

Telephone Bank to issue regulations to carry out the amendment to this section by section 1411(b)(1) of Pub. L. 100-203 and was formerly set out as a note under section 948 of this title, was repealed by Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, § 6602(b)(16), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4777.

#### SUBCHAPTER V—RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

##### § 950aa. Additional powers and duties

The Secretary shall—

(1) provide advice and guidance to electric borrowers under this chapter concerning the effective and prudent use by such borrowers of the investment authority under section 940b of this title to promote rural development;

(2) provide technical advice, troubleshooting, and guidance concerning the operation of programs or systems that receive assistance under this chapter;

(3) establish and administer various pilot projects through electric and telephone borrowers that the Secretary determines are useful or necessary, and recommend specific rural development projects for rural areas;

(4) act as an information clearinghouse and conduit to provide information to electric and telephone borrowers under this chapter concerning useful and effective rural development efforts that such borrowers may wish to apply in their areas of operation and concerning State, regional, or local plans for long-term rural economic development;

(5) provide information to electric and telephone borrowers under this chapter concerning the eligibility of such borrowers to apply for financial assistance, loans, or grants from other Federal agencies and non-Federal sources to enable such borrowers to expand their rural development efforts; and

(6) promote local partnerships and other coordination between borrowers under this chapter and community organizations, States, counties, or other entities, to improve rural development.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title V, § 501, as added Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2345, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4029; amended Pub. L. 102-237, title VII, § 703(c), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1881; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, § 235(a)(12), (13), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3221; Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, § 781(b), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1151.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

1996—Par. (7). Pub. L. 104-127 struck out par. (7) which read as follows: “administer a Rural Business Incubator Fund (as established under section 950aa-1 of this title) that shall provide technical assistance, advice, loans, or capital to business incubator programs or for the creation or operation of small business incubators in rural areas.”

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 struck out “of REA Administrator” at end of section catchline and substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” in introductory provisions and par. (3).

1991—Pars. (6) to (8). Pub. L. 102-237 inserted “and” at end of par. (6), redesignated par. (8) as (7), and struck out former par. (7) which read as follows: “review the advice and recommendations of the Rural Educational Opportunities Board as established under section 601(f); and”.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 102-237 effective as if included in the provision of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-624, to which the amendment relates, see section 1101(b)(8) of Pub. L. 102-237, set out as a note under section 1421 of this title.

##### § 950aa-1. Repealed. Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, § 781(a), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1151

Section, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title V, § 502, as added Nov. 28, 1990, Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2345, 104 Stat. 4030; amended Dec. 13, 1991, Pub. L. 102-237, title VII, § 703(d), 105 Stat. 1881; Oct. 13, 1994, Pub. L. 103-354, title II, § 235(a)(13), 108 Stat. 3221, provided for establishment of Rural Business Incubator Fund.

#### SUBCHAPTER VI—RURAL BROADBAND ACCESS

##### § 950bb. Access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas

###### (a) Purpose

The purpose of this section is to provide grants, provide loans, and provide loan guarantees to provide funds for the costs of the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment for broadband service in rural areas.

###### (b) Definitions

In this section:

###### (1) Broadband service

The term “broadband service” means any technology identified by the Secretary as having the capacity to transmit data to enable a subscriber to the service to originate and receive high-quality voice, data, graphics, and video.

###### (2) Incumbent service provider

The term “incumbent service provider”, with respect to an application submitted under this section, means an entity that, as of the date of submission of the application, is providing broadband service to not less than 5 percent of the households in the service territory proposed in the application.

###### (3) Rural area

###### (A) In general

The term “rural area” means any area other than—

(i) an area described in clause (i) or (ii) of section 1991(a)(13)(A) of this title; and

(ii) in the case of a grant or direct loan, a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants.

###### (B) Urban area growth

The Secretary may, by regulation only, consider an area described in section 1991(a)(13)(F)(i)(I) of this title to not be a rural area for purposes of this section.

###### (C) Exclusion of certain populations

Such term does not include any population described in subparagraph (H) or (I) of section 1991(a)(13) of this title.

###### (c) Grants, loans, and loan guarantees

###### (1) In general

The Secretary shall make grants, shall make loans, and shall guarantee loans to eligi-