

(5) geographic diversity among the recipients of financial assistance;

(6) the utilization of the telecommunications facilities of any telecommunications provider serving the affected rural area;

(7) the portion of total project financing provided by the applicant from the funds of the applicant;

(8) the portion of project financing provided by the applicant with funds obtained from non-Federal sources;

(9) the joint utilization of facilities financed by other financial assistance;

(10) the coordination of the proposed project with regional projects or networks;

(11) service to the greatest practical number of persons within the general geographic area covered by the financial assistance;

(12) conformity with the State strategic plan as prepared under section 2009c of this title; and

(13) other factors determined appropriate by the Secretary.

**(e) Maximum amount of assistance to individual recipients**

The Secretary may establish the maximum amount of financial assistance to be made available to an individual recipient for each fiscal year under this chapter, by publishing notice of the maximum amount in the Federal Register not more than 45 days after funds are made available for the fiscal year to carry out this chapter.

**(f) Use of funds**

Financial assistance provided under this chapter shall be used for—

(1) the development and acquisition of instructional programming;

(2) the development and acquisition, through lease or purchase, of computer hardware and software, audio and visual equipment, computer network components, telecommunications terminal equipment, telecommunications transmission facilities, data terminal equipment, or interactive video equipment, or other facilities that would further telemedicine services or distance learning services;

(3) providing technical assistance and instruction for the development or use of the programming, equipment, or facilities referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2); or

(4) other uses that are consistent with this chapter, as determined by the Secretary.

**(g) Salaries and expenses**

Notwithstanding subsection (f), financial assistance provided under this chapter shall not be used for paying salaries or administrative expenses.

**(h) Expediting coordinated telephone loans**

**(1) In general**

The Secretary may establish and carry out procedures to ensure that expedited consideration and determination is given to applications for loans and advances of funds submitted by local exchange carriers under this chapter and the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) to enable the exchange carriers to provide advanced telecommunications

services in rural areas in conjunction with any other projects carried out under this chapter.

**(2) Deadline imposed on Secretary**

Not later than 45 days after the receipt of a completed application for an expedited telephone loan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify the applicant in writing of the decision of the Secretary regarding the application.

**(i) Notification of local exchange carrier**

**(1) Applicants**

Each applicant for a grant for a telemedicine or distance learning project established under this chapter shall notify the appropriate local telephone exchange carrier regarding the application filed with the Secretary for the grant.

**(2) Secretary**

The Secretary shall—

(A) publish notice of applications received for grants under this chapter for telemedicine or distance learning projects; and

(B) make the applications available for inspection.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2333, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §704, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1109; amended Pub. L. 110-234, title VI, §6201(a), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1205; Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title VI, §6201(a), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1967.)

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.*

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Rural Electrification Act of 1936, referred to in subsecs. (c)(2) and (h)(1), is act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, 49 Stat. 1363, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 31 (§901 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 901 of this title and Tables.

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.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 950aaa-2, Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2333, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4017; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §235(b)(4)(A), (C), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3221, 3222, provided definitions for chapter, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 104-127.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (c)(1)(C). Pub. L. 110-246, §6201(a), added subpar. (C).

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.

**§ 950aaa-3. Administration**

**(a) Nonduplication**

The Secretary shall ensure that facilities constructed using financial assistance provided

under this chapter do not duplicate adequate established telemedicine services or distance learning services.

**(b) Loan maturity**

The maturities of cost of money loans shall be determined by the Secretary, based on the useful life of the facility being financed, except that the loan shall not be for a period of more than 10 years.

**(c) Loan security and feasibility**

The Secretary shall make a cost of money loan only if the Secretary determines that the security for the loan is reasonably adequate and that the loan will be repaid within the period of the loan.

**(d) Encouraging consortia**

The Secretary shall encourage the development of consortia to provide telemedicine services or distance learning services through telecommunications in rural areas served by a telecommunications provider.

**(e) Coordination with other agencies**

The Secretary shall coordinate, to the extent practicable, with other Federal and State agencies with similar grant or loan programs to pool resources for funding meritorious proposals in rural areas.

**(f) Informational efforts**

The Secretary shall establish and implement procedures to carry out informational efforts to advise potential end users located in rural areas of each State about the program authorized by this chapter.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2334, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, § 704, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1111.)

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-3, Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2334, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4019; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, § 235(b)(4)(B), (C), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3221, 3222, contained provisions relevant to telecommunications programs, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 104-127.

**§ 950aaa-4. Regulations**

Not later than 180 days after April 4, 1996, the Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out this chapter.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2335, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, § 704, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1112.)

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-4, Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2335, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4021; Pub. L. 102-551, § 1(c), Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 4100; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, § 235(b)(4)(C), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3222, related to rural

community access to advanced telecommunications, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 104-127.

ANALYSIS BY OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2385, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4051, provided that Office of Technology Assessment was to include, in study of effects of information age technology on rural America, analysis of feasibility of ensuring that rural citizens in their homes and schools had ability to acquire, by computer, information in a national library, and specified contents of such analysis, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, § 708, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1112.

**§ 950aaa-5. Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this chapter \$82,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2335A, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, § 704, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1112; amended Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, § 6203(a), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 421; Pub. L. 110-234, title VI, § 6201(b), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1206; Pub. L. 110-246, § 4(a), title VI, § 6201(b), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1967; Pub. L. 113-79, title VI, § 6201(a), Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 856; Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, § 6102(a), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4728.)

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.*

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.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 950aaa-5, Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2335A, as added Pub. L. 102-551, § 1(a), Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 4098; amended Pub. L. 103-354, title II, § 235(b)(4)(C), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3222, related to special health care and distance learning program for qualified service areas, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 104-127.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-334 substituted “\$82,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” for “\$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018”.

2014—Pub. L. 113-79 substituted “\$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018” for “\$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1996 through 2012”.

2008—Pub. L. 110-246, § 6201(b), substituted “2012” for “2007”.

2002—Pub. L. 107-171 substituted “2007” for “2002”.

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.

**CHAPTER 32—PEANUT STATISTICS**

Sec. 951.	Collection and publication; facts required; submission of report.
952.	Repealed.
953.	Reports; by whom made; penalties.
954.	Grades and standards for classification.