

Recipients on race, sex, and national origin and also ensure that Ultimate Recipients collect and maintain this data. Race and ethnicity data will be collected in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) **Federal Register** notice, "Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity" (62 FR 58782), October 30, 1997. Sex data will be collected in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. These items should not be submitted with the application but should be made available upon request by the Agency.

The applicant and the Ultimate Recipients must comply with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Executive Order 12250, Executive Order 13166 Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and 7 CFR part 1901, subpart E.

#### G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For general questions about this notice see the point of contact provided in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

#### H. Build America, Buy America Act

**Funding to Non-Federal Entities.** Awardees that are Non-Federal Entities, defined pursuant to 2 CFR 200.1 as any State, local government, Indian Tribe, Institution of Higher Education, or nonprofit organization, shall be governed by the requirements of section 70914 of the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117–58). Any requests for waiver of these requirements must be submitted pursuant to USDA's guidance available online at <https://www.usda.gov/ocfo/federal-financial-assistance-policy/USDABuyAmericaWaiver>.

#### I. Other Information

1. **Paperwork Reduction Act.** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the information collection requirements associated with the programs, as covered in this notice, have been approved by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0570–0021.

2. **National Environmental Policy Act:** All recipients under this Notice are subject to the requirements of 7 CFR part 1970 and must comply in accordance with 7 CFR 4274.305(b).

3. **Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act.** All applicants, in accordance with 2 CFR part 25, must be registered in SAM and have a UEI number as stated in Section D.3. of this notice. All recipients of Federal financial assistance are required to report information about first-tier sub-awards and executive total compensation in accordance with 2 CFR part 170.

4. **Civil Rights Act.** All loans made under this notice are subject to title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as required by USDA (7 CFR part 15, subpart A—Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Agriculture—Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, title IX, Executive Order 13166 (Limited English Proficiency), Executive Order 11246, and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974.

5. **Nondiscrimination Statement.** In accordance with Federal civil rights laws and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Mission Areas, agencies, staff offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Mission Area, agency, or staff office or the 711 Relay Service.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form AD–3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632–9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in

sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD–3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(1) **Mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–9410; or,

(2) **Fax:** (833) 256–1665 or (202) 690–7442; or

(3) **Email:** [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).  
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**Karama Neal,**

*Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA Rural Development.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410–XY–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

[Docket #: RBS–22–BUSINESS–0029]

#### Notice of Processing Timeline Change for the Rural Energy for America Program for Fiscal Year 2023

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (the Agency) is issuing a notice of the Agency's intention to remove the self-imposed restriction that all Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 applications that were submitted under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) prior to June 30, 2023, and were not funded in the national unrestricted pooling competitions, must be withdrawn.

**DATES:** This notice is effective September 14, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jonathan Burns, Program Management Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 774–678–7238 or email [CPgrants@usda.gov](mailto:CPgrants@usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Agency published two funding opportunity notices and a correction notice in the **Federal Register** for REAP for FY23. The first notice published December 16, 2022 (87 FR 77059), the second notice on March 31, 2023 (88 FR 19239), and the correction notice published May 31, 2023 (88 FR 34823). The two funding notices state that obligations will take place through

September 30, 2023, and complete and eligible applications which were not funded in the national unrestricted pooling must be withdrawn. The Agency is removing the self-imposed deadline on the national unrestricted pooling competitions for FY23 due to the overwhelming response to REAP for FY 2023. The Agency will continue processing applications received by June 30, 2023, into the first quarter of FY 2024 for participation in these national competitions. Unfunded applications from the national competitions will not be moved into the next FY 2024 funding cycle and must be withdrawn.

**Karama Neal,**

*Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

[Docket #: RBS-23-BUSINESS-0012]

#### Notice of Solicitation of Applications for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program for Fiscal Year 2024

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS or Agency), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development (RD), is making an initial announcement to invite applications for loans and grants under the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP) for fiscal year (FY) 2024, subject to the availability of funding. This notice is being issued prior to the passage of a FY 2024 Appropriations Act, which may or may not provide funding for this program, in order to allow applicants sufficient time to leverage financing, prepare and submit their applications, and give the Agency time to process applications within FY 2024. Based on FY 2023 appropriated funding, the Agency estimates that approximately \$29,000,000 will be available for FY 2024. Successful applications will be selected by the Agency for funding and subsequently awarded to the extent that funding may ultimately be made available through appropriations. All applicants are responsible for any expenses incurred in developing their

applications or any costs incurred prior to the obligation date.

**DATES:** The deadlines for completed applications to be received in the RD State Office for quarterly funding competitions are no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on: First Quarter, September 30, 2023; Second Quarter, December 31, 2023; Third Quarter, March 31, 2024; and Fourth Quarter, June 30, 2024. If the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the application is due the next business day.

The subsequent microlender technical assistance grant (existing Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs) with a microentrepreneur revolving loan fund) will be made, non-competitively, based on the microlender's microlending activity and availability of funds. To determine the microlender technical assistance grant awards for FY2024, if available, the Agency will use the microlender's outstanding balance of microloans as of June 30, 2024, to calculate the eligible grant amount. MDOs that are in compliance with the terms of their loan agreement may apply for this annual grant.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications must be submitted electronically to the RD State Office for the State where the project is located. Applicants are encouraged to contact their respective RD State Office for an email contact to submit an electronic application prior to the submission deadline date(s). A list of the RD State Office contacts can be found at: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>. This funding opportunity will be made available for informational purposes on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shamika Johnson at [shamika.johnson@usda.gov](mailto:shamika.johnson@usda.gov), Program Management Division, Business Programs, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 3226, Room 5160-S, Washington, DC 20250-3226, or call (202) 720-1400. For further information on this notice, please contact the RD State Office in the State in which the applicant's headquarters is located. A list of RD State Office contacts is provided at the following link: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Overview

*Federal Awarding Agency Name:* Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS).

*Funding Opportunity Title:* Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP).

*Announcement Type:* Notice of Solicitation of Application (NOSA).

*Funding Opportunity Number:* RD-RBCS-24-RMAP.

*Assistance Listing:* 10.870.

*Dates:* The deadlines for completed applications to be received in the RD State Office for quarterly funding competitions are no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on: First Quarter, September 30, 2023; Second Quarter, December 31, 2023; Third Quarter, March 31, 2024, and Fourth Quarter, June 30, 2024.

*Rural Development Key Priorities:* The Agency encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities (more details available at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/priority-points>):

- Assisting rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure;
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to RD programs and benefits from RD funded projects; and
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.

#### A. Program Description

1. *Purpose of the Program.* The purpose of RMAP is to support the development and ongoing success of rural microentrepreneurs and microenterprises, each as defined in 7 CFR 4280.302. RMAP provides the following types of support: loan only, combination loan and technical assistance grant, and subsequent technical assistance grants to microenterprise development organizations (MDOs). Loan funds are used by the MDO to establish or recapitalize a revolving loan program for making microloans to a rural microentrepreneur business. Grant funds are used by the MDO to provide technical assistance and entrepreneurship training to rural individuals and businesses.

2. *Statutory and Regulatory Authority.* RMAP is authorized by Section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Pub. L. 87-128), as amended, and is codified as 7 U.S.C. 2008s and implemented by 7 CFR part 4280, subpart D.

3. *Definitions.* The definitions applicable to this notice are published at 7 CFR 4280.302.

4. *Application Awards.* The Agency will review, evaluate, and score applications received in response to this