

lands of the United States, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

**(2) State director**

The term “State director” means, with respect to a State, the Director of the Rural Economic and Community Development State Office.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §381A, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §761, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1139; amended Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, §6020(b)(2), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 363.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

2002—Pub. L. 107-171 redesignated pars. (2) and (3) as (1) and (2), respectively, and struck out heading and text of former par. (1). Text read as follows: “The terms ‘rural’ and ‘rural area’ mean, subject to section 1926(a)(7) of this title, a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of 50,000 inhabitants or less, other than an urbanized area immediately adjacent to a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population in excess of 50,000 inhabitants.”

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

DEFINITION OF RURAL AREAS FOR CERTAIN BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAMS

Pub. L. 106-78, title VII, §730, Oct. 22, 1999, 113 Stat. 1164, provided that: “Notwithstanding section 381A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009), in fiscal year 2000 and thereafter, the definitions of rural areas for certain business programs administered by the Rural Business-Cooperative Service and the community facilities programs administered by the Rural Housing Service shall be those provided for in statute and regulations prior to the enactment of Public Law 104-127 [Apr. 4, 1996].”

Similar provisions were contained in Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(a) [title VII, §735], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681, 2681-29, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, §6020(b)(3), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 363.

**Executive Documents**

TERMINATION OF TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

For termination of Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, see note set out preceding section 1681 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

**§ 2009a. Establishment**

The Secretary shall establish a rural community advancement program to provide grants, loans, loan guarantees, and other assistance to meet the rural development needs of local communities in States and federally recognized Indian tribes.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §381B, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §761, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1139.)

**§ 2009b. National objectives**

The national objectives of the program established under this subchapter shall be to—

(1) promote strategic development activities and collaborative efforts by State and local communities, and federally recognized Indian tribes, to maximize the impact of Federal assistance;

(2) optimize the use of resources;

(3) provide assistance in a manner that reflects the complexity of rural needs, including the needs for business development, health care, education, infrastructure, cultural resources, the environment, and housing;

(4) advance activities that empower, and build the capacity of, State and local communities to design unique responses to the special needs of the State and local communities, and federally recognized Indian tribes, for rural development assistance; and

(5) adopt flexible and innovative approaches to solving rural development problems.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §381C, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §761, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1139.)

**§ 2009c. Strategic plans**

**(a) In general**

The Secretary shall direct each of the Directors of Rural Economic and Community Development State Offices to prepare a strategic plan—

(1) for each State for the delivery of assistance under this subchapter in the State; and

(2) for each federally recognized Indian tribe for the delivery of assistance under this subchapter to the Indian tribe.

**(b) Assistance**

**(1) In general**

Financial assistance for rural development provided under this subchapter for a State or a federally recognized Indian tribe shall be used only for orderly community development that is consistent with the strategic plan of the State or Indian tribe.

**(2) Rural area**

Assistance under this subchapter may only be provided in a rural area.

**(3) Small communities**

In carrying out this subchapter in a State, the Secretary shall give priority to communities with the smallest populations and lowest per capita income.

**(c) Review**

The Secretary shall review the strategic plan of each State and federally recognized Indian tribe not later than 60 days after receiving the plan, and at least once every 5 years thereafter.

**(d) Contents**

A strategic plan of a State or federally recognized Indian tribe under this section shall be a plan that—

(1) coordinates economic, human, and community development plans and related activities proposed for an affected area;

(2) provides that the State or federally recognized Indian tribe, as appropriate, and an affected community (including local institutions and organizations that have contributed to the planning process) shall act as full partners in the process of developing and implementing the plan;

(3) identifies goals, methods, and benchmarks for measuring the success of carrying