

§ 950cc-2. Use of loan proceeds to refinance loans for deployment of broadband service

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the proceeds of any loan made or guaranteed by the Secretary under this chapter may be used by the recipient of the loan for the purpose of refinancing an outstanding obligation of the recipient on another telecommunications loan made under this chapter, or on any other loan if that loan would have been for an eligible telecommunications purpose under this chapter.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title VII, §703, as added Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, §6209, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4743.)

CHAPTER 31A—TELEMEDICINE AND DISTANCE LEARNING SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

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| Sec. | Purpose. |
| 950aaa. | Definitions. |
| 950aaa-1. | Telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas. |
| 950aaa-2. | Administration. |
| 950aaa-3. | Regulations. |
| 950aaa-4. | Authorization of appropriations. |
| 950aaa-5. | |

TERMINATION OF CHAPTER

For termination of chapter by section 1(b) of Pub. L. 102-551, see note set out under section 950aaa of this title.

§ 950aaa. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to encourage and improve telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2331, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §704, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1108.)

TERMINATION OF SECTION

For termination of section by section 1(b) of Pub. L. 102-551, see Termination of Chapter note set out below.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 950aaa, Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2331, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4017, provided purposes of chapter, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 104-127.

TERMINATION OF CHAPTER

Pub. L. 102-551, §1(b), Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 4100, as amended by Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, §6203(b), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 421; Pub. L. 110-234, title VI, §6201(c), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1206, and Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title VI, §6201(c), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1967; Pub. L. 113-79, title VI, §6201(b), Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 856; Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, §6102(b), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4728, provided that: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XXIII of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq.), including the amendments made by this section [enacting section 950aaa-5 of this title and amending section 950aaa-4 of this title], shall be effective until September 30, 2023."

§ 950aaa-1. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) Construct

The term "construct" means to construct, acquire, install, improve, or extend a facility or system.

(2) Cost of money loan

The term "cost of money loan" means a loan made under this chapter bearing interest at a rate equal to the then current cost to the Federal Government of loans of similar maturity.

(3) Secretary

The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(4) Rural area

The term "rural area" has the meaning given the term in section 950bb(b)(3) of this title.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2332, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §704, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1108; amended Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, §6301(c), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4748.)

TERMINATION OF SECTION

For termination of section by section 1(b) of Pub. L. 102-551, see Termination of Chapter note set out under section 950aaa of this title.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 950aaa-1, Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2332, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4017; Pub. L. 102-237, title VII, §702(g), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1880, provided goal of Federal Government to make affordable advanced telecommunications available to rural residents, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 104-127.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Par. (4). Pub. L. 115-334 added par. (4).

§ 950aaa-2. Telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas

(a) Services to rural areas

The Secretary may provide financial assistance for the purpose of financing the construction of facilities and systems to provide telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas.

(b) Financial assistance

(1) In general

Financial assistance shall consist of grants or cost of money loans, or both.

(2) Form

The Secretary shall determine the portion of the financial assistance provided to a recipient that consists of grants and the portion that consists of cost of money loans so as to result in the maximum feasible repayment to the Federal Government of the financial assistance, based on the ability to repay of the recipient and full utilization of funds made available to carry out this chapter.

(c) Recipients

(1) In general

The Secretary may provide financial assistance under this chapter to—

(A) entities using telemedicine services or distance learning services;