allow sufficient time to manage any technical issues that may arise.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Arti Kshirsagar, Program Management Division, Rural Business Cooperative Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop-3226, Washington, DC 20250–3226, (202) 720–1400 or by email at: arti.kshirsagar@usda.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Overview**

**Federal Agency Name:** USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

**Funding Opportunity Title:** Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant.

**Announcement Type:** Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA).

**Assistance Listing Number:** 10.871.

**Funding Opportunity Number:** RBCS–SDGG–2022.

**Dates:** Application Deadline. Your electronic application must be received by https://www.grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, by June 13, 2022, or it will not be considered for funding.

**Administrative:** The following apply to this NOSA:

(i) **Key Priorities.** The Agency encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance the following:

- 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.

(ii) **Technical Assistance.** The Application Template provides specific, detailed instructions for each item of a complete application. The Agency emphasizes the importance of including every item and strongly encourages applicants to follow the instructions carefully, using the examples and illustrations in the Application Template. Prior to official submission of applications, applicants may request technical assistance or other application guidance from the Agency, as long as such requests are made prior to May 16, 2022. Agency contact information can be found in section D (Application and Submission Information) of this Notice.

(iii) **Hemp Related Projects.** Please note that no assistance or funding from this grant can be provided to a hemp producer unless they have a valid license issued from an approved State, Tribal or Federal plan in accordance with Subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.). Verification of valid hemp licenses will occur at the time of award. The purpose of this program is to provide technical assistance, so funding for the production of hemp or marketing hemp production is not eligible.

(iv) **Persistent Poverty Counties.** Section 736 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116–260, designates funding for projects...
in persistent poverty counties. Availability of funding in Persistent Poverty Counties (PPC) is contingent on inclusion of such a provision in the Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (the “2022 Appropriations Act”), once enacted. Persistent poverty counties as defined in Section 736 is “any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses, and 2007–2011 American Community Survey 5-year average, or any territory or possession of the United States”.

Another provision in Section 736 expands the eligible population in persistent poverty counties to include any county seat of such a persistent poverty county that has a population that does not exceed the authorized population limit by more than 10 percent. This provision expands the current 50,000 population limit to 55,000 for only county seats located in persistent poverty counties. Therefore, applicants and/or beneficiaries of technical assistance services located in persistent poverty county seats with populations up to 55,000 (per the 2010 Census) are eligible contingent on inclusion in the 2022 Appropriations Act, once enacted.

(v) Other. The Agency will not solicit or consider new scoring or eligibility information that is submitted after the application deadline. The Agency reserves the right to contact applicants to seek clarification on materials contained in the submitted application. See the Application Guide for a full discussion of each item. For requirements of completed grant applications, refer to Section D (Application and Submission Information) of this notice.

A. Program Description

1. Purpose of the Program. The primary objective of the SDGG program is to provide technical assistance to socially disadvantaged groups. Eligible applicants are cooperative development centers, individual cooperatives, or groups of cooperatives (i) that serve socially disadvantaged groups and (ii) of which a majority of the board of directors or governing board is comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups.

2. Statutory Authority. The SDGG program is authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)(11)).

3. Definitions. The definitions applicable to this notice are as follows:

Agency—Rural Business-Cooperative Service, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development or a successor agency.

Conflict of interest—A situation in which a person or entity has competing personal, professional, or financial interests that make it difficult for the person or business to act impartially.

Federal procurement standards prohibit transactions that involve a real or apparent conflict of interest for owners, employees, officers, agents or their immediate family members having a financial or other interest in the outcome of the project or that restrict open and free competition for unrestrained trade. Specifically, project funds may not be used for services or goods going to, or coming from, a person or entity with a real or apparent conflict of interest, including, but not limited to, owner(s) and their immediate family members. Examples of conflicts of interest include using grant funds to pay a member of the applicant’s board of directors to provide technical assistance to socially disadvantaged groups, paying a cooperative member to provide technical assistance to other members of the same cooperative, and paying an immediate family member of the applicant to provide technical assistance to socially disadvantaged groups.

Cooperative—A business or organization that is owned and operated for the benefit of its members, with returns of residual earnings paid to such members on the basis of patronage. Eligible cooperatives for the SDGG program are those where a majority of the board of directors or governing board is comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups.

Cooperative development center—A nonprofit corporation or institution of higher education operated by the grantee for cooperative or business development. An eligible cooperative development center for the SDGG program is one where a majority of the board of directors or governing board is comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups. It may or may not be an independent legal entity separate from the grantee.

Feasibility study—An analysis of the economic, market, technical, financial, and management feasibility of a proposed project.

Group of cooperatives—A group of cooperatives whose primary focus is to provide assistance to socially disadvantaged groups; each cooperative must meet the eligibility requirements set forth in the definition of “cooperative” herein. One of the cooperatives must be designated as the lead entity and have legal authority to contract with the federal government.

Immediate family—A group of individuals who live in the same household or who are closely related by blood, marriage, or adoption, such as a spouse, domestic partner, parent, child, sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent, grandchild, niece, nephew, or first cousin.

Operating cost—The day-to-day expenses of running a business; for example: Utilities, rent on the office space a business occupies, salaries, depreciation, marketing and advertising, and other basic overhead items.

Participant support costs—Direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences or training projects.

Project—Any activities to be funded by the Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant (SDGG).

Rural and rural area—Any area of a state other than (a) a city or town that has a population of more than 50,000 inhabitants, according to the latest decennial census of the United States and (b) any urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town described in clause (a), and urbanized areas that are rural in character as defined by 7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(D). For the purposes of this definition, cities and towns are incorporated population centers with definite boundaries, local self-government, and legal powers set forth in a charter granted by the state.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, within the areas of the County of Honolulu, Hawaii, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Secretary may designate any part of the areas as a rural area if the Secretary determines that the part is not urban in character, other than any area included in the Honolulu Census Designated Place or the San Juan Census Designated Place.


Socially disadvantaged group—A group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

State—Includes each of the 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, American Samoa, the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Technical assistance—An advisory service performed for the purpose of assisting cooperatives or groups that want to form cooperatives such as market research, product and/or service improvement, legal advice and assistance, feasibility study, business planning, marketing plan development, and training.

B. Federal Award Information

Type of Award: Competitive Grant.
Fiscal Year Funds: FY 2022.
Total Funding: Funding is contingent on the passing of the 2022 Appropriations Act.
Maximum Award: $175,000.
Project Period: 1 year.
Anticipated Award Date: September 30, 2022.

C. Eligibility Information

Applicants must meet all the following eligibility requirements. Applications which fail to meet any of these requirements by the application deadline will be deemed ineligible and will not be evaluated further.

1. Eligible applicants. Grants may be made to individual cooperatives, groups of cooperatives, or cooperative development centers that serve socially disadvantaged groups and of which a majority of the board of directors or governing board of the applicant is comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups. You must be able to verify your legal structure in the state or the tribe under which you are legally organized or incorporated. Grants may not be made to public bodies or to individuals. Your application must demonstrate that you meet all definition requirements for one of the three eligible applicant types as defined above. Federally recognized tribes have a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Therefore, tribes may consider using a separate entity, such as a tribally owned business, tribal authority, tribal non-profit, tribal college or university to apply for SDGG funding that would provide technical assistance to members of the tribe. This separate tribal entity must also demonstrate that it meets all definition requirements for one of the three eligible applicant types as defined above.

(i) At the time of application, each applicant must have an active registration in the System for Award (SAM) before submitting its application in accordance with 2 CFR part 25. In order to register in SAM, entities will be required to create a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Instructions for obtaining the UEI are available at https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration. Further information regarding SAM registration and the UEI can be found in section D 2 of this notice.

(ii) An applicant is ineligible if it has been debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549, “Debarment and Suspension.” The Agency will check the Do Not Pay (DNP) system to determine if the applicant has been debarred or suspended at the time of application and also prior to funding any grant award. In addition, an applicant will be considered ineligible for a grant due to an outstanding judgment obtained by the U.S. in a Federal Court (other than U.S. Tax Court), is delinquent on the payment of Federal income taxes, or is delinquent on Federal debt. The applicant must certify as part of the application that they do not have an outstanding judgment against them. Applicants are responsible for resolving any issues that are reported in the ‘Do Not Pay’ System and if issues are not resolved by deadlines found in this Notice, the Agency may proceed to award funds to other eligible applicants.

(iii) Any corporation or cooperative (a) that has been convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the past 24 months or (b) that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, is not eligible for financial assistance provided with funds appropriated by the 2022 Appropriations Act, unless a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government. Certification of compliance with this provision is now completed during registration or annual recertification in the System for Awards Management (SAM) at SAM.gov via the Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations.

2. Cost sharing or matching. No matching funds are required.

3. Other eligibility requirements.

(i) Use of funds: Your application must propose technical assistance that will benefit socially disadvantaged groups. Any recipient of technical assistance must have a membership that consists of a majority of members from socially disadvantaged groups. Please review section D(6) (Funding Restrictions) of this notice carefully.

(ii) Project eligibility: The proposed project must only serve members of socially disadvantaged groups located in rural areas.

(iii) Grant period eligibility: Your application must include a grant period of one-year or less or it will not be considered for funding. The proposed time frame should begin no earlier than October 1, 2022 and end no later than December 31, 2023. Applications that request funds for a time period ending after December 31, 2023, will not be considered for funding. You should note that the anticipated award date is September 30, 2022. Projects must be completed by December 31, 2023 or within the 12-months of award funding, whichever is earlier.

The Agency may approve requests to extend the grant period for up to an additional 12 months at its discretion. However, you may not have more than one SDGG award during the same grant period. If you extend the period of performance for your current award, you may be deemed ineligible to receive a SDGG in the next grant cycle. Further guidance on grant period extensions will be provided in the award document.

(iv) Satisfactory performance eligibility: If you have an existing SDGG award, you must be performing satisfactorily to be considered eligible for a new SDGG award. Satisfactory performance includes being up to date on all financial and performance reports as prescribed in the grant award and being current on tasks and timeframes for utilizing grant and matching funds as approved in the work plan and budget. If you have any unspent grant funds on SDGG awards from projects prior to September 30, 2020, your application will not be considered for funding. If your FY 2021 award has unspent funds of 50 percent or more than what your approved work plan and budget projected at the time of evaluation of your FY 2021 application, your FY 2022 application may not be considered for funding. The Agency will verify the performance status of any FY 2021 awards and make a determination after the FY 2022 application period closes.

(v) Completeness eligibility: Your application must provide all the information requested in section D(2) (Content and form of application submission) of this notice. Applications lacking sufficient information to determine eligibility and scoring criteria will be considered ineligible.
(vi) Duplication of current services. Your application must demonstrate that you are providing services to new customers or new services to current customers. If your work plan and budget is duplicative of your existing award, your application will not be considered for funding. If your work plan and budget is duplicative of a previous or existing Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) and/or SDGG award, your application will not be considered for funding.

(vii) Multiple grant eligibility: You may only submit one SDGG grant application each funding cycle. If two applications are submitted (regardless of the applicant name) that include the same Executive Director and/or advisory boards or committees of an existing cooperative or cooperative development center, both applications will be determined ineligible for funding.

D. Application and Submission Information

1. Application template. The application template to assist you in applying for this funding opportunity is located at https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/socially-disadvantaged-groups-grant. Use of the application template is strongly recommended to assist you with the application process. You may also contact your USDA RD State Office for more information. Contact information for State Offices is located at https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices.

2. Content and form of application submission. You must submit your application electronically through Grants.gov. Your application must contain all required information. To apply electronically, you must follow the instructions for this funding announcement at https://www.grants.gov. Please note that we cannot accept applications through mail or courier delivery, in-person delivery, email, or fax.

You can locate the Grants.gov downloadable application package for this program by using a keyword, the program name, Assistance Listing number, or the Funding Opportunity Number for this program.

When you enter the Grants.gov website, you will find information about applying electronically through the site, as well as the hours of operation. Users of Grants.gov must already have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number and you must also be registered and maintain registration in SAM. The UEI is assigned by SAM and replaces the formerly known Dun & Bradstreet D-U-N-S Number. The UEI number must be associated with the correct tax identification number of the RCDG applicant. 2 CFR part 25 requires registration in SAM. We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process through Grants.gov.

You must submit all application documents electronically through Grants.gov. Applications must include electronic signatures. Original signatures may be required if funds are awarded.

After applying electronically through Grants.gov, you will receive an automated acknowledgement from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number.

Your application must also contain the following required forms and proposal elements:

(i) Standard Form SF-424, “Application for Federal Assistance,” to include your UEI number. You must also provide your SAM Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code and expiration date under the applicant eligibility discussion in your proposal narrative. If you do not include the CAGE code and expiration date and the UEI number in your application, it will not be considered for funding.

(ii) Form SF-424A, “Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs.” This form must be completed and submitted as part of the application package. You no longer must complete the Form SF 424B, “Assurances—Non-Construction Programs” as a part of your application. This information is now collected through your registration or annual recertification in SAM.gov through the Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representation.

(iii) Federal Debt and Judgement Certification. You must certify that there are no current outstanding Federal judgments against your property and that you will not use grant funds to pay for any judgment obtained by the United States. You must also certify that you are not delinquent on the payment of Federal income taxes, or any Federal debt. There is no standard form to complete, but to satisfy the certification requirement, you should include this statement in your application: “[INSERT NAME OF APPLICANT] certifies that the United States has not obtained an unsatisfied judgment against its property, is not delinquent on the payment of Federal income taxes, or any Federal debt, and will not use grant funds to pay any judgments obtained by the United States.” A separate signature is not required.

(iv) Table of Contents. Your application must contain a detailed Table of Contents (TOC). The TOC must include page numbers for each part of the application. Page numbers should begin immediately following the TOC.

(v) Executive Summary. A summary of the proposal, not to exceed one page, must briefly describe the project, tasks to be completed, and other relevant information that provides a general overview of the project.

(vi) Eligibility Discussion. A detailed discussion, not to exceed four pages, must describe how you meet the following requirements:

(a) Applicant Eligibility. You must describe how you meet the definition of a cooperative, group of cooperatives, or cooperative development center. Your application must also show that your individual cooperative, group of cooperatives or cooperative development center has a majority of its board of directors or governing board comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups and that the applicant serves socially disadvantaged groups. Your application must include a list of your board of directors/governing board and the percentage of board of directors/ governing board that are members of socially disadvantaged groups. Note: Your application will not be considered for funding if you fail to show that a majority of your board of directors/ governing board is comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups.

You must verify your incorporation and status in the state that you have applied by providing the state’s or Tribe’s Certificate of Good Standing and your Articles of Incorporation. You may also submit your Bylaws if they provide additional information not included in your Articles of Incorporation that will help verify your legal status. If applying as an institution of higher education, documentation verifying your legal status is not required; however, you must demonstrate that you qualify as an Institution of Higher Education as defined at 20 U.S.C. 1001. You must apply as only one type of applicant. The requested verification documents should be included in Appendix A of your application. If they are not included, your application will not be considered for funding.

(b) Use of Funds. You must provide a brief discussion on how the proposed project activities meet the definition of technical assistance and identify the socially disadvantaged groups that will be assisted.

(c) Project Area. You must provide specific information that details the
location of the Project area and explain how the area meets the definition of “rural area.”
(d) Grant Period. You must provide a time frame for the proposed project and discuss how the project will be completed within that time frame. Your project must have a time frame of one year or less.
(e) Indirect Costs. Please indicate if you have a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA), and if so, the rate. Your negotiated indirect cost rate approval does not need to be included in your application, but you will be required to provide it if a grant is awarded. Approval for indirect costs that are requested in an application without an approved indirect cost rate agreement is at the discretion of the Agency.
(vii) Scoring Criteria. Each of the scoring criteria in this notice must be addressed in narrative form, with a maximum of three pages for each individual scoring criterion, unless otherwise specified. Failure to address each scoring criterion will result in the application being determined ineligible.
(viii) The Agency has established annual performance evaluation measures to evaluate the SDGG program. You must provide estimates on the following performance evaluation measures as part of your narrative:
(a) Number of cooperatives assisted; and
(b) Number of socially disadvantaged groups assisted.
3. System for Awards Management (SAM) and assigned Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Each applicant applying for grant funds must be registered in SAM before submitting its application and provide a valid UEI, unless determined exempt under 2 CFR 25.110(b), (c) or (d).
(i) Applicants register in SAM at no cost at: https://samm.gov/SAM/. You must provide your SAM CAGE Code and expiration date in the application materials. When registering in SAM, you must indicate you are applying for a Federal financial assistance project or program or are currently the recipient of funding under any Federal financial assistance project or program; and
(ii) The SAM registration must remain active with current information at all times while the Agency is considering an application or while a Federal grant award or loan is active. To maintain the registration in the SAM database, the applicant must review and update the information in the SAM database annually from date of initial registration or from the date of the last update. The applicant must ensure that the information in the database is current, accurate, and complete. Applicants must ensure they complete the Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations in SAM.
(iii) The Agency will not make an award until the applicant has complied with all applicable SAM and UEI requirements. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the Agency is ready to make an award, the Agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and the Agency may use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant. Please refer to section F(2) (Administrative and national policy requirements) for additional submission requirements that apply to grantees selected for this program.
4. Submission Dates and Times. Electronic applications must be received and accepted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time June 13, 2022, to be eligible for funding. Please review the Grants.gov website at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html for instructions on the process of registering your organization as soon as possible to ensure you can meet the electronic application deadline. Grants.gov will not accept applications submitted after the deadline.
5. Intergovernmental Review. Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs,” applies to this program. This E.O. requires that Federal agencies provide opportunities for consultation on proposed assistance with State and local governments. Many states have established a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to facilitate this consultation. The Rural Development State Office where the project is located will provide compliance guidance to applicants.
6. Funding Restrictions. Grant funds must be used for technical assistance as defined.
(i) No funds made available under this notice shall be used to:
(a) Plan, repair, rehabilitate, acquire, or construct a building or facility, including a processing facility;
(b) Purchase, rent, or install fixed equipment, including processing equipment;
(c) Purchase vehicles, including boats;
(d) Pay for the preparation of the grant application;
(e) Pay expenses not directly related to the funded Project;
(f) Fund political or lobbying activities;
(g) Fund any activities considered unallowable by the applicable grant cost principles, including 2 CFR part 200, subpart E and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR part 1); 
(h) Fund architectural or engineering design work for a specific physical facility;
(i) Fund any direct expenses for the production of any commodity or product to which value will be added, including seed, rootstock, labor for harvesting the crop, and delivery of the commodity to a processing facility;
(j) Fund research and development;
(k) Purchase land;
(l) Duplicate current activities or activities paid for by other Federal grant programs;
(m) Pay costs of the project incurred prior to the date of grant approval;
(n) Pay for assistance to any private business enterprise that does not have at least 51 percent ownership by those who are either citizens of the United States or reside in the United States after being legally admitted for permanent residence;
(o) Pay any judgment or debt owed to the United States;
(p) Pay any operating costs of the cooperative, group of cooperatives, or cooperative development center not directly related to the project;
(q) Pay expenses for applicant employee training or professional development not directly related to the project;
(r) Pay for any goods or services from a person or entity who has a conflict of interest with the grantee; or
(s) Pay for technical assistance provided to a cooperative that does not have a membership that consists of a majority of members from socially disadvantaged groups.
(ii) Your application will not be considered for funding if it does any of the following:
(a) Requests more than the maximum grant amount;
(b) Proposes ineligible costs that equal more than 10 percent of total grant funds requested; or
(c) Proposes participant support costs that equal more than 10 percent of total grant funds requested.
(iii) We will consider your application for funding if it includes ineligible costs of 10 percent or less of total grant funds requested if it is determined eligible otherwise. However, if your application is successful, those ineligible costs must be removed and replaced with eligible costs before the Agency will make the grant award or the amount of the grant award will be reduced accordingly. If we cannot determine the percentage of ineligible costs, your application will not be considered for funding.
7. Other Submission Requirements. Applications will not be accepted if the
E. Application Review Information

The State Offices will review applications to determine if they are eligible for assistance based on requirements in this notice, and other applicable Federal regulations. If determined eligible, your application will be scored by a panel of USDA employees in accordance with the point allocation specified in this notice. A recommendation will be submitted to the Administrator to fund applications from highest ranking order.

Applications that cannot be fully funded may be offered partial funding at the Agency’s discretion.

1. Scoring Criteria. All eligible and complete applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria. Evaluators will base scores only on the information provided or cross-referenced by page number in each individual evaluation criterion. SDGG is a competitive program, so you will receive scores based on the quality of your responses. Simply addressing the criteria will not guarantee higher scores. The total points possible for the criteria are 105.

(i) Technical Assistance (maximum score of 25 points). Three-page limit. A panel of USDA employees will evaluate your application to determine your ability to assess the needs of and provide effective technical assistance to socially disadvantaged groups. You must discuss the:

(a) Needs of the socially disadvantaged groups to be assisted and explain how those needs were determined,

(b) Proposed technical assistance to be provided to the socially disadvantaged groups; and

(c) Expected outcomes of the proposed technical assistance, including how socially disadvantaged groups will benefit from participating in the project. You will score higher on this criterion if you provide examples of past projects that demonstrate successful outcomes in identifying specific needs and providing technical assistance to socially disadvantaged groups.

(ii) Work Plan/Budget (maximum of 25 points). Six-page limit. Your work plan must provide specific and detailed descriptions of the tasks and the key project personnel that will accomplish the project’s goals. The budget will be reviewed for completeness. You must list what tasks are to be done, when it will be done, who will do it, and how much it will cost. Reviewers must be able to understand what is being proposed and how the grant funds will be spent. The budget must provide a detailed breakdown of estimated costs. These costs should be allocated to each of the tasks to be undertaken.

A panel of USDA employees will evaluate your work plan for detailed actions and an accompanying timetable for implementing the proposal. Clear, logical, realistic, and efficient plans that allocate costs to specific tasks using applicable budget object class categories provided on the Form SF–424A will result in a higher score. You must discuss at a minimum:

(a) Specific tasks to be completed using grant funds;

(b) How customers will be identified;

(c) Key personnel and what tasks they are undertaking; and

(d) The evaluation methods to be used to determine the success of specific tasks and overall project objectives.

Please provide qualitative methods of evaluation. For example, evaluation methods should go beyond quantitative measurements of completing surveys or number of evaluations, such as discussion of evaluation methods per task.

(iii) Experience (maximum score of 25 points). Three-page limit. A panel of USDA employees will evaluate your experience, commitment, and availability for identified staff or consultants in providing technical assistance, as defined in this notice. You must describe the technical assistance experience for each identified staff member or consultant, as well as years of experience in providing that assistance. You must also discuss the commitment and the availability of identified staff, consultants, or other professionals to be hired for the project—especially those who may be consulting on multiple SDGC/RCDG projects. If staff or consultants have not been selected at the time of application, you must provide specific descriptions of the qualifications required for the positions to be filled. In addition, resumes for each individual staff member or consultant must be included as an attachment in Appendix B. The attachments will not count toward the maximum page total. We will compare the described experience in this section and in the resumes to the work plan to determine relevance of the experience. Applications that do not include the attached resumes will not be considered for funding. Applications that demonstrate strong credentials, education, capabilities, experience, and availability of project personnel that will contribute to a high likelihood of project success will receive more points than those that demonstrate less potential for success in these areas.

Points will be awarded as follows:

(a) 0 points will be awarded if you do not substantively address the criterion.

(b) 1–9 points will be awarded if qualifications and experience of some, but not all, staff is addressed and, if necessary, qualifications of unfilled positions are not provided.

(c) 10–14 points will be awarded if (b) is met, plus all project personnel are identified but do not demonstrate qualifications or experience relevant to the project.

(d) 15–19 will be awarded if (b) and (c) are met, plus most, but not all, key personnel demonstrate strong credentials and/or experience, and availability indicating a reasonable likelihood of success.

(e) 20–25 points will be awarded if (b)–(d) are met, plus all personnel demonstrate strong, relevant credentials or experience and availability indicating a high likelihood of project success.

(iv) Commitment (maximum of 10 points). Three-page limit. A panel of USDA employees will evaluate your commitment to providing technical assistance to socially disadvantaged groups in rural areas. You must list the number and location of socially disadvantaged groups that will directly benefit from the assistance provided. You must also define and describe the underserved and economically distressed areas within your service area and provide current and relevant statistics that support your description of the service area. Projects located in Persistent Poverty Counties as defined in 2022 Appropriations Act, if included, will score higher on this factor.

(v) Local support (maximum of 10 points). Three-page limit. A panel of USDA employees will evaluate your application for local support of the technical assistance activities. Your discussion on local support should include previous and/or expected local support and plans for coordinating with other developmental organizations in the proposed service area or with tribal, State, and local government institutions. You will score higher if you demonstrate strong support from potential beneficiaries and other developmental organizations. You may submit a maximum of 10 letters of support with the application.

Points will be awarded as follows:

(a) 0 points are awarded if you do not adequately address this criterion.

(b) A range of 1–3 points are awarded if you demonstrate support from
potential beneficiaries and other
developmental organizations in your
discussion but do not provide letters of
support.
(c) Additional 1 point is awarded if
you provide 2–3 support letters that
show support from potential
beneficiaries and/or support from local
organizations.
(d) Additional 2 points are awarded if
you provide 4–5 support letters that
show support from potential
beneficiaries and/or support from local
organizations.
(e) Additional 3 points are awarded if
you provide 6–7 support letters that
show support from potential
beneficiaries and/or support from local
organizations.
(f) Additional 4 points are awarded if
you provide 8–9 support letters that
show support from potential
beneficiaries and/or support from local
organizations.
(g) Additional 5 points are awarded if
you provide 10 support letters that show
support from potential beneficiaries
and/or support from local organizations.

You may submit a maximum of 10
letters of support. Support letters should
be signed and dated after the
publication date of this notice and
should come from potential
beneficiaries and other local
organizations. Letters received from
Congressional members and technical
assistance providers will not be
included in the count of support letters
received. Additionally, identical form
letters signed by multiple potential
beneficiaries and/or local organizations
will not be included in the count of
support letters received. Support letters
should be included as an attachment to
the application in Appendix C and will
not count against the maximum page
total. Additional letters from industry
groups, commodity groups,
Congressional members, and similar
organizations should be referenced, but
not included in the application package.

When referencing these letters, provide
the name of the organization, the date of
the letter, the nature of the support, and the
name and title of the person signing the
letter.

(vi) Administrator Discretionary
Points (maximum of 10 points). In the
event two projects have the same score,
the Administrator may award points to
the applicant that has not received
SDGG funds in the past. In addition, the
Administrator may choose to award
points to applications that:
(a) Increase the geographic diversity of
socially disadvantaged groups served
by approved projects.
(b) Advance the key priorities
addressed in the Supplemental Section
of this notice. Data sources for the key
priorities are found at: https://
2. Review and Selection Process.
Applications will be reviewed in the
State Offices to determine if they are
eligible for assistance based on
requirements in this notice, and other
applicable Federal regulations. If
determined eligible, your application
will be scored by a panel of USDA
employees in accordance with the point
allocation specified in this notice. The
review panel will convene to reach a
consensus on the scores for each of the
eligible applications. The Administrator
may choose to award up to 10
Administrator priority points based on
criterion (vi) in section E(1) (Scoring
Criteria) of this notice. These points will
be added to the cumulative score for a
total possible score of 105. Applications
will be funded from highest ranking
order until the funding limitation has
been reached. Applications that cannot
be fully funded may be offered partial
funding at the Agency’s discretion. If
your application is ranked and not
funded, it will not be carried forward
into the next competition.
F. Federal Award Administration
Information
1. Federal award notices. If you are
selected for funding, you will receive a
signed notice of Federal award by postal
or electronic mail, containing
instructions on requirements necessary
to proceed with execution and
performance of the award.

If you are not selected for funding,
you will be notified in writing via postal
or electronic mail and informed of any
review and appeal rights. Funding of
successfully appealed applications will
be limited to available FY 2022 funding.
2. Administrative and national policy
requirements. Additional requirements
that apply to grantees selected for this
program can be found in 2 CFR parts
200, 215, 400, 415, 417, 418, and 421.
All recipients of Federal financial
assistance are required to report
information about first tier subawards
and executive compensation (See 2 CFR
part 170). You will be required to have
the necessary processes and systems in
place to comply with the Federal
Funding Accountability and
Transparency Act reporting
requirements (See 2 CFR 170.200(b),
unless you are exempt under 2 CFR
170.110(b)). The following additional
requirements apply to grantees selected
for this program:
(i) Execution of an Agency approved
Grant Agreement.
(ii) Acceptance of a written Letter of
Conditions.
(iii) Submission of Form RD 1940–1,
“Request for Obligation of Funds.”
(iv) Submission of Form RD 1942–46,
“Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions.”
(v) Assurance Agreement. By signing
the Financial Assistance General
Certifications and Representations in
SAM, grant recipients affirm that they
will operate the program free from
discrimination. The grant recipients will
maintain the race and ethnic data on
their board members and the
beneficiaries of the program. The grant
recipient will provide alternative forms
of communication to persons with
limited English proficiency. The Agency
will conduct civil rights compliance
reviews on grant recipients to identify
the collection of racial and ethnic data
on program beneficiaries. In addition,
the compliance review will ensure that
equal access to the program benefits and
activities are provided for persons with
disabilities and language barriers.
3. Reporting. After grant approval and
through grant completion, you will be
required to provide the following:
(i) An SF–425, “Federal Financial
Report,” and a project performance
report will be required on a semiannual
basis (due 30 calendar days after the end
of the semiannual period). The project
performance reports shall include a
comparison of actual accomplishments
to the objectives established for that
period;
(ii) A statement providing reasons
why established objectives were not
met, if applicable;
(iii) A statement providing reasons for
any problems, delays, or adverse
conditions, if any, which have affected
or will affect attainment of overall
project objectives, prevent meeting time
schedules or objectives, or preclude the
attainment of particular objectives
during established time periods (This
disclosure shall be accompanied by a
statement of the action taken or planned
to resolve the situation);
(iv) Objectives and timetable
established for the next reporting
period;
(v) A final project and financial status
report within 90 days after the
expiration or termination of the grant in
accordance to 2 CFR 200.344; and
(vi) Outcome project performance
reports and final deliverables.
G. Agency Contacts
For general questions about this
announcement and for program
technical assistance, please contact the
appropriate State Office at https://
www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-
offices. You may also contact Arti
Kshirsagar, Program Management Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA at (202) 720–1400 or by email at arti.kshirsagar@usda.gov.

H. Other Information

(1) Paperwork Reduction Act. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, the paperwork burden associated with this notice has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0570–0032.

(2) National Environmental Policy Act. All funding activities under this notice must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and its implementing regulations as outlined in 7 CFR part 1970. This notice has been reviewed in accordance with 7 CFR part 1970, “Environmental Policies and Procedures.” We have determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required because the issuance of regulations and instructions, as well as amendments to them, describing administrative and financial procedures for processing, approving, and implementing the Agency’s financial programs is categorically excluded in the Agency’s National Environmental Policy Act regulation found at 7 CFR 1970.53(f). We have determined that this notice does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The Agency will review each grant application to determine its compliance with NEPA. A review for NEPA compliance is required prior to the award of grant funds. (3) Civil Rights Compliance Requirements. All grants made under this notice are subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, USDA’s nondiscrimination regulation (7 CFR part 15, subpart A), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

(4) 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 Mission Areas, agencies, staff offices, 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 for 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. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Mission Area, agency, or staff office, the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TTY) or the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form AD 3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632–9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of the alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD–3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(i) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–9410; or
(ii) Fax: (833) 256–1665 or (202) 690–7442; or
(iii) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Karama Neal,
Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Development.

[FR Doc. 2022–07999 Filed 4–13–22; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–XY–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

National Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public virtual meeting: correction.

SUMMARY: The Census Bureau published a notice in the Federal Register of April 7, 2022 giving notice of a virtual meeting of the National Advisory Committee (NAC). The document contained incorrect URL meeting links in the “Addresses” section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shana Banks, Advisory Committee Branch Chief, Office of Program, Performance and Stakeholder Integration (PPSI), shana.j.banks@census.gov, Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, telephone 301–763–3815. For TTY callers, please use the Federal Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Correction

In the Federal Register of April 7, 2022, in FR Document Number 2022–07356, on Page 20389, in the first column, correct the ADDRESSES caption to read:

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via the WebEx platform at the following presentation links:

• May 5, 2022—https://uscensus.webex.com/uscensus/ onstage/g.php?MTID=e629f8
d12408207d3c951d7c7b3454a1dd2
• May 6, 2022—https://uscensus.webex.com/uscensus/ onstage/g.php?MTID=e7d0f04f2f7e5ece48d9a9c
For audio, please call the following number: 1–888–603–9745. When prompted, please use the following Password: Census#1 and Passcode: 81549084.

Robert L. Santos, Director, Census Bureau, approved the publication of this Notice in the Federal Register.

Dated: April 8, 2022.

Sheleen Dumas,
Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2022–07980 Filed 4–13–22; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–07–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Bureau of Economic Analysis Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) announces a meeting of the Bureau of Economic Analysis Advisory Committee. The meeting will address proposed improvements, extensions, and research related to BEA’s economic accounts. In addition, the meeting will include an update on recent statistical developments.

DATES: Friday, May 13, 2022. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. and adjourns at 2:30 p.m. (ET).