

date of enactment of this Act [Apr. 4, 1996], the Secretary of Agriculture shall develop a streamlined, simplified, and uniform application which shall be used in applying for assistance under all of the following:

“(1) Sections 304(b), 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 310B, and 375 [former 7 U.S.C. 2008j] and subtitle E [7 U.S.C. 2009 et seq.] of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1924(b), 1926, 1926a, 1926c, 1926d, and 1932).

“(2) Subtitle G of title XVI and sections 2281 [42 U.S.C. 5177a], 2333, and 2381 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. [former] 5901-5908, 5177a, 950aaa-2, and 3125b).

“(3) Subtitle C of title IX of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act Amendments of 1991 (Public Law 102-237[:]) 7 U.S.C. [former] 5930 note).

“(4) Section 1323(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-198; 7 U.S.C. 1932 note).

“(5) Title V and section 603(c) of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2661-2669 and 2204a(c)).

“(6) Sections 5 and 311 and title IV of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. [former] 905, [former] 940a, and [former] 941-950b).”

Executive Documents

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12720

Ex. Ord. No. 12720, July 16, 1990, 55 F.R. 29337, as amended by Ex. Ord. No. 12783, Dec. 17, 1991, 56 F.R. 65977, which established the President's Council on Rural America, was revoked by Ex. Ord. No. 12869, § 4(c), Sept. 30, 1993, 58 F.R. 51751, formerly set out as a note under section 1013 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 13575

Ex. Ord. No. 13575, June 9, 2011, 76 F.R. 34841, which established the White House Rural Council, was revoked by Ex. Ord. No. 13790, § 6, Apr. 25, 2017, 82 F.R. 20239.

§ 2204b-1. Rural development

(a) Congressional commitment

The Congress commits itself to a sound balance between rural and urban America. The Congress considers this balance so essential to the peace, prosperity, and welfare of all our citizens that the highest priority must be given to the revitalization and development of rural areas.

(b) Location of Federal facilities

Congress hereby directs the heads of all executive departments and agencies of the Government to establish and maintain departmental policies and procedures giving first priority to the location of new offices and other facilities in rural areas as defined in the private business enterprise exception in section 1926(a)(7)¹ of this title.

(Pub. L. 91-524, title IX, § 901, Nov. 30, 1970, 84 Stat. 1383; Pub. L. 92-419, title VI, § 601, Aug. 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 674; Pub. L. 94-273, § 7(3), Apr. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 378; Pub. L. 96-355, § 6, Sept. 24, 1980, 94 Stat. 1174.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1926(a)(7) of this title, referred to in subsec. (b), was repealed and a new section 1926(a)(7) was added by Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, § 741(a)(2), Apr. 4, 1996, 110

Stat. 1123. As added, section 1926(a)(7) of this title defined “rural areas” but no longer contained provisions relating to a private business enterprise exception. Subsequently, section 1926(a)(7) was repealed by Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, § 6020(b)(1), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 363.

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 3122 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

AMENDMENTS

1980—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 96-355 struck out provisions respecting annual report to Congress by the President covering efforts, etc., made for locating all new facilities.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 96-355 struck out subsec. (c) which related to planning assistance and annual report to Congress respecting such assistance.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 96-355 struck out subsec. (d) which related to information and technical assistance and annual report to Congress respecting such assistance.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 96-355 struck out subsec. (e) which related to provision of government services and annual report to Congress respecting such services.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 96-355 struck out subsec. (f) which required report to Congress by July 1, 1971, relating to implementation of rural financial assistance requirements.

1976—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-273 substituted “December” for “September”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 94-273 substituted “December 1 of” for “September 1 of”.

1972—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 92-419 struck out “insofar as practicable,” after “maintain” and substituted “policies and procedures giving first priority to the location of new offices and other facilities in rural areas as defined in the private business enterprise exception in section 1926(a)(7) of this title”, for “policies and procedures with respect to the location of new offices and other facilities in areas or communities of lower population density in preference to areas or communities of high population densities”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-355 effective Oct. 1, 1980, see section 10 of Pub. L. 96-355, set out as an Effective Date note under section 2204b of this title.

Executive Documents

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11797

Ex. Ord. No. 11797, July 31, 1974, 39 F.R. 27893, which delegated to the Secretary of Agriculture the President's authority to prepare and submit to Congress annual reports concerning the location of new Federal facilities in rural areas, was revoked by Ex. Ord. No. 12553, Feb. 25, 1986, 51 F.R. 7237.

§ 2204b-2. Temporary prioritization of rural health assistance

(a) Authority to temporarily prioritize certain rural development applications

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary, after consultation with such public health officials as may be necessary, may announce through a Federal Register notice pursuant to section 553(b)(3)(B) of title 5 a temporary reprioritization, on a national or multistate basis, for certain rural development loan and grant applications to assist rural communities in responding to a significant public health disruption.

(b) Public health disruption

For the purposes of this section, the term “public health disruption” means an unanticipated

¹ See References in Text note below.

pated increase in mortality or morbidity in rural communities, when compared to non-rural communities, caused by identifiable events, actions, or behavioral trends, which can be remediated by the programs of the Rural Development mission area. When measuring a public health disruption, the Secretary may analyze data on a national or multi-state basis.

(c) Content of announcement

In the announcement, the Secretary shall—

(1) describe the nature of the public health disruption, including the causes, effects, affected populations, and affected States;

(2) explain how the programs of the Department of Agriculture will work in remedying the public health disruption;

(3) identify the services, treatments, or infrastructure best suited to address the public health disruption;

(4) establish—

(A) the start and end dates of the reprioritization;

(B) the programs subject to reprioritization and the modifications to the application process;

(C) the process for making reprioritizations for applicable programs;

(D) the amount of funds set-aside for applicable programs, except that a set-aside for such a program shall not be greater than 20 percent of the amounts appropriated for the program for the fiscal year involved; and

(E) the region in which the reprioritization is in effect; and

(5) instruct program administrators to implement the reprioritization during the application window or announcement after the announcement takes effect.

(d) Limitations on reprioritizations

When announcing the reprioritization, the Secretary shall—

(1) establish an initial total time period of less than 4 years, except as provided for in subsection (e);

(2) implement only 1 nationally applicable reprioritization at a time;

(3) implement only 1 regionally applicable reprioritization per State at a time; and

(4) not use reprioritizations to allocate additional funds to an affected State.

(e) Extension

The Secretary may extend an announcement under subsection (a) for no more than 6 years in total, except that nothing shall prevent the Secretary from renewing reprioritizations by making a new announcement under subsection (a).

(f) Rescinding the announcement

The Secretary may rescind a reprioritization announcement made under subsection (a) at any time the Secretary determines that the temporary reprioritizations are no longer needed or effective.

(g) Notice

Not later than 48 hours after making, extending, or rescinding an announcement under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-

resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, and transmit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, a written notice of the declaration, extension, or rescission.

(Pub. L. 92-419, title VI, § 608, as added Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, § 6101(b), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4727.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SUPPORT FOR COTTON MERCHANTISERS

Pub. L. 117-328, div. HH, title V, § 601, Dec. 29, 2022, 136 Stat. 5994, provided that:

“(a) COTTON MERCHANTISER PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS TO COTTON MERCHANTISERS.—The Secretary [of Agriculture] shall make pandemic assistance payments, under terms and conditions as determined by the Secretary, to cotton merchandisers that purchased cotton from a United States cotton producer or marketed cotton on behalf of a United States cotton producer during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 29, 2022].

“(2) PAYMENT DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall take into consideration economic impacts of COVID-19 and other supply chain disruptions in determining payment rates under this subsection, such that the amounts made available under paragraph (4)(A) are fully expended no later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section.

“(3) COTTON MERCHANTISER DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘cotton merchandiser’ means an entity that markets, sells, or trades cotton to end users.

“(4) FUNDING LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds made available under subsection (b), the Secretary shall make available \$100,000,000 to carry out this subsection.

“(B) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Secretary may use not more than 1 percent of the funds under subparagraph (A) for administrative costs necessary to carry out this subsection.

“(b) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall make available \$100,000,000 to be derived from the unobligated balances of amounts made available under section 751 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260) [134 Stat. 2105] to carry out subsection (a).”

EMERGENCY RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR RURAL HEALTH CARE

Pub. L. 117-2, title I, § 1002, Mar. 11, 2021, 135 Stat. 11, provided that:

“(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the ‘Secretary’) shall use the funds made available by this section to establish an emergency pilot program for rural development not later than 150 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Mar. 11, 2021] to provide grants to eligible applicants (as defined in section 3570.61(a) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations) to be awarded by the Secretary based on rural development needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“(b) USES.—An eligible applicant to whom a grant is awarded under this section may use the grant funds for costs, including those incurred prior to the issuance of the grant, as determined by the Secretary, of facilities which primarily serve rural areas (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(C))), which are located in a rural area, the median household income of the population to be served by which is less than the greater of the poverty line or the applicable percentage (determined under section 3570.63(b) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations) of the State nonmetropolitan median household income, and for which the performance of any construction work completed with grant funds

shall meet the condition set forth in section 9003(f) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103(f)), to—

- “(1) increase capacity for vaccine distribution;
- “(2) provide medical supplies to increase medical surge capacity;
- “(3) reimburse for revenue lost during the COVID-19 pandemic, including revenue losses incurred prior to the awarding of the grant;
- “(4) increase telehealth capabilities, including underlying health care information systems;
- “(5) construct temporary or permanent structures to provide health care services, including vaccine administration or testing;
- “(6) support staffing needs for vaccine administration or testing; and
- “(7) engage in any other efforts to support rural development determined to be critical to address the COVID-19 pandemic, including nutritional assistance to vulnerable individuals, as approved by the Secretary.

“(c) FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$500,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, to carry out this section, of which not more than 3 percent may be used by the Secretary for administrative purposes and not more than 2 percent may be used by the Secretary for technical assistance as defined in section 306(a)(26) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(26)).”

§ 2204b-3. Council on Rural Community Innovation and Economic Development

(a) Purpose

The purpose of this section is to enhance the efforts of the Federal Government to address the needs of rural areas in the United States by—

- (1) establishing a council to better coordinate Federal programs directed to rural communities;
- (2) maximizing the impact of Federal investment to promote economic prosperity and quality of life in rural communities in the United States; and
- (3) using innovation to resolve local and regional challenges faced by rural communities.

(b) Establishment

(1) There is established a Council on Rural Community Innovation and Economic Development (referred to in this section as the “Council”).

(2) The Council shall be the successor to the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity established by Executive Order 13790.

(c) Membership

(1) In general

The membership of the Council shall be composed of the heads of the following executive branch departments, agencies, and offices:

- (A) The Department of Agriculture.
- (B) The Department of the Treasury.
- (C) The Department of Defense.
- (D) The Department of Justice.
- (E) The Department of the Interior.
- (F) The Department of Commerce.
- (G) The Department of Labor.
- (H) The Department of Health and Human Services.
- (I) The Department of Housing and Urban Development.

- (J) The Department of Transportation.
- (K) The Department of Energy.
- (L) The Department of Education.
- (M) The Department of Veterans Affairs.
- (N) The Department of Homeland Security.
- (O) The Environmental Protection Agency.
- (P) The Federal Communications Commission.
- (Q) The Office of Management and Budget.
- (R) The Office of Science and Technology Policy.
- (S) The Office of National Drug Control Policy.
- (T) The Council of Economic Advisers.
- (U) The Domestic Policy Council.
- (V) The National Economic Council.
- (W) The Small Business Administration.
- (X) The Council on Environmental Quality.
- (Y) The White House Office of Public Engagement.
- (Z) The White House Office of Cabinet Affairs.
- (AA) Such other executive branch departments, agencies, and offices as the President or the Secretary may, from time to time, designate.

(2) Chair

The Secretary shall serve as the Chair of the Council.

(3) Designees

A member of the Council may designate, to perform the Council functions of the member, a senior-level official who is—

- (A) part of the department, agency, or office of the member; and
- (B) a full-time officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(4) Administration

The Council shall coordinate policy development through the rural development mission area.

(d) Funding

The Secretary shall provide funding and administrative support for the Council to the extent permitted by law and within existing appropriations.

(e) Mission and function of the Council

The Council shall work across executive departments, agencies, and offices to coordinate development of policy recommendations—

- (1) to maximize the impact of Federal investment on rural communities;
- (2) to promote economic prosperity and quality of life in rural communities; and
- (3) to use innovation to resolve local and regional challenges faced by rural communities.

(f) Duties

The Council shall—

- (1) make recommendations to the President, acting through the Director of the Domestic Policy Council and the Director of the National Economic Council, on streamlining and leveraging Federal investments in rural areas, where appropriate, to increase the impact of Federal dollars and create economic opportu-