

# Notices

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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.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

January 6, 2021.

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 are requested regarding; 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; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and 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.

Comments regarding this information collection received by February 10, 2021 will be considered. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

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.

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

*Title:* Importation of Animals and Poultry, Animal and Poultry Products, Certain Animal Embryos, Semen, and Zoological Animals.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579–0040.

*Summary of Collection:* The Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA) of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8301), is the primary Federal law governing the protection of animal health. The law gives the Secretary of Agriculture broad authority to detect, control, or eradicate pests or diseases of livestock or poultry. The agency charged with carrying out this disease prevention mission is the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Disease prevention is the most effective method for maintain a healthy animal population and enhancing APHIS' ability to compete globally in animal and animal product trade. APHIS' Veterinary Services (VS) unit is responsible for, among other things, preventing the introduction of foreign or certain other communicable animal diseases into the United States; and for rapidly identifying, containing, eradicating, or otherwise mitigating such diseases when feasible. In connection with this mission, APHIS collects information from individuals, businesses, and farms who are involved with importation of animals or poultry, animal or poultry products, or animal germplasm (semen, oocysts, and embryos, including eggs for hatching) into the United States as well as from foreign countries and States to support these imports.

*Need and Use of the Information:* APHIS will collect information from foreign animal health authorities as well as U.S. importers; foreign exporters; veterinarians and animal health technicians in other countries; State animal health authorities; shippers; owners and operators of foreign processing plants and farms; USDA-approved zoos, laboratories, and feedlots; private quarantine facilities; and other entities involved (directly or indirectly) in the importation of animal and poultry, animals and poultry products, zoological animals, and animal germplasm.

*Information Collection Activities Include:* Agreements; permits; application and space reservation

requests; inspections; registers; declarations of importation; requests for hearings; daily logs; additional requirements; application for permits; export health certificates; letters; written notices; daily record of horse activities; written requests; opportunities to present views; reporting; applications for approval of facilities; certifications; arrival notices; on-hold shipment notifications; reports; affidavits; animal identification; written plans; checklists; specimen submissions; emergency action notifications; refusal of entry and order to dispose of fish; premises information; recordkeeping; application of seals; reports; testing submission forms; summaries; identification and certification; and notices. APHIS needs this information to help ensure that these imports do not introduce foreign animal diseases into the United States.

*Description of Respondents:* Foreign federal governments; state, local, and tribal governments; business or other for-profit and not-for-profits; farms; and individuals and households.

*Number of Respondents:* 12,864.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion; Recordkeeping.

*Total Burden Hours:* 462,503.

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

*Title:* Bees and Related Articles.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579–0207.

*Summary of Collection:* The Plant Protection Act (APA) (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, or interstate movement of plants, plant products, and other articles to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States or their dissemination within the United States.

Under the Honeybee Act (7 U.S.C. 281–286), the Secretary is authorized to prohibit or restrict the importation of honeybees and honeybee semen to prevent the introduction into the United States of diseases and parasites harmful to honeybees and of undesirable species and subspecies of honeybees. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), is responsible for implementing the intent of these Acts, and does so through the enforcement of its pollinator and bee regulations.

*Need and Use of the Information:* APHIS collects information from a variety of individuals who are involved

in breeding, exporting, importing, and containing bees and related articles. The information APHIS collects serves as the supporting documentation needed to issue required PPQ forms and documents that allow importation of bees and related articles or authorizes the release of bees. This documentation is vital to helping APHIS ensure that exotic bee diseases and parasites, and undesirable species and subspecies of honeybees, do not spread into or within the United States. Without the information, APHIS could not verify that imported bees and related articles do not present a significant risk of introducing exotic bee disease, parasites, and undesirable species and subspecies of honeybees.

*Description of Respondents:*

Businesses or other-for-profit; Foreign Federal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 18.

*Frequency of Responses:*

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 54.

**Ruth Brown,**

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Rural Business-Cooperative Service**

**Rural Housing Service**

**Rural Utilities Service**

[Docket No. RBS-20-BUSINESS-0040]

**Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) for the Strategic Economic and Community Development Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021**

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Agriculture Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) re-authorized the Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) priority with some modifications. Section 6401 of the 2018 Farm Bill enables the Secretary of Agriculture to prioritize projects that support multi-jurisdictional and multi-sectoral strategic community investment plans, recently included in the existing regulation in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, the Agency implements SECD through reserving funds from covered program's appropriations. The purpose of this notice is to provide requirements to applicants submitting applications for

the covered programs' reserved funds and to establish the above mentioned priority.

**DATES:** To apply for SECD priority points and funding in FY 2021, applicants must submit Form RD 1980-88, "Strategic Economic and Community Development (Section 6401)," to the appropriate covered program by the deadline established for receipt of applications within individual covered programs as established on the Agency website or in the program's **Federal Register** Notice. All applicants are responsible for any additional expenses incurred in preparing and submitting applications.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit applications to the USDA Rural Development Office servicing the area where the project is located. A list of the USDA Rural Development Offices can be found listed by state at: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>. If you have been assigned a OneRD Loan Guarantee Initiative Customer Relationship Manager (CRM), please submit applications to them.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For more information, please contact your respective Rural Development State Office listed here: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/browse-state>.

Or if you have been assigned a OneRD Loan Guarantee Initiative CRM, please contact them.

For all other inquiries, contact: Greg Batson, Rural Development Innovation Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 0793, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-0783, Telephone: (573) 239-2945. Email: [gregory.batson@usda.gov](mailto:gregory.batson@usda.gov).

A checklist of all required application information for regional planning priority can be found at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/strategic-economic-and-community-development>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Agriculture Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) re-authorized the Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) priority with some modifications. Section 6401 of the 2018 Farm Bill enables the Secretary of Agriculture to prioritize projects that support multi-jurisdictional and multi-sectoral strategic community investment plans. These changes were implemented in a recent amendment to 7 CFR 1980 subpart K, which was published in the **Federal Register** on September 22, 2020. In FY 2021, the Agency implements SECD through reserving funds from covered programs' appropriations. This notice provides requirements to

applicants submitting applications for the covered programs' reserved funds and establishes the above-mentioned priority effective upon the publication of this notice.

**Priority Language for Funding Opportunities**

The Agency encourages applications that will help improve life in rural America. See information on the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity found at: [www.usda.gov/ruralprosperity](http://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.

Key strategies include:

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

To leverage investments in rural property, the Agency also encourages projects located in rural Opportunity Zones where projects should provide measurable results in helping communities build robust and sustainable economies. An Opportunity Zone is an economically-distressed community where new investments, under certain conditions, may be eligible for preferential tax treatment. Localities qualify as Opportunity Zones if they have been nominated for that designation by the State and that nomination has been certified by the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury via his delegation of authority to the Internal Revenue Service.

To combat a key threat to economic prosperity, rural workforce, and quality of life, the Agency encourages applications that will support the Administration's goal to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with Substance Use Disorder (including opioid misuse) in high-risk rural communities by strengthening the capacity to address prevention, treatment, and/or recovery at the community, county, State, and/or regional levels. See <https://www.cdc.gov/pwld/vulnerable-counties-data.html>.

Key strategies include:

- Prevention: Reducing the occurrence of Substance Use Disorder (including opioid misuse) and fatal substance-related overdoses through community and provider education and harm reduction measures such as the strategic placement of overdose reversing devices, such as naloxone;