

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Risk Management Agency****Submission for OMB Review;  
Comment Request**

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *OIRA\_Submission@omb.eop.gov* or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602.

Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full affect if received within February 11, 2016. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Risk Management Agency**

*Title:* General Administrative Regulations; Interpretations of Statutory and Regulatory Provisions.

*OMB Control Number:* 0563-0055.

*Summary of Collection:* Section 533 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (1998 Research Act) requires the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) to publish regulation on how FCIC will provide a final agency determination in response

to certain inquiries. Consistent with section 506(r) of the Act and 7 CFR part 400, subpart X in accordance with the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended, FCIC revised section 20 of the Common Crop Insurance Policy Basic Provisions, published at 7 CFR 457.8, to require the FCIC to provide interpretations of policy provisions and procedures (handbooks, manuals, memoranda, and bulletins) when any dispute in mediation, arbitration, or litigation requires interpretation of a policy provision or procedure.

*Need and Use of the Information:* FCIC will use the requester's name and address to provide a response. Federal crop insurance is a national program with all producers receiving the same policy for the same crop and insurance providers are required to use procedures issued by FCIC in the service and adjustment of such policies to ensure that all producers are treated alike and none receive special benefits or treatment because of the crop they produce, the insurance provider that insures them, or who hears their disputes. FCIC issued Manager's Bulletin MGR-05-018 on October 7, 2005, to provide the criteria for requesting an interpretation of procedure to inquire about the meaning or applicability of procedure. The requirements for this collection are necessary for FCIC to provide an interpretation of statutory and regulatory provisions upon request. If the requested information is not collected with each submission, FCIC would not be able to comply with the statutory mandates.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit; Farms.

*Number of Respondents:* 32.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting; On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 256.

**Charlene Parker,**

*Departmental Information Clearance Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-08-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Rural Utilities Service****Announcement of Grant Application  
Deadlines and Funding Levels**

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA).

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), herein referred to as RUS or the Agency,

announces its Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program application window for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. This notice is being issued in order to allow potential applicants time to submit proposals and give the Agency time to process applications within the current fiscal year. RUS will publish on its Web site at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/newsroom/notices-solicitation-applications-nosas> the amount of funding received in the final appropriations act.

In addition to announcing the application window, RUS announces the minimum and maximum amounts for DLT grants applicable for the fiscal year. The DLT Grant Program regulation can be found at 7 part CFR 1703 (Subparts D through E).

**DATES:** Submit completed paper or electronic applications for grants according to the following deadlines:

- *Paper submissions:* Paper submissions must be postmarked and mailed, shipped, or sent overnight *no later* than March 14, 2016 to be eligible for FY 2016 grant funding. Late or incomplete applications will not be eligible for FY 2016 grant funding.

- *Electronic submissions:* Electronic submissions must be received no later than March 14, 2016 to be eligible for FY 2016 grant funding. Late or incomplete applications will not be eligible for FY 2016 grant funding.

- If the submission deadline falls on Saturday, Sunday, or a Federal holiday, the application is due the next business day.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the FY 2016 Application Guide and materials for the DLT Grant Program may be obtained through:

(1) The DLT Web site at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>, or

(2) The RUS Office of Loan Origination and Approval at (202) 720-0800.

*Completed applications may be submitted the following ways:*

(1) *Paper:* Mail paper applications to the Rural Utilities Service, Telecommunications Program, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 2808, STOP 1597, Washington, DC 20250-1597. Mark address with, "Attention: Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Loan Origination and Approval, Rural Utilities Service."

(2) *Electronic:* Submit electronic applications through Grants.gov. Information on electronic submission is available on the Grants.gov Web site (<http://www.grants.gov>) at any time, regardless of registration status.