

**§ 2008c. Rural Business-Cooperative Service programs technical assistance and training**

**(a) In general**

The Secretary may make grants to public bodies, private nonprofit corporations, economic development authorities, institutions of higher education, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and rural cooperatives for the purpose of providing or obtaining technical assistance and training to support funding applications for programs carried out by the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

**(b) Purposes**

A grant under subsection (a) may be used—

(1) to assist communities in identifying and planning for business and economic development needs;

(2) to identify public and private resources to finance business and small and emerging business needs;

(3) to prepare reports and surveys necessary to request financial assistance for businesses in rural communities; and

(4) to prepare applications for financial assistance.

**(c) Selection priority**

In selecting recipients of grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to grants serving persistent poverty counties and high poverty communities, as determined by the Secretary.

**(d) Funding**

**(1) In general**

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, to remain available until expended.

**(2) Availability**

Any amounts authorized to be appropriated under paragraph (1) for any fiscal year that are not appropriated for that fiscal year may be appropriated for the immediately succeeding fiscal year.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §368, as added Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, §6419, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4764.)

**Editorial Notes**

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 2008c, Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §368, as added Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2317, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4009, related to allocation and transfer of loan guarantee authority, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §756, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1131.

**§ 2008d. Recordkeeping of loans by borrower's gender**

The Secretary shall classify, by gender, records of applicants for loans and loan guarantees under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §369, as added Pub. L. 102-554, §21(c), Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 4161.)

**Editorial Notes**

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this title", meaning title III of Pub. L. 87-128, Aug. 8,

1961, 75 Stat. 307, known as the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of title III to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1921 of this title and Tables.

**§ 2008e. Prohibition under rural development programs**

**(a) Prohibition**

Assistance under any rural development program administered by the Rural Development Administration, the Farmers Home Administration, the Rural Electrification Administration, or any other agency of the Department of Agriculture shall not be conditioned on any requirement that the recipient of such assistance accept or receive electric service from any particular utility, supplier, or cooperative.

**(b) Ensuring compliance**

The Secretary shall establish, by regulation, adequate safeguards to ensure that assistance under such rural development programs is not subject to such a condition. Such safeguards shall include periodic certifications and audits, and appropriate measures and sanctions against any person violating, or attempting to violate, the prohibition in subsection (a).

**(c) Regulations**

Not later than 6 months after November 1, 1993, the Secretary shall issue interim final regulations to ensure compliance with subsection (a).

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §370, as added Pub. L. 103-129, §5, Nov. 1, 1993, 107 Stat. 1366.)

**§ 2008f. Crop insurance requirement**

**(a) In general**

As a condition of obtaining any benefit (including a direct loan, loan guarantee, or payment) described in subsection (b), a borrower must obtain at least catastrophic risk protection insurance coverage under section 1508 of this title for the crop and crop year for which the benefit is sought, if the coverage is offered by the Corporation.

**(b) Applicable benefits**

Subsection (a) shall apply to—

(1) a farm ownership loan (FO) under section 1923 of this title;

(2) an operating loan (OL) under section 1942 of this title; and

(3) an emergency loan (EM) under section 1961 of this title.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §371, as added Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §119(b), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3208.)

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103-354, set out as an Effective Date of 1994 Amendment note under section 1502 of this title.