

(3) expertise in removing barriers to employment for individuals with disabilities, including access to transportation, assistive technology, and other accommodations; and

(4) existing relationships with national organizations focused primarily on the needs of rural areas.

**(d) Uses**

A grant received under this section may be used only to expand or enhance—

(1) employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities in rural areas by developing national technical assistance and education resources to assist small businesses in a rural area to recruit, hire, accommodate, and employ individuals with disabilities; and

(2) self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for individuals with disabilities in a rural area.

**(e) Authorization of appropriations**

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §379F, as added Pub. L. 110-234, title VI, §6023, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1176, and Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title VI, §6023, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1937.)

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 L. 110-234 was repealed by section 4(a) of Pub.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.

**§ 2008u. Health care services**

**(a) Purpose**

The purpose of this section is to address the continued unmet health needs in the Delta region through cooperation among health care professionals, institutions of higher education, research institutions, and other individuals and entities in the region.

**(b) Definition of eligible entity**

In this section, the term “eligible entity” means a consortium of regional institutions of higher education, academic health and research institutes, and economic development entities located in the Delta region that have experience in addressing the health care issues in the region.

**(c) Grants**

To carry out the purpose described in subsection (a), the Secretary may award a grant to an eligible entity for—

- (1) the development of—
  - (A) health care services;
  - (B) health education programs; and
  - (C) health care job training programs; and

(2) the development and expansion of public health-related facilities in the Delta region to address longstanding and unmet health needs of the region.

**(d) Use**

As a condition of the receipt of the grant, the eligible entity shall use the grant to fund projects and activities described in subsection (c), based on input solicited from local governments, public health care providers, and other entities in the Delta region.

**(e) Authorization of appropriations**

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section, \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §379G, as added Pub. L. 110-234, title VI, §6024, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1176, and Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title VI, §6024, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1938; amended Pub. L. 113-79, title VI, §6024, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 848.)

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.

AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 113-79 substituted “2018” for “2012”.

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.

**§ 2008v. Strategic economic and community development**

**(a) In general**

In the case of any rural development program described in subsection (d)(2), the Secretary may give priority to an application for a project that, as determined and approved by the Secretary—

- (1) meets the applicable eligibility requirements of this chapter;
- (2) will be carried out solely in a rural area; and
- (3) supports strategic community and economic development plans on a multijurisdictional basis.

**(b) Rural area**

For purposes of subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall consider an application to be for a project that will be carried out solely in a rural area only if—

- (1) in the case of an application for a project in the rural community facilities category described in subsection (d)(2)(A), the project will be carried out in a rural area described in section 1991(a)(13)(C) of this title;
- (2) in the case of an application for a project in the rural utilities category described in subsection (d)(2)(B), the project will be carried out in a rural area described in section 1991(a)(13)(B) of this title; and
- (3) in the case of an application for a project in the rural business and cooperative development category described in subsection (d)(2)(C), the project will be carried out in a rural area described in section 1991(a)(13)(A) of this title.

**(c) Evaluation****(1) In general**

In evaluating strategic applications, the Secretary shall give a higher priority to strategic applications for a plan described in subsection (a) that demonstrates to the Secretary—

(A) the plan was developed through the collaboration of multiple stakeholders in the service area of the plan, including the participation of combinations of stakeholders such as State, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit institutions, institutions of higher education, and private entities;

(B) an understanding of the applicable regional resources that could support the plan, including natural resources, human resources, infrastructure, and financial resources;

(C) investment from other Federal agencies;

(D) investment from philanthropic organizations; and

(E) clear objectives for the plan and the ability to establish measurable performance measures and to track progress toward meeting the objectives.

**(2) Consistency with plans**

Applications involving State, county, municipal, or tribal governments shall include an indication of consistency with an adopted regional economic or community development plan.

**(d) Funds****(1) In general**

Subject to paragraph (3) and subsection (e), the Secretary may reserve for projects that support multijurisdictional strategic community and economic development plans described in subsection (a) an amount that does not exceed 10 percent of the funds made available for a fiscal year for a functional category described in paragraph (2).

**(2) Functional categories**

The functional categories described in this subsection are the following:

**(A) Rural community facilities category**

The rural community facilities category consists of all amounts made available for community facility grants and direct and guaranteed loans under paragraph (1), (19), (20), (21), (24), or (25) of section 1926(a) of this title.

**(B) Rural utilities category**

The rural utilities category consists of all amounts made available for—

(i) water or waste disposal grants or direct or guaranteed loans under paragraph (1), (2), or (24) of section 1926(a) of this title;

(ii) rural water or wastewater technical assistance and training grants under section 1926(a)(14) of this title;

(iii) emergency community water assistance grants under section 1926a of this title; or

(iv) solid waste management grants under section 1932(b) of this title.

**(C) Rural business and cooperative development category**

The rural business and cooperative development category consists of all amounts made available for—

(i) business and industry direct and guaranteed loans under section 1932(a)(2)(A) of this title; or

(ii) rural business development grants under section 1932(c) of this title.

**(3) Period**

The reservation of funds described in paragraph (2) may only extend through June 30 of the fiscal year in which the funds were first made available.

**(e) Approved applications****(1) In general**

Any applicant who submitted a rural development application that was approved before February 7, 2014, may amend the application to qualify for the funds reserved under subsection (d)(1).

**(2) Rural utilities**

Any rural development application authorized under section 1926(a)(2), 1926(a)(14), 1926(a)(24), 1926a, or 1932(b) of this title and approved by the Secretary before February 7, 2014, shall be eligible for the funds reserved under subsection (d)(1) on the same basis as the applications submitted under this section until September 30, 2016.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §379H, as added Pub. L. 113-79, title VI, §6025, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 848.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

For definition of “this chapter”, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), see note set out under section 1921 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER V—RURAL COMMUNITY  
ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM**§ 2009. Definitions**

In this subchapter:

**(1) State**

The term “State” means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands of the United States, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

**(2) State director**

The term “State director” means, with respect to a State, the Director of the Rural Economic and Community Development State Office.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §381A, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §761, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1139; amended Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, §6020(b)(2), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 363.)

## AMENDMENTS

2002—Pub. L. 107-171 redesignated pars. (2) and (3) as (1) and (2), respectively, and struck out heading and text of former par. (1). Text read as follows: “The terms ‘rural’ and ‘rural area’ mean, subject to section