

- (A) the number of residences and businesses receiving new broadband services;
- (B) network improvements, including facility upgrades and equipment purchases;
- (C) average broadband speeds and prices on a local and statewide basis;
- (D) any changes in broadband adoption rates; and
- (E) any specific activities that increased high speed broadband access for educational institutions, health care providers, and public safety service providers.

(e) Limitations on reservation of funds

Not less than 3 but not more than 5 percent of program level amounts available pursuant to amounts appropriated to carry out subchapter VI shall be set aside to be used for—

- (1) conducting oversight under such subchapter;
- (2) implementing accountability measures and related activities authorized under such subchapter; and
- (3) carrying out this section.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title VII, § 701, as added Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, § 6207, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4740.)

§ 950cc-1. Environmental reviews

The Secretary may obligate, but not disperse, funds under this chapter before the completion of otherwise required environmental, historical, or other types of reviews if the Secretary determines that a subsequent site-specific review shall be adequate and easily accomplished for the location of towers, poles, or other broadband facilities in the service area of the borrower without compromising the project or the required reviews.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title VII, § 702, as added Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, § 6208, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4743.)

§ 950cc-2. Use of loan proceeds to refinance loans for deployment of broadband service

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the proceeds of any loan made or guaranteed by the Secretary under this chapter may be used by the recipient of the loan for the purpose of refinancing an outstanding obligation of the recipient on another telecommunications loan made under this chapter, or on any other loan if that loan would have been for an eligible telecommunications purpose under this chapter.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title VII, § 703, as added Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, § 6209, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4743.)

CHAPTER 31A—TELEMEDICINE AND DISTANCE LEARNING SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

Sec.	
950aaa.	Purpose.
950aaa-1.	Definitions.
950aaa-2.	Telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas.
950aaa-3.	Administration.
950aaa-4.	Regulations.
950aaa-5.	Authorization of appropriations.

TERMINATION OF CHAPTER

For termination of chapter by section 1(b) of Pub. L. 102-551, see note set out under section 950aaa of this title.

§ 950aaa. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to encourage and improve telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2331, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, § 704, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1108.)

TERMINATION OF SECTION

For termination of section by section 1(b) of Pub. L. 102-551, see Termination of Chapter note set out below.

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 950aaa, Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2331, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4017, provided purposes of chapter, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 104-127.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

TERMINATION OF CHAPTER

Pub. L. 102-551, §1(b), Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 4100, as amended by Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, § 6203(b), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 421; Pub. L. 110-234, title VI, § 6201(c), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1206, and Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title VI, § 6201(c), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1967; Pub. L. 113-79, title VI, § 6201(b), Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 856; Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, § 6102(b), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4728, provided that: “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XXIII of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq.), including the amendments made by this section [enacting section 950aaa-5 of this title and amending section 950aaa-4 of this title], shall be effective until September 30, 2023.”

[The authorities provided by each provision of, and each amendment made by, Pub. L. 115-334, as in effect on Sept. 30, 2024, to continue, and authorities to be carried out, until the later of Sept. 30, 2025, the date specified in the provision of, or amendment made by, Pub. L. 115-334, or the date in effect pursuant to section 102 of Pub. L. 118-22 (7 U.S.C. 9001 note), see section 4101(a) of Pub. L. 118-158, set out in an Extension of Agricultural Programs note under section 9001 of this title.]

§ 950aaa-1. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) Construct

The term “construct” means to construct, acquire, install, improve, or extend a facility or system.

(2) Cost of money loan

The term “cost of money loan” means a loan made under this chapter bearing interest at a rate equal to the then current cost to the Federal Government of loans of similar maturity.

(3) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.