

(2) integrate across the Department the strategic planning and activities relating to rural health;

(3) improve communication relating to rural health within the Department and between Federal agencies;

(4) advocate on behalf of the health care and relevant infrastructure needs in rural areas;

(5) provide to stakeholders, potential grant applicants, Federal agencies, State agencies, Indian Tribes, private organizations, and academic institutions relevant data and information, including the eligibility requirements for, and availability and outcomes of, Department programs applicable to the advancement of rural health;

(6) maintain communication with public health, medical, occupational safety, and telecommunication associations, research entities, and other stakeholders to ensure that the Department is aware of current and upcoming issues relating to rural health;

(7) consult on programs, pilot projects, research, training, and other affairs relating to rural health at the Department and other Federal agencies;

(8) provide expertise on rural health to support the activities of the Secretary as Chair of the Council on Rural Community Innovation and Economic Development; and

(9) provide technical assistance and guidance with respect to activities relating to rural health to the outreach, extension, and county offices of the Department.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §236, as added Pub. L. 115-334, title XII, §12409, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4977.)

SUBCHAPTER IV—FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

§ 6951. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services

(a) Authorization

The Secretary is authorized to establish in the Department the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

(b) Confirmation required

If the Secretary establishes the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services authorized under subsection (a), the Under Secretary shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(c) Functions of Under Secretary

(1) Principal functions

Upon establishment, the Secretary shall delegate to the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services those functions under the jurisdiction of the Department that are related to food, nutrition, and consumer services (except as provided in section 6981(b)(1) of this title).

(2) Additional functions

The Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services shall perform such other functions as may be required by law or prescribed by the Secretary.

(d) Succession

Any official who is serving as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Food and Consumer Services on October 13, 1994, and who was appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall not be required to be reappointed under subsection (b) to the successor position authorized under subsection (a) if the Secretary establishes the position, and the official occupies the new position, within 180 days after October 13, 1994 (or such later date set by the Secretary if litigation delays rapid succession).

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §241, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3222.)

CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 241 of Pub. L. 103-354. Subsec. (e) of section 241 of Pub. L. 103-354 amended section 5314 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 6952. Multiagency task force

(a) In general

The Secretary shall establish, in the office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, a multiagency task force for the purpose of providing coordination and direction for commodity programs.

(b) Composition

The Task Force shall be composed of at least 4 members, including—

(1) a representative from the Food Distribution Division of the Food and Nutrition Service, who shall—

(A) be appointed by the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services; and

(B) serve as Chairperson of the Task Force;

(2) at least 1 representative from the Agricultural Marketing Service, who shall be appointed by the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs;

(3) at least 1 representative from the Farm Services Agency, who shall be appointed by the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation; and

(4) at least 1 representative from the Food Safety and Inspection Service, who shall be appointed by the Under Secretary for Food Safety.

(c) Duties

(1) In general

The Task Force shall be responsible for evaluation and monitoring of the commodity programs to ensure that the commodity programs meet the mission of the Department—

(A) to support the United States farm sector; and

(B) to contribute to the health and well-being of individuals in the United States through the distribution of domestic agricultural products through commodity programs.

(2) Specific duties

In carrying out paragraph (1), the Task Force shall—

(A) review and make recommendations regarding the specifications used for the procurement of food commodities;

(B) review and make recommendations regarding the efficient and effective distribution of food commodities; and

(C) review and make recommendations regarding the degree to which the quantity, quality, and specifications of procured food commodities align the needs of producers and the preferences of recipient agencies.

(d) Reports

Not later than 1 year after February 7, 2014, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes, for the period covered by the report—

(1) the findings and recommendations of the Task Force; and

(2) policies implemented for the improvement of commodity procurement programs.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §242, as added Pub. L. 113-79, title IV, §4205, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 823; amended Pub. L. 115-334, title XII, §12405(b), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4975.)

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 115-334 substituted “Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation” for “Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services”.

§ 6953. Healthy food financing initiative

(a) Purpose

The purpose of this section is to enhance the authorities of the Secretary to support efforts to provide access to healthy food by establishing an initiative to improve access to healthy foods in underserved areas, to create and preserve quality jobs, and to revitalize low-income communities by providing loans and grants to eligible fresh, healthy food retailers and enterprises to overcome the higher costs and initial barriers to entry in underserved areas.

(b) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Community development financial institution

The term “community development financial institution” has the meaning given the term in section 4702 of title 12.

(2) Initiative

The term “Initiative” means the Healthy Food Financing Initiative established under subsection (c)(1).

(3) National fund manager

The term “national fund manager” means a community development financial institution that is—

(A) in existence on the date of enactment of this section; and

(B) certified by the Community Development Financial Institution Fund of the Department of Treasury to manage the Initiative for purposes of—

(i) raising private capital;

(ii) providing financial and technical assistance to partnerships; and

(iii) funding eligible projects to attract fresh, healthy food retailers and enterprises to underserved areas, in accordance with this section.

(4) Partnership

The term “partnership” means a regional, State, or local public-private partnership that—

(A) is organized to improve access to fresh, healthy foods;

(B) provides financial and technical assistance to eligible projects; and

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

(5) Perishable food

The term “perishable food” means a staple food that is fresh, refrigerated, or frozen.

(6) Quality job

The term “quality job” means a job that provides wages and other benefits comparable to, or better than, similar positions in existing businesses of similar size in similar local economies.

(7) Staple food

(A) In general

The term “staple food” means food that is a basic dietary item.

(B) Inclusions

The term “staple food” includes—

(i) bread or cereal;

(ii) flour;

(iii) fruits;

(iv) vegetables;

(v) meat; and

(vi) dairy products.

(c) Initiative

(1) Establishment

The Secretary shall establish an initiative to achieve the purpose described in subsection (a) in accordance with this subsection.

(2) Implementation

(A) In general

(i) In general

In carrying out the Initiative, the Secretary shall provide funding to entities with eligible projects, as described in subparagraph (B), subject to the priorities described in subparagraph (C).

(ii) Use of funds

Funds provided to an entity pursuant to clause (i) shall be used—

(I) to create revolving loan pools of capital or other products to provide loans to finance eligible projects or partnerships;

(II) to provide grants for eligible projects or partnerships;

(III) to provide technical assistance to funded projects and entities seeking Initiative funding; and

(IV) to cover administrative expenses of the national fund manager in an amount not to exceed 10 percent of the Federal funds provided.