

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110-246, §7511(c)(13), substituted “the National Institute of Food and Agriculture” for “the Cooperative State Research Service, the Extension Service”.

2002—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-171 substituted “2007” for “2002”.

1998—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-185, §301(a)(14), substituted “2002” for “1997”.

Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 105-185, §606(a), made technical amendment to directory language of Pub. L. 104-127, §819(b)(5). See 1996 Amendment note below.

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-127, §819(a), (b)(1), substituted “1997” for “1995” and struck out “and pilot” after “research”.

Subsec. (c)(2)(B). Pub. L. 104-127, §819(b)(2), struck out “at pilot sites in areas adversely affected by declining demand for crops grown in the area” after “alternative crops”.

Subsec. (c)(2)(C). Pub. L. 104-127, §819(b)(3), struck out “from pilot sites” after “research”.

Subsec. (c)(2)(D). Pub. L. 104-127, §819(b)(4), struck out “near such pilot sites” after “facilities” and “pilot” after “successful”.

Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 104-127, §819(b)(5), as amended by Pub. L. 105-185, §606(a), struck out “pilot” before “program” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c)(3)(E), (F). Pub. L. 104-127, §819(c), added subpars. (E) and (F).

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-624 substituted “1995” for “1990”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Amendment of this section and repeal of Pub. L. 110-234 by Pub. L. 110-246 effective May 22, 2008, the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110-234, except as otherwise provided, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as an Effective Date note under section 8701 of this title.

Amendment by section 7511(c)(13) of Pub. L. 110-246 effective Oct. 1, 2009, see section 7511(c) of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as a note under section 1522 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 105-185, title VI, §606(a), June 23, 1998, 112 Stat. 603, provided that the amendment made by section 606(a) is effective Apr. 6, 1996.

§ 3319e. New Era Rural Technology Program

(a) Definition of community college

In this section, the term “community college” means an institution of higher education (as defined in section 1001 of title 20)—

(1) that admits as regular students individuals who—

(A) are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State in which the institution is located; and

(B) have the ability to benefit from the training offered by the institution;

(2) that does not provide an educational program for which the institution awards a bachelor’s degree or an equivalent degree; and

(3) that—

(A) provides an educational program of not less than 2 years that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree; or

(B) offers a 2-year program in engineering, technology, mathematics, or the physical, chemical, or biological sciences, designed to prepare a student to work as a technician or at the semiprofessional level in engineering, scientific, or other technological fields requiring the understanding and application of basic engineering, scientific, or mathematical principles of knowledge.

(b) Functions

(1) Establishment

(A) In general

The Secretary shall establish a program to be known as the “New Era Rural Technology Program”, to make grants available for technology development, applied research, and training to aid in the development of an agriculture-based renewable energy workforce.

(B) Support

The initiative under this section shall support the fields of—

- (i) bioenergy;
- (ii) pulp and paper manufacturing; and
- (iii) agriculture-based renewable energy resources.

(2) Requirements for funding

To receive funding under this section, an entity shall—

(A) be a community college or advanced technological center, located in a rural area and in existence on the date of the enactment of this section, that participates in agricultural or bioenergy research and applied research;

(B) have a proven record of development and implementation of programs to meet the needs of students, educators, and business and industry to supply the agriculture-based, renewable energy or pulp and paper manufacturing fields with certified technicians, as determined by the Secretary; and

(C) have the ability to leverage existing partnerships and occupational outreach and training programs for secondary schools, 4-year institutions, and relevant nonprofit organizations.

(c) Grant priority

In providing grants under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to eligible entities working in partnership—

- (1) to improve information-sharing capacity; and
- (2) to maximize the ability to meet the requirements of this section.

(d) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(Pub. L. 95-113, title XIV, §1473E, as added Pub. L. 110-234, title VII, §7137, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1229, and Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title VII, §7137, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1990.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of the enactment of this section, referred to in subsec. (b)(2)(A), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110-246, which was approved June 18, 2008.

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 enacted identical sections. Pub. L. 110-234 was repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 3319e, Pub. L. 95-113, title XIV, §1473E, as added Pub. L. 101-220, §5, Dec. 12, 1989, 103 Stat. 1878,

related to research into new commercial products from natural plant materials, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-237, title IV, § 402(14), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1863.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Enactment of this section and repeal of Pub. L. 110-234 by Pub. L. 110-246 effective May 22, 2008, the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110-234, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as a note under section 8701 of this title.

§ 3319f. Beginning farmer and rancher development program

(a) Definition of beginning farmer or rancher

In this section, the term “beginning farmer or rancher” means a person that—

- (1)(A) has not operated a farm or ranch; or
- (B) has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years; and

(2) meets such other criteria as the Secretary may establish.

(b) Program

The Secretary shall establish a beginning farmer and rancher development program to provide training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers or ranchers.

(c) Grants

(1) In general

In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall make competitive grants to support new and established local and regional training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers or ranchers, including programs and services (as appropriate) relating to—

- (A) mentoring, apprenticeships, and internships;
- (B) resources and referral;
- (C) assisting beginning farmers or ranchers in acquiring land from retiring farmers and ranchers;
- (D) innovative farm and ranch transfer strategies;
- (E) entrepreneurship and business training;
- (F) model land leasing contracts;
- (G) financial management training;
- (H) whole farm planning;
- (I) conservation assistance;
- (J) risk management education;
- (K) diversification and marketing strategies;
- (L) curriculum development;
- (M) understanding the impact of concentration and globalization;
- (N) basic livestock and crop farming practices;
- (O) the acquisition and management of agricultural credit;
- (P) environmental compliance;
- (Q) information processing; and
- (R) other similar subject areas of use to beginning farmers or ranchers.

(2) Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, the recipient shall be a collaborative State, tribal, local, or regionally-based network or partnership of public or private entities, which may include—

- (A) a State cooperative extension service;
- (B) a Federal, State, or tribal agency;
- (C) a community-based and nongovernmental organization;
- (D) a college or university (including an institution awarding an associate's degree) or foundation maintained by a college or university; or
- (E) any other appropriate partner, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) Maximum term and size of grant

(A) In general

A grant under this subsection shall—

- (i) have a term that is not more than 3 years; and
- (ii) be in an amount that is not more than \$250,000 for each year.

(B) Consecutive grants

An eligible recipient may receive consecutive grants under this subsection.

(4) Matching requirement

To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, a recipient shall provide a match in the form of cash or in-kind contributions in an amount equal to 25 percent of the funds provided by the grant.

(5) Evaluation criteria

In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall evaluate—

- (A) relevancy;
- (B) technical merit;
- (C) achievability;
- (D) the expertise and track record of 1 or more applicants;
- (E) the adequacy of plans for the participatory evaluation process, outcome-based reporting, and the communication of findings and results beyond the immediate target audience; and
- (F) other appropriate factors, as determined by the Secretary.

(6) Regional balance

In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure geographical diversity.

(7) Priority

In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to partnerships and collaborations that are led by or include nongovernmental and community-based organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach.

(8) Set-aside

Not less than 25 percent of funds used to carry out this subsection for a fiscal year shall be used to support programs and services that address the needs of—

- (A) limited resource beginning farmers or ranchers (as defined by the Secretary);
- (B) socially disadvantaged beginning farmers or ranchers (as defined in section 2003(e) of this title); and
- (C) farmworkers desiring to become farmers or ranchers.

(9) Prohibition

A grant made under this subsection may not be used for the planning, repair, rehabilita-