

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-

nities to improve the quality of life in rural areas in the United States;

(2) coordinate and increase the effectiveness of Federal engagement with rural stakeholders, including agricultural organizations, small businesses, education and training institutions, health-care providers, telecommunications services providers, electric service providers, transportation providers, research and land grant institutions, law enforcement, State, local, and tribal governments, and nongovernmental organizations regarding the needs of rural areas in the United States;

(3) coordinate Federal efforts directed toward the growth and development of rural geographic regions that encompass both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas;

(4) identify and facilitate rural economic opportunities associated with energy development, outdoor recreation, and other conservation related activities; and

(5) identify common economic and social challenges faced by rural communities that could be served through—

(A) better coordination of existing Federal and non-Federal resources; and

(B) innovative solutions utilizing governmental and nongovernmental resources.

(g) Executive departments and agencies

(1) In general

The heads of executive departments and agencies shall assist and provide information to the Council, consistent with applicable law, as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Council.

(2) Expenses

Each executive department or agency shall be responsible for paying any expenses of the executive department or agency for participating in the Council.

(h) Council working groups

(1) In general

The Council may establish, in addition to the working groups established under paragraph (3), such other working groups as necessary.

(2) Membership

The Secretary shall include as members of each working group such Council members, other heads of Federal agencies (or their designees as defined in (d)(3)¹), and non-Federal partners as determined appropriate to the subject matter.

(3) Required working groups

The working groups specified in this paragraph are each of the following:

(A) The rural smart communities working group

(i) Establishment

The Council shall establish a Rural Smart Communities Working Group.

(ii) Duties

The Rural Smart Communities Working Group shall—

(I) not later than 1 year after the establishment of such Working Group, submit to Congress a report describing efforts of rural areas to integrate smart technology into their communities to solve challenges relating to governance, economic development, quality of life, or other relevant rural issues, as determined by the Secretary; and

(II) create, publish, and maintain a resource guide designed to assist States and other rural communities in developing and implementing rural smart community programs.

(iii) Smart community defined

For the purposes of this subparagraph, the term “smart community” means a community that has the ability to integrate multiple technological solutions, in a secure fashion, to manage a community’s assets, including local government information systems, schools, libraries, transportation systems, hospitals, power plants, law enforcement, and other community services with the goal of promoting quality of life through the use of technology in ways that improve the efficiency of services and meet residents’ needs.

(B) Jobs accelerator working group

(i) Establishment

The Council shall establish a Jobs Accelerator Working Group.

(ii) Goals

The Jobs Accelerator Working Group shall support rural jobs accelerators (as defined in section 2008w(a)(4) of this title)—

(I) to improve the ability of rural communities to create high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses with high-growth potential, and strengthen regional economies, including by helping to build capacity in the applicable region to achieve those goals; and

(II) to help rural communities identify and maximize local assets and connect to regional opportunities, networks, and industry clusters that demonstrate high growth potential.

(iii) Duties

The Jobs Accelerator Working Group shall—

(I) provide the public with available information and technical assistance on Federal resources relevant to a project and region;

(II) establish a Federal support team comprised of staff from participating agencies in the working group that shall provide coordinated and dedicated support services to rural jobs accelerators; and

(III) provide opportunities for rural jobs accelerators to share best practices and further collaborate with one another.

¹ So in original. Probably should be “subsection (c)(3)”.

(Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, § 6306, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4752.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Executive Order 13790, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), is Ex. Ord. No. 13790, § 6, Apr. 25, 2017, 82 F.R. 20239, which is not classified to the Code.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

DEFINITION OF “SECRETARY”

“Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, see section 2 of Pub. L. 115-334, set out as a note under section 9001 of this title.

§ 2204b—4. Institute for Rural Partnerships

For an additional amount for the Office of the Secretary, \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended, to establish an Institute for Rural Partnerships: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall establish a grant program and distribute the funds to three geographically diverse established land-grant universities: *Provided further*, That the Institute for Rural Partnerships shall dedicate resources to researching the causes and conditions of challenges facing rural areas, and develop community partnerships to address such challenges: *Provided further*, That administrative or other fees shall not exceed one percent: *Provided further*, That such partnership shall coordinate and publish an annual report.

(Pub. L. 117-103, div. A, title VII, § 778, Mar. 15, 2022, 136 Stat. 99.)

§ 2204c. Water management for rural areas

(a) In general

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized, directly or in coordination with any other Federal agency, entity, corporation, department, unit of State or local government, cooperative, confederation, individual, public or private organization, Indian tribe, or university, to—

- (1) conduct research and demonstration projects;
- (2) provide technical assistance and extension services;
- (3) make grants, loans, and loan guarantees; and
- (4) provide other forms of assistance, for the purpose of helping rural areas make better and more efficient use of water resources and to alleviate problems arising in such areas from droughts or lack of water.

(b) Activities

The Secretary is authorized to provide assistance under this section for the promotion or establishment of irrigation, watersheds, and other water management and drought management activities, including water transmission, application, and activation.

(c) Cooperation

In implementing this section, the Secretary—

- (1) should address the general, special, and unique problems of water management existing in rural areas;
- (2) may take action independently or in cooperation with Federal, State, public, or private entities and agencies; and

(3) shall cooperate with—

(A) cooperatives, public or private organizations, confederations, authorities, or other entities (including such entities that may be organized under multiple State agreements or compacts and entities created under State law) to carry out projects authorized under this section; and

(B) water, watershed, and sewer authorities, rural electric cooperatives, Federal agencies, and other State or local governments or agencies.

(d) Regulations

(1) The Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out this section.

(2) Such regulations shall—

(A) specify the terms and conditions that the entities described in subsections (a) and (c) must meet in order to participate in programs carried out under this section;

(B) establish a procedure under which entities described in subsections (a) and (c) may apply for assistance under this section; and

(C) foster cooperation between such entities and other Federal, State, or local agencies for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this section.

(e) “University” defined

As used in this section, the term “university” means—

(1) a land grant university established under the Act of July 2, 1862 (known as the “First Morrill Act”; 12 Stat. 503, chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

(2) a land grant university established under the Act of August 30, 1890 (known as the “Second Morrill Act”; 26 Stat. 419, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.);

(3) the Tuskegee Institute; and

(4) any other support research organization.

(f) Funding

(1) There are authorized to be appropriated each fiscal year such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

(2) The Secretary is authorized to accept funds from non-Federal sources to carry out the activities authorized by this section.

(g) No waivers

Nothing in this section shall authorize the waiver of a cost-share requirement under a program established under any other provision of law.

(Pub. L. 100-387, title IV, § 401, Aug. 11, 1988, 102 Stat. 956.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of July 2, 1862, referred to in subsec. (e)(1), is act July 2, 1862, ch. 130, 12 Stat. 503, popularly known as the “Morrill Act” and also as the “First Morrill Act”, which is classified generally to subchapter I (§ 301 et seq.) of chapter 13 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 301 of this title and Tables.

Act of August 30, 1890, referred to in subsec. (e)(2), is act Aug. 30, 1890, ch. 841, 26 Stat. 417, popularly known as the Agricultural College Act of 1890 and also as the Second Morrill Act, which is classified generally to