
**5. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVISIONS FROM FARM
SECURITY AND RURAL INVESTMENT ACT OF 2002**

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May 22, 2008

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TITLE VI OF THE FARM SECURITY AND RURAL INVESTMENT ACT OF 2002

[As Amended Through P.L. 110–246, Effective May 22, 2008]

(Public Law 107–171; May 13, 2002)

[Note: Only freestanding provisions of this title are included in this compilation. Most of the sections of this title amended other Acts.]

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TITLE VI—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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SEC. 6402. [7 U.S.C. 1621 note] AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a demonstration program under which agricultural producers are provided—

(1) technical assistance, consisting of engineering services, applied research, scale production, and similar services, to enable the agricultural producers to establish businesses to produce value-added agricultural commodities or products;

(2) assistance in marketing, market development, and business planning; and

(3) organizational, outreach, and development assistance to increase the viability, growth, and sustainability of businesses that produce value-added agricultural commodities or products.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **PROGRAM.**—The term “Program” means the Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program established under subsection (c).

¹This table of contents is up-to-date and is included for the convenience of the reader. The original table of contents for the title is found in section 1 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, but it has not been kept up-to-date.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a demonstration program, to be known as the “Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program” under which the Secretary shall—

(1) make grants to assist eligible entities in establishing Agriculture Innovation Centers to enable agricultural producers to obtain the assistance described in subsection (a); and

(2) provide assistance to eligible entities in establishing Agriculture Innovation Centers through the research and technical services of the Department of Agriculture.

(d) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An entity shall be eligible for a grant and assistance described in subsection (c) to establish an Agriculture Innovation Center if—

(A) the entity—

(i) has provided services similar to the services described in subsection (a); or

(ii) demonstrates the capability of providing such services;

(B) the application of the entity for the grant and assistance includes a plan, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary, that outlines—

(i) the support for the entity in the agricultural community;

(ii) the technical and other expertise of the entity; and

(iii) the goals of the entity for increasing and improving the ability of local agricultural producers to develop markets and processes for value-added agricultural commodities or products;

(C) the entity demonstrates that adequate resources (in cash or in kind) are available, or have been committed to be made available, to the entity, to increase and improve the ability of local agricultural producers to develop markets and processes for value-added agricultural commodities or products; and

(D) the Agriculture Innovation Center of the entity has a board of directors established in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—Each Agriculture Innovation Center of an eligible entity shall have a board of directors composed of representatives of each of the following groups:

(A) The 2 general agricultural organizations with the greatest number of members in the State in which the eligible entity is located.

(B) The department of agriculture, or similar State department or agency, of the State in which the eligible entity is located.

(C) Entities representing the 4 highest grossing commodities produced in the State, determined on the basis of annual gross cash sales.

(e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (i), under the Program, the Secretary shall make, on a competitive basis, annual grants to eligible entities.

(2) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.**—A grant under paragraph (1) shall be in an amount that does not exceed the lesser of—

(A) \$1,000,000; or

(B) twice the dollar amount of the resources (in cash or in kind) that the eligible entity demonstrates are available, or have been committed to be made available, to the eligible entity in accordance with subsection (d)(1)(C).

(3) **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF GRANTS.**—

(A) **FIRST FISCAL YEAR OF PROGRAM.**—In the first fiscal year of the Program, the Secretary shall make grants to not more than 5 eligible entities.

(B) **SECOND FISCAL YEAR OF PROGRAM.**—In the second fiscal year of the Program, the Secretary may make grants to—

(i) the eligible entities to which grants were made under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) not more than 10 additional eligible entities.

(4) **STATE LIMITATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), in the first 3 fiscal years of the Program, the Secretary shall not make a grant under the Program to more than 1 entity in any 1 State.

(B) **COLLABORATION.**—Nothing in subparagraph (A) precludes a recipient of a grant under the Program from collaborating with any other institution with respect to activities conducted using the grant.

(f) **USE OF FUNDS.**—An eligible entity to which a grant is made under the Program may use the grant only for the following purposes (but only to the extent that the use is not described in section 231(d) of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 106-224)):

(1) Applied research.

(2) Consulting services.

(3) Hiring of employees, at the discretion of the board of directors of the Agriculture Innovation Center of the eligible entity.

(4) The making of matching grants, each of which shall be in an amount not to exceed \$5,000, to agricultural producers, except that the aggregate amount of all such matching grants made by the eligible entity shall be not more than \$50,000.

(5) Legal services.

(6) Any other related cost, as determined by the Secretary.

(g) **RESEARCH ON EFFECTS ON THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amount made available under subsection (i) for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall use \$300,000 to support research at a university concerning the effects of projects for value-added agricultural commodities or products on agricultural producers and the commodity markets.

(2) **RESEARCH ELEMENTS.**—Research under paragraph (1) shall systematically examine, using linked, long-term, global projections of the agricultural sector, the potential effects of projects described in subparagraph (A) on—

- (A) demand for agricultural commodities;
- (B) market prices;
- (C) farm income; and
- (D) Federal outlays on commodity programs.

(h) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the last of the first 10 grants is made under the Program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on—

- (A) the effectiveness of the Program in improving and expanding the production of value-added agricultural commodities or products; and
- (B) the effects of the Program on the economic viability of agricultural producers.

(2) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall—

- (A) include a description of the best practices and innovations found at each of the Agriculture Innovation Centers established under the Program; and
- (B) specify the number and type of activities assisted, and the type of assistance provided, under the Program.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

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SEC. 6405. [7 U.S.C. 2655] RURAL FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term “emergency medical services” means resources used by a public or nonprofit entity to deliver medical care outside of a medical facility under emergency conditions that occur as a result of—

- (A) the condition of a patient; or
- (B) a natural disaster or related condition.

(2) INCLUSION.—The term “emergency medical services” includes services (whether compensated or volunteer) delivered by an emergency medical services provider or other provider recognized by the State involved that is licensed or certified by the State as—

- (A) an emergency medical technician or the equivalent (as determined by the State);
- (B) a registered nurse;
- (C) a physician assistant; or
- (D) a physician that provides services similar to services provided by such an emergency medical services provider.

(b) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities—

- (1) to enable the entities to provide for improved emergency medical services in rural areas; and
- (2) to pay the cost of training firefighters and emergency medical personnel in firefighting, emergency medical practices, and responding to hazardous materials and bioagents in rural areas.

(c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall—

(1) be—

- (A) a State emergency medical services office;
- (B) a State emergency medical services association;
- (C) a State office of rural health or an equivalent agency;

cy;

- (D) a local government entity;
- (E) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b));

(F) a State or local ambulance provider; or

(G) any other public or nonprofit entity determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

(2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, that includes—

(A) a description of the activities to be carried out under the grant; and

(B) an assurance that the applicant will comply with the matching requirement of subsection (f).

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity shall use amounts received under a grant made under subsection (b) only in a rural area—

(1) to hire or recruit emergency medical service personnel;

(2) to recruit or retain volunteer emergency medical service personnel;

(3) to train emergency medical service personnel in emergency response, injury prevention, safety awareness, or other topics relevant to the delivery of emergency medical services;

(4) to fund training to meet State or Federal certification requirements;

(5) to provide training for firefighters or emergency medical personnel for improvements to the training facility, equipment, curricula, or personnel;

(6) to develop new ways to educate emergency health care providers through the use of technology-enhanced educational methods (such as distance learning);

(7) to acquire emergency medical services vehicles, including ambulances;

(8) to acquire emergency medical services equipment, including cardiac defibrillators;

(9) to acquire personal protective equipment for emergency medical services personnel as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; or

(10) to educate the public concerning cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid, injury prevention, safety awareness, illness prevention, or other related emergency preparedness topics.

(e) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to—

(1) applications that reflect a collaborative effort by 2 or more of the entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of subsection (c)(1); and

(2) applications submitted by entities that intend to use amounts provided under the grant to fund activities described in any of paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (d).

(f) **MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary may not make a grant under this section to an entity unless the entity makes available (directly or through contributions from other public or private entities) non-Federal contributions toward the activities to be carried out under the grant in an amount equal to at least 5 percent of the amount received under the grant.

(g) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section not more than \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(2) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—Not more than 5 percent of the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year may be used for administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this section.

SEC. 6406. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON RURAL POLICY COORDINATION.

It is the sense of Congress that the President should—

(1) appoint a Special Assistant to the President for Rural Policy;

(2) designate within each Federal agency with jurisdiction over rural programs or activities 1 or more senior officers or employees to provide rural policy leadership for the agency; and

(3) create an intergovernmental rural policy working group comprised of—

(A) the Special Assistant to the President for Rural Policy, who should serve as Chairperson; and

(B) the senior officers and employees designated under paragraph (2).
