

from Federal forest lands, and these forests have played an important role in sustaining local economies.

“(b) EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY.—During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 31, 1994] and ending on September 30, 1998, the terms ‘rural’ and ‘rural area’, as used in the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.), shall include any town, city, or municipality—

“(1) part or all of which lies within 100 miles of the boundary of a national forest covered by the Federal document entitled ‘Forest Plan for a Sustainable Economy and a Sustainable Environment’, dated July 1, 1993;

“(2) that is located in a county in which at least 15 percent of the total primary and secondary labor and proprietor income is derived from forestry, wood products, or forest-related industries such as recreation and tourism; and

“(3) that has a population of not more than 25,000 inhabitants.

“(c) EFFECT ON STATE ALLOTMENTS OF FUNDS.—This section shall not be taken into consideration in allotting funds to the various States for purposes of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.), or otherwise affect or alter the manner under which such funds were allotted to States before the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 31, 1994].”

RURAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM

Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2324, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4013, directed Secretary to establish national rural wastewater circuit rider grant program that was to be modeled after existing National Rural Water Association Rural Water Circuit Rider Program that received funding from Farmers Home Administration and authorized \$4,000,000 for each fiscal year to carry out such program, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §703, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1108.

INTEREST RATE RESTRUCTURING FOR CERTAIN BORROWERS

Pub. L. 100-233, title VI, §615(b)(2), Jan. 6, 1988, 101 Stat. 1682, provided that: “Effective July 29, 1987, the interest rate charged on any loan of \$2,000,000 or more made on such date under section 306 [7 U.S.C. 1926] to any nonprofit corporation shall be the interest rate quoted to such nonprofit corporation by the Farmers Home Administration on June 22, 1987, in the request for obligation of funds made with respect to the loan.”

LEASE OF CERTAIN ACQUIRED PROPERTY

Pub. L. 100-233, title VI, §620, Jan. 6, 1988, 101 Stat. 1684, provided that: “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture may lease to public or private nonprofit organizations, for a nominal rent, any facilities acquired in connection with the disposition of a loan made by the Secretary under section 306 [7 U.S.C. 1926]. Any such lease shall be for such reasonable period of time as the Secretary determines is appropriate.”

§ 1926-1. Repealed. Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, § 702, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1108

Section, Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2322, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4010; Pub. L. 102-237, title VII, §702(f), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1880; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §235(b)(6), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3222, related to water and waste facility financing, including provisions relating to authority, limitation, priority, coordination, terms, private sector capital, appropriations, repayment, full use, and replenishment of water and waste facility fund.

§ 1926a. Emergency and imminent community water assistance grant program

(a) In general

The Secretary shall provide grants in accordance with this section to assist the residents of rural areas and small communities to secure adequate quantities of safe water—

(1) after a significant decline in the quantity or quality of water available from the water supplies of such rural areas and small communities, or when such a decline is imminent; or

(2) when repairs, partial replacement, or significant maintenance efforts on established water systems would remedy—

(A) an acute, or imminent, shortage of quality water; or

(B) a significant decline, or imminent decline, in the quantity or quality of water that is available.

(b) Priority

In carrying out subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) give priority to projects described in subsection (a)(1) of this section; and

(2) provide at least 70 percent of all such grants to such projects.

(c) Eligibility

To be eligible to obtain a grant under this section, an applicant shall—

(1) be a public or private nonprofit entity; and

(2) in the case of a grant made under subsection (a)(1) of this section, demonstrate to the Secretary that the decline referred to in such subsection occurred, or will occur, within 2 years of the date the application was filed for such grant.

(d) Uses

(1) In general

Grants made under this section may be used—

(A) for waterline extensions from existing systems, laying of new waterlines, repairs, significant maintenance, digging of new wells, equipment replacement, and hook and tap fees;

(B) for any other appropriate purpose associated with developing sources of, treating, storing, or distributing water;

(C) to assist communities in complying with the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.); and

(D) to provide potable water to communities through other means.

(2) Joint proposals

Nothing in this section shall preclude rural communities from submitting joint proposals for emergency water assistance, subject to the restrictions contained in subsection (e) of this section. Such restrictions should be considered in the aggregate, depending on the number of communities involved.

(e) Restrictions

(1) Maximum population and income

No grant provided under this section shall be used to assist any rural area or community that—

(A) includes any area in any city or town with a population in excess of 10,000 inhabitants according to the most recent decennial census of the United States; or

(B) has a median household income in excess of the State nonmetropolitan median household income according to the most recent decennial census of the United States.

(2) Set-aside for smaller communities

Not less than 50 percent of the funds allocated under this section shall be allocated to rural communities with populations that do not exceed 3,000 inhabitants.

(f) Maximum grants

Grants made under this section may not exceed—

(1) in the case of each grant made under subsection (a)(1) of this section, \$500,000; and

(2) in the case of each grant made under subsection (a)(2) of this section, \$150,000.

(g) Full funding

Subject to subsection (e) of this section, grants under this section shall be made in an amount equal to 100 percent of the costs of the projects conducted under this section.

(h) Application

(1) Nationally competitive application process

The Secretary shall develop a nationally competitive application process to award grants under this section. The process shall include criteria for evaluating applications, including population, median household income, and the severity of the decline, or imminent decline, in quantity or quality of water.

(2) Timing of review of applications

(A) Simplified application

The application process developed by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall include a simplified application form that will permit expedited consideration of an application for a grant filed under this section.

(B) Priority review

In processing applications for any water or waste grant or loan authorized under this chapter, the Secretary shall afford priority processing to an application for a grant under this section to the extent funds will be available for an award on the application at the conclusion of priority processing.

(C) Timing

The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, review and act on an application under this section within 60 days after the date on which the application is submitted to the Secretary.

(i) Funding

(1) Reservation

(A) In general

For each fiscal year, not less than 3 nor more than 5 percent of the total amount made available to carry out section 1926(a)(2) of this title for the fiscal year shall be reserved for grants under this section.

(B) Release

Funds reserved under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year shall be reserved only until July 1 of the fiscal year.

(2) Authorization of appropriations

In addition to funds made available under paragraph (1), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, § 306A, as added Pub. L. 101-82, title V, § 501(a), Aug. 14, 1989, 103 Stat. 584; amended Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, § 742, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1124; Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, § 6009, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 356; Pub. L. 110-234, title VI, § 6008, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1163; Pub. L. 110-246, § 4(a), title VI, § 6008, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1924.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, referred to in subsec. (d)(1)(C), is act June 30, 1948, ch. 758, as amended generally by Pub. L. 92-500, § 2, Oct. 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 816, which is classified generally to chapter 26 (§ 1251 et seq.) of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1251 of Title 33 and Tables.

The Safe Drinking Water Act, referred to in subsec. (d)(1)(C), is title XIV of act July 1, 1944, as added Dec. 16, 1974, Pub. L. 93-523, § 2(a), 88 Stat. 1660, as amended, which is classified generally to subchapter XII (§ 300f et seq.) of chapter 6A of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 201 of Title 42 and Tables.

For definition of “this chapter”, referred to in subsec. (h)(2)(B), see note set out under section 1921 of this title.

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 made identical amendments to this section. The amendments by Pub. L. 110-234 were repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (i)(2). Pub. L. 110-246, § 6008, substituted “2008 through 2012” for “2003 through 2007”.

2002—Pub. L. 107-171, § 6009(1), inserted “and imminent” before “community water assistance” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 107-171, § 6009(2)(A), inserted “, or when such a decline is imminent” before semicolon at end.

Subsec. (a)(2)(A). Pub. L. 107-171, § 6009(2)(B)(i), substituted “acute, or imminent,” for “acute”.

Subsec. (a)(2)(B). Pub. L. 107-171, § 6009(2)(B)(ii), substituted “decline, or imminent decline,” for “decline”.

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 107-171, § 6009(3), substituted “occurred, or will occur,” for “occurred”.

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 107-171, § 6009(4), added par. (1) and struck out heading and text of former par. (1). Text read as follows: “Grants made under this section may be used for waterline extensions from existing systems, laying of new waterlines, repairs, significant maintenance, digging of new wells, equipment replacement, hook and tap fees, and any other appropriate purpose associated with developing sources of, or treating, storing, or distributing water, and to assist communities in complying with the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.).”

Subsec. (f)(2). Pub. L. 107-171, § 6009(5), substituted “\$150,000” for “\$75,000”.

Subsec. (h)(1). Pub. L. 107-171, § 6009(6)(A), substituted “decline, or imminent decline,” for “decline” in second sentence.

Subsec. (h)(2). Pub. L. 107-171, § 6009(6)(B), added par. (2) and struck out heading and text of former par. (2). Text read as follows: “The Secretary shall make every effort to review and act on applications within 60 days of the date that such applications are submitted.”

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 107-171, § 6009(7), added subsec. (i) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (i). Text read as follows: "There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1996 through 2002."

1996—Subsec. (e)(1)(A). Pub. L. 104-127, § 742(1)(A), substituted "10,000" for "15,000".

Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 104-127, § 742(1)(B), substituted "3,000" for "5,000".

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 104-127, § 742(2), added subsec. (i) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (i). Text read as follows: "There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$35,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1990 and 1991, such sums to remain authorized until fully appropriated."

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, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as an Effective Date note under section 8701 of this title.

IMPLEMENTATION

Pub. L. 101-82, title V, § 501(b), Aug. 14, 1989, 103 Stat. 585, provided that:

"(1) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall publish—

"(A) interim final regulations to carry out section 306A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act [7 U.S.C. 1926a] (as added by subsection (a) of this section) not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 14, 1989]; and

"(B) final regulations to carry out section 306A of such Act not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

"(2) FUNDS.—

"(A) OBLIGATION.—The Secretary shall designate 70 percent of the funds made available for the first fiscal year for which appropriations are made under section 306A(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act not later than 5 months after the date such funds are appropriated.

"(B) RELEASE.—The Secretary may release funds prior to the issuance of final regulations under paragraph (1)(B) for grants under section 306A(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act."

§ 1926b. Repealed. Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, § 743, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1125

Section, Pub. L. 87-128, title III, § 306B, as added Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2326(a), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4014, related to emergency community water assistance grant program, including general provisions and provisions relating to priority, eligibility, uses, restrictions, maximum grants, full funding, application, and limitations on authorization of appropriations.

§ 1926c. Water and waste facility loans and grants to alleviate health risks

(a) Loans and grants to persons other than individuals

(1) In general

The Secretary shall make or insure loans and make grants to rural water supply corporations, cooperatives, or similar entities, Indian tribes on Federal and State reservations and other federally recognized Indian tribes, and public agencies, to provide for the conservation, development, use, and control of water (including the extension or improvement of existing water supply systems), and the installation or improvement of drainage or waste disposal facilities and essential community facilities including necessary related

equipment. Such loans and grants shall be available only to provide such water and waste facilities and services to communities whose residents face significant health risks, as determined by the Secretary, due to the fact that a significant proportion of the community's residents do not have access to, or are not served by, adequate affordable—

- (A) water supply systems; or
- (B) waste disposal facilities.

(2) Certain areas targeted

(A) In general

Loans and grants under paragraph (1) shall be made only if the loan or grant funds will be used primarily to provide water or waste services, or both, to residents of a county—

- (i) the per capita income of the residents of which is not more than 70 percent of the national average per capita income, as determined by the Department of Commerce; and
- (ii) the unemployment rate of the residents of which is not less than 125 percent of the national average unemployment rate, as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(B) Exception

Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), loans and grants under paragraph (1) may also be made if the loan or grant funds will be used primarily to provide water or waste services, or both, to residents of a rural area that was recognized as a colonia as of October 1, 1989.

(b) Loans and grants to individuals

(1) In general

The Secretary shall make or insure loans and make grants to individuals who reside in a community described in subsection (a)(1) of this section for the purpose of extending water supply and waste disposal systems, connecting the systems to the residences of the individuals, or installing plumbing and fixtures within the residences of the individuals to facilitate the use of the water supply and waste disposal systems. Such loans shall be at a rate of interest no greater than the Federal Financing Bank rate on loans of a similar term at the time such loans are made. The repayment of such loans shall be amortized over the expected life of the water supply or waste disposal system to which the residence of the borrower will be connected.

(2) Manner in which loans and grants are to be made

Loans and grants to individuals under paragraph (1) shall be made—

- (A) directly to such individuals by the Secretary; or
- (B) to such individuals through the rural water supply corporation, cooperative, or similar entity, or public agency, providing such water supply or waste disposal services, pursuant to regulations issued by the Secretary.

(c) Preference

The Secretary shall give preference in the awarding of loans and grants—