

other amounts generally appropriated to the Fund, the available unobligated balance of any amounts that are appropriated for fiscal year 2009 or any subsequent fiscal year for programs and activities of the Rural Development Mission Area to respond to a disaster and are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement if, in advance of the transfer, the Secretary determines that the unobligated amounts are no longer needed to respond to the disaster for which the amounts were originally appropriated and the Secretary provides a certification of this determination to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. A transfer of unobligated amounts with respect to a disaster may not be made under this subsection until after the end of the two-year period beginning on the date on which the amounts were originally appropriated for that disaster.

**(g) Administrative expenses**

In addition to any other funds available to the Secretary of Agriculture to cover administrative costs, the Secretary may use up to 3 percent of the amounts allocated from the Rural Development Disaster Assistance Fund for a specific disaster to cover administrative costs of Rural Development's State and local offices in the areas affected by the disaster to carry out disaster related activities.

**(h) Limitation on per disaster obligations**

Amounts in the Rural Development Disaster Assistance Fund, except for amounts described in subsection (d) that are appropriated to the Fund and obligated in accordance with that subsection, may not be obligated in excess of \$1,000,000 for a disaster until at least 15 days after the date on which the Secretary of Agriculture notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Secretary's determination to obligate additional amounts and the reasons for the determination. The Secretary may not obligate more than 50 percent of the funds contained in the Rural Development Disaster Assistance Fund for any one disaster unless the Secretary declares that there is a specific and extreme need that additional funds must be provided in response to such disaster at time of the obligation.

**(i) Quarterly reports**

The Secretary of Agriculture shall submit, on a quarterly basis, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report describing the status of the Rural Development Disaster Assistance Fund and any transactions that have affected the Fund since the previous report.

(Pub. L. 110-329, div. B, title I, §10101, Sept. 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 3586; Pub. L. 111-80, title VII, §702, Oct. 21, 2009, 123 Stat. 2118.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in subsec. (d), is Pub. L. 110-329, Sept. 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 3574, known as the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Disaster Relief and Recovery Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008, and also as part of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, and not as part of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, which in part comprises this chapter.

AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 111-80 inserted at end “In carrying out this section, the Secretary may transfer funds into existing or new accounts as determined by the Secretary.”

**§ 6946. Rural Health Liaison**

**(a) Authorization**

The Secretary shall establish in the Department the position of Rural Health Liaison.

**(b) Duties**

The Rural Health Liaison shall—

(1) in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, coordinate the role of the Department with respect to rural health;

(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