

(5) identify common economic and social challenges faced by rural communities that could be served through—

(A) better coordination of existing Federal and non-Federal resources; and

(B) innovative solutions utilizing governmental and nongovernmental resources.

(g) Executive departments and agencies

(1) In general

The heads of executive departments and agencies shall assist and provide information to the Council, consistent with applicable law, as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Council.

(2) Expenses

Each executive department or agency shall be responsible for paying any expenses of the executive department or agency for participating in the Council.

(h) Council working groups

(1) In general

The Council may establish, in addition to the working groups established under paragraph (3), such other working groups as necessary.

(2) Membership

The Secretary shall include as members of each working group such Council members, other heads of Federal agencies (or their designees as defined in (d)(3)¹), and non-Federal partners as determined appropriate to the subject matter.

(3) Required working groups

The working groups specified in this paragraph are each of the following:

(A) The rural smart communities working group

(i) Establishment

The Council shall establish a Rural Smart Communities Working Group.

(ii) Duties

The Rural Smart Communities Working Group shall—

(I) not later than 1 year after the establishment of such Working Group, submit to Congress a report describing efforts of rural areas to integrate smart technology into their communities to solve challenges relating to governance, economic development, quality of life, or other relevant rural issues, as determined by the Secretary; and

(II) create, publish, and maintain a resource guide designed to assist States and other rural communities in developing and implementing rural smart community programs.

(iii) Smart community defined

For the purposes of this subparagraph, the term “smart community” means a community that has the ability to integrate multiple technological solutions, in a secure fashion, to manage a commu-

nity’s assets, including local government information systems, schools, libraries, transportation systems, hospitals, power plants, law enforcement, and other community services with the goal of promoting quality of life through the use of technology in ways that improve the efficiency of services and meet residents’ needs.

(B) Jobs accelerator working group

(i) Establishment

The Council shall establish a Jobs Accelerator Working Group.

(ii) Goals

The Jobs Accelerator Working Group shall support rural jobs accelerators (as defined in section 2008w(a)(4) of this title)—

(I) to improve the ability of rural communities to create high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses with high-growth potential, and strengthen regional economies, including by helping to build capacity in the applicable region to achieve those goals; and

(II) to help rural communities identify and maximize local assets and connect to regional opportunities, networks, and industry clusters that demonstrate high growth potential.

(iii) Duties

The Jobs Accelerator Working Group shall—

(I) provide the public with available information and technical assistance on Federal resources relevant to a project and region;

(II) establish a Federal support team comprised of staff from participating agencies in the working group that shall provide coordinated and dedicated support services to rural jobs accelerators; and

(III) provide opportunities for rural jobs accelerators to share best practices and further collaborate with one another.

(Pub. L. 115–334, title VI, §6306, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4752.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Executive Order 13790, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), is Ex. Ord. No. 13790, §6, Apr. 25, 2017, 82 F.R. 20239, which is not classified to the Code.

DEFINITION OF “SECRETARY”

“Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, see section 2 of Pub. L. 115–334, set out as a note under section 9001 of this title.

§ 2204c. Water management for rural areas

(a) In general

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized, directly or in coordination with any other Federal agency, entity, corporation, department, unit of State or local government, cooperative, confederation, individual, public or private organization, Indian tribe, or university, to—

¹ So in original. Probably should be “subsection (c)(3)”.

- (1) conduct research and demonstration projects;
- (2) provide technical assistance and extension services;
- (3) make grants, loans, and loan guarantees; and
- (4) provide other forms of assistance, for the purpose of helping rural areas make better and more efficient use of water resources and to alleviate problems arising in such areas from droughts or lack of water.

(b) Activities

The Secretary is authorized to provide assistance under this section for the promotion or establishment of irrigation, watersheds, and other water management and drought management activities, including water transmission, application, and activation.

(c) Cooperation

In implementing this section, the Secretary—

- (1) should address the general, special, and unique problems of water management existing in rural areas;
- (2) may take action independently or in cooperation with Federal, State, public, or private entities and agencies; and
- (3) shall cooperate with—
 - (A) cooperatives, public or private organizations, confederations, authorities, or other entities (including such entities that may be organized under multiple State agreements or compacts and entities created under State law) to carry out projects authorized under this section; and
 - (B) water, watershed, and sewer authorities, rural electric cooperatives, Federal agencies, and other State or local governments or agencies.

(d) Regulations

- (1) The Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out this section.
- (2) Such regulations shall—
 - (A) specify the terms and conditions that the entities described in subsections (a) and (c) must meet in order to participate in programs carried out under this section;
 - (B) establish a procedure under which entities described in subsections (a) and (c) may apply for assistance under this section; and
 - (C) foster cooperation between such entities and other Federal, State, or local agencies for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this section.

(e) “University” defined

As used in this section, the term “university” means—

- (1) a land grant university established under the Act of July 2, 1862 (known as the “First Morrill Act”); 12 Stat. 503, chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);
- (2) a land grant university established under the Act of August 30, 1890 (known as the “Second Morrill Act”); 26 Stat. 419, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.);
- (3) the Tuskegee Institute; and
- (4) any other support research organization.

(f) Funding

- (1) There are authorized to be appropriated each fiscal year such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

- (2) The Secretary is authorized to accept funds from non-Federal sources to carry out the activities authorized by this section.

(g) No waivers

Nothing in this section shall authorize the waiver of a cost-share requirement under a program established under any other provision of law.

(Pub. L. 100-387, title IV, § 401, Aug. 11, 1988, 102 Stat. 956.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of July 2, 1862, referred to in subsec. (e)(1), is act July 2, 1862, ch. 130, 12 Stat. 503, popularly known as the “Morrill Act” and also as the “First Morrill Act”, which is classified generally to subchapter I (§ 301 et seq.) of chapter 13 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 301 of this title and Tables.

Act of August 30, 1890, referred to in subsec. (e)(2), is act Aug. 30, 1890, ch. 841, 26 Stat. 417, as amended, popularly known as the Agricultural College Act of 1890 and also as the Second Morrill Act, which is classified generally to subchapter II (§ 321 et seq.) of chapter 13 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 321 of this title and Tables.

§ 2204d. Encouragement of private contracting**(a) In general**

For the purpose of promoting local job creation and private sector investment in rural communities, the Secretary of Agriculture is encouraged, where appropriate and feasible, to use private enterprise concerns located in rural areas, rather than government employees or government enterprises, to provide commercial activities or products to carry out the purposes of this title.¹

(b) Plan required

The Secretary shall develop and implement a plan that will result in increasing the use of contracts awarded to private firms by the Department of Agriculture, and maximizing the use of grant, loan, or other financial assistance made for the purpose of rural development to provide the goods and services purchased to carry out the purposes of this title.¹

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2394, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4057.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This title, referred to in text, is title XXIII of Pub. L. 101-624, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3979, known as the Rural Economic Development Act of 1990. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1990 Amendment note set out under section 1921 of this title and Tables.

§ 2204e. Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis**(a) Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis**

The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish in the Department of Agriculture an Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis, which shall be under the direction of a Director appointed by the Secretary.

¹ See References in Text note below.