

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Panel

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Call for nominations for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Panel.

SUMMARY: The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Panel (Panel) was renewed on September 16, 2019, to evaluate and provide recommendations on the selection of collaborative forest landscape restoration proposals to the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) for approval as provided in Section 8629 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. The Secretary has determined that the work of the Panel is in the public's interest and relevant to the duties of the Department of Agriculture. Therefore, the Secretary is seeking nominations to fill vacancies on the Panel. The Panel is a statutory committee. Additional information concerning the Panel can be found by visiting the Panel's website at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLRP/advisory-panel.shtml>.

DATES: Nominations must be received on or before November 14, 2019. Nominations must contain a completed application packet that includes the nominee's name, resume, references, and completed Form AD-755 (Advisory Committee or Research and Promotion Background Information). The package must be sent to the address below.

ADDRESSES: Send nominations and applications to Jessica Robertson, USDA Forest Service, Forest Management, Range Management and Vegetation Ecology, 201 14th Street SW, Room 3SW, Washington, DC 20024 by express mail or overnight courier service. If sent via the U.S. Postal Service, please send to the following address: USDA, Forest Service, Forest Management, National

Forest System, Mail Stop 1103, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-1123, or by email at jessica.robertson@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lindsay Buchanan, USDA, National Forest System, Forest Management, Range Management, and Vegetation Ecology, by phone at 503-808-2810 or by email at lindsay.buchanan@usda.gov, or contact Jessica Robertson, USDA, National Forest System, Forest Management, Range Management, and Vegetation Ecology, by phone at 202-205-0847 or by email at jessica.robertson@usda.gov. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The purpose of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program is to increase active management to improve forest health, reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, and promote jobs in rural economies through a process that:

- (1) Encourages ecological, economic, and social sustainability;
- (2) Leverages local resources with national and private resources;
- (3) Facilitates the reduction of wildfire management costs, including through reestablishing natural fire regimes and reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire; and
- (4) Demonstrates the degree to which:
 - (a) Various ecological restoration techniques;
 - (i) achieve ecological and watershed health objectives;
 - (ii) affect wildfire activity and management costs; and
 - (b) The use of forest restoration byproducts can offset treatment costs while benefiting local rural economies and improving forest health.

The duties of the Committee include:

1. Evaluating Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration project proposals with special consideration given to:
 - a. The strength of the proposal and strategy;
 - b. the strength of the ecological case of the proposal and the proposed ecological restoration strategies;
 - c. the strength of the collaborative process and the likelihood of successful

collaboration throughout implementation;

d. whether the proposal is likely to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire and reestablish natural fire regimes;

e. whether the proposal would use restoration byproducts to reduce the relative costs of carrying out ecological restoration treatments and benefit local economies; and

f. whether the proposal is in alignment with a shared stewardship approach, including leveraging an appropriate level of non-Federal investments.

2. Provide recommendations on each proposal to the Secretary of Agriculture through the Chief of the Forest Service.

Advisory Committee Organization

The Committee shall be comprised of no more than 15 members approved by the Secretary of Agriculture where each will serve a 2-year term, although appointments shall have staggered terms. The Committee membership will be fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented and functions to be performed. Non-Federal members of the Committee shall serve without pay, but will be reimbursed for reasonable costs incurred while performing duties on behalf of the Committee, subject to approval by the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The Committee shall include representation from experts in the following interest areas:

1. Ecological Restoration,
2. Fire Ecology,
3. Fire Management,
4. Rural Economic Development,
5. Strategies for Ecological Adaptation to Climate Change,
6. Fish and Wildlife Ecology, and
7. Woody Biomass and Small-Diameter Tree Utilization.

Of these members, one will become the Chairperson who is recognized for his/her ability to lead a group in a fair and focused manner and who has been briefed on the mission of this Committee. The Committee will meet on an annual basis or as needed. This will be determined by the Committee. Vacancies will be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

Nomination and Application Information

The appointment of members to the Committee will be made by the

Secretary of Agriculture. The public is invited to submit nominations for membership on the Committee, either self-nomination or nomination of any qualified and interested person. Any individual or organization may nominate one or more qualified persons to represent the interest areas listed above. To be considered for membership, nominees must:

1. Identify what interest area group listed above they would represent and how they are qualified to represent that interest group;

2. State why they want to serve on the Committee and what they can contribute;

3. Provide 2–3 references that may be contacts about the nominee's application;

4. Provide a resume showing their past experience in working successfully as part of a coordinating group; and

5. Complete Form AD-755, Advisory Committee or Research and Promotion Background Information. Form AD-755 may be obtained from the listed Forest Service contact persons or from the following websites: <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-755> or <https://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLRP/advisory-panel.shtml>.

Letters of recommendation are welcome. All nominations will be vetted by the Agency. Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA policies shall be followed in all membership appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall, to the extent practicable, include individuals with demonstrated ability to represent all racial and ethnic groups, women and men, and persons with disabilities.

Dated: October 7, 2019.

Cikena Reid,

USDA Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2019-22341 Filed 10-11-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3411-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Solicitation of Applications for the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the solicitation of applications for funds

available under the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program (the Program) to provide guaranteed loans to fund the development, construction, and retrofitting of commercial scale biorefineries using eligible technology and of Biobased product manufacturing facilities that use technologically new commercial scale processing and manufacturing equipment to convert renewable chemicals and other biobased outputs of biorefineries into end-user products, on a commercial scale.

DATES: With this Notice, the Agency is announcing two separate application cycles, as is provided which are application closing dates of 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, October 1, 2019, and 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, April 1, 2020.

Applications must be received in the USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Energy Programs no later than 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time of the application closing date to compete for program funds. Any application received after 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time of the application closing date will be considered for the subsequent application cycle, provided that funding is available.

ADDRESSES: Applications and forms may be obtained from:

- USDA, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Energy Programs, Attention: Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 6901-S, Washington, DC 20250-3225.

- *Agency Website:* Application materials can be obtained from the Agency's website. <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/biorefinery-assistance-program>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Aaron Morris, Assistant Deputy Administrator, USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Energy Programs, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 6901-S, Washington, DC 20250-3225. Telephone: 202-720-1501. Email: Aaron.Morris@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Preface

The Agency encourages applications that will support recommendations made in the Rural Prosperity Task Force report to help improve life in rural America (www.usda.gov/ruralprosperity). Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic

investments in infrastructure, partnerships, and innovation. Key strategies include:

- Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America
- Developing the Rural Economy
- Harnessing Technological Innovation
- Supporting a Rural Workforce
- Improving Quality of Life

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the information collection requirements associated with the Program, as covered in this Notice, have been approved by the Office of Management Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0570-0065.

Overview

Federal Agency Name: Rural Business-Cooperative Service (an Agency of USDA in the Rural Development mission area).

Solicitation Opportunity Title: Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program.

Announcement Type: Notice of Solicitation of Applications.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: The CFDA number for this Notice is 10.865.

Dates: Applications must be received in the USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Energy Programs no later than the application closing dates of 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, October 1, 2019, and 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, April 1, 2020. Any application received after 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time of the application closing date will be considered for the subsequent application cycle, provided that funding is available.

Availability of Notice and Rule: This Notice and the interim rule for the Program are available on the USDA Rural Development website at: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/biorefinery-assistance-program>.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Purpose of the Program. The purpose of the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program is to assist in the development of new and emerging technologies for the development of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, or biobased product manufacturing. This is achieved through guarantees for loans made to fund the development, construction, and retrofitting of commercial scale biorefineries using eligible technology and of biobased product manufacturing facilities that use technologically new commercial scale processing and