

“(C) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction Act’).
“(3) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING.— In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall use the authority provided under section 808 of title 5, United States Code.”

§ 950bb-1. National Center for Rural Telecommunications Assessment

(a) Designation of Center

The Secretary shall designate an entity to serve as the National Center for Rural Telecommunications Assessment (referred to in this section as the “Center”).

(b) Criteria

In designating the Center under subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into consideration the following criteria:

- (1) The Center shall be an entity that demonstrates to the Secretary—
 - (A) a focus on rural policy research; and
 - (B) a minimum of 5 years of experience relating to rural telecommunications research and assessment.

(2) The Center shall be capable of assessing broadband services in rural areas.

(3) The Center shall have significant experience involving other rural economic development centers and organizations with respect to the assessment of rural policies and the formulation of policy solutions at the Federal, State, and local levels.

(c) Board of directors

The Center shall be managed by a board of directors, which shall be responsible for the duties of the Center described in subsection (d).

(d) Duties

The Center shall—

- (1) assess the effectiveness of programs carried out under this subchapter in increasing broadband penetration and purchase in rural areas, especially in rural communities identified by the Secretary as having no broadband service before the provision of a loan or loan guarantee under this subchapter;
- (2) work with existing rural development centers selected by the Center to identify policies and initiatives at the Federal, State, and local levels that have increased broadband penetration and purchase in rural areas and provide recommendations to Federal, State, and local policymakers on effective strategies to bring affordable broadband services to residents of rural areas, particularly residents located outside of the municipal boundaries of a rural city or town; and
- (3) develop and publish reports describing the activities carried out by the Center under this section.

(e) Reporting requirements

Not later than December 1 of each applicable fiscal year, the board of directors of the Center shall submit to Congress and the Secretary a report describing the activities carried out by the Center during the preceding fiscal year and the results of any research conducted by the Center during that fiscal year, including—

- (1) an assessment of each program carried out under this subchapter; and

(2) an assessment of the effects of the policy initiatives identified under subsection (d)(2).

(f) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title VI, § 602, as added Pub. L. 110-234, title VI, § 6111, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1203, and Pub. L. 110-246, § 4(a), title VI, § 6111, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1965.)

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.

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.

§ 950bb-2. Rural Gigabit Network Pilot Program

(a) Definition of ultra-high speed service

In this section, the term “ultra-high speed service” means broadband service operating at a 1 gigabit per second downstream transmission capacity.

(b) Pilot program

The Secretary shall establish a pilot program to be known as the “Rural Gigabit Network Pilot Program”, under which the Secretary may, at the discretion of the Secretary, provide grants, loans, or loan guarantees to eligible entities.

(c) Eligibility

(1) In general

To be eligible to obtain assistance under this section, an entity shall—

- (A) demonstrate to the Secretary the ability to furnish or extend ultra-high speed service to a rural area;
- (B) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require;
- (C) not already provide ultra-high speed service to a rural area within any State in the proposed service territory; and
- (D) agree to complete buildout of ultra-high speed service by not later than 3 years after the initial date on which assistance under this section is made available.

(2) Eligible projects

Assistance under this section may only be used to carry out a project in a proposed service territory if—

- (A) the proposed service territory is a rural area; and
- (B) ultra-high speed service is not provided in any part of the proposed service territory.

(d) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title VI, § 603, as added Pub. L. 113-79, title VI, § 6105, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 856.)