animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions/.

That list is referenced in §§94.9(a)(1) and 94.10(a)(1) of the regulations. Section 94.9 contains requirements for the importation of pork and pork products from regions where CSF exists. Section 94.10 contains requirements for the importation of live swine from such regions.

Paragraphs (a)(2) of §§94.9 and 94.10 provide for the adding and removal of regions to or from the list of CSF-free regions.APHIS will add a region to the list after it conducts an evaluation of the region in accordance with 9 CFR 92.2 and finds that the disease is not present. APHIS will remove a region from the list upon determining that the disease exists in the region based on reports APHIS receives or outbreaks of the disease from veterinary officials of the exporting country, from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), or from other sources. The Administrator determines to be reliable. A region that was formerly on the list but that has been removed due to an outbreak may be returned to the list in accordance with the procedures for reestablishment of a region’s disease-free status in §92.4.

On September 9, 2018, the veterinary authority of Japan reported to the OIE the occurrence of CSF in that country. On September 10, 2018, APHIS removed Japan’s CSF-free status on a provisional basis pending an epidemiological investigation and remedial measures. Due to the failure to control and eradicate the disease in Japan, on November 20, 2019, APHIS determined that this removal would not be reversible without a formal re-evaluation pursuant to §92.4.

As a result of these determinations, the importation of pork and pork products and live swine from Japan is subject to the APHIS import restrictions in §§94.9 and 94.10, which are designed to mitigate risk of CSF introduction into the United States.

Congressional Review Act

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this action as a non-major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).


Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of June 2021.

Mark Davidson,
Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
[FR Doc. 2021–12595 Filed 6–15–21; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service
[Docket #RBS–21–Business–0012]

Inviting Applications for the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant Program

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of funding availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (Agency) is accepting fiscal year (FY) 2021 applications for the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) program. The program funding level for FY 2021 is a total of $10 million. The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance to support job accelerator partnerships that improve the ability of distressed rural and energy communities to create high wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, and help rural communities identify and maximize local assets.

DATES: Completed applications must be submitted electronically by no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, August 2, 2021, through Grants.gov, to be eligible for grant funding. Please review the Grants.gov website at http://grants.gov/applicants/organization_registration.jsp for instructions on the process of registering your organization as soon as possible to ensure that you are able to meet the electronic application deadline. Late applications are not eligible for funding under this notice and will not be evaluated.

ADDRESSES: You are encouraged to contact your USDA Rural Development State Office well in advance of the application deadline to discuss your project and ask any questions about the RISE program or application process. Contact information for State Offices can be found at http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices.

Program guidance as well as an application template may be obtained at http://www.rd.usda.gov/RISEgrant-program. To submit an electronic application, follow the instructions for the RISE funding announcement located at http://www.grants.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Will Dodson, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 3226, Room 5160-South, Washington, DC 20250–3226, (202) 720–1400 or email will.dodson@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Preface

As outlined in the Initial Report to the President on Empowering Workers Through Revitalizing Energy Communities, available at https://netl.doe.gov/IVG/InitialReport, the Agency encourages energy communities to utilize the RISE program to support workforce development; identify and maximize local assets; spur job creation; and connect to regional opportunities, networks, and industry clusters.

To focus investments to areas for the largest opportunity for growth in prosperity, the Agency encourages applications that serve the smallest communities with the lowest incomes, with an emphasis on areas where at least 20 percent of the population is living in poverty, according to the American Community Survey data by census tracts.

Overview

Federal Agency: Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

Funding Opportunity Title: Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program.

Announcement Type: Initial Notice.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 10.755

Date: Application Deadline.

Electronic applications must be received and accepted by http://www.grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, August 2, 2021, or it will not be considered for funding.

The Application Template provides specific, detailed instructions for each item of a complete application. The Agency emphasizes the importance of including every item and strongly encourages applicants to follow the instructions carefully, using the examples and illustrations in the Application Template. Prior to official submission of applications, applicants may request technical assistance or other application guidance from the Agency, as long as such requests are made prior to July 16, 2021. Agency contact information can be found in Section D of this document.

Hemp related projects: Please note that no assistance or funding from this grant can be provided to a hemp producer unless they have a valid license issued from an approved State, Tribal or Federal plan as defined by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018,
Public Law 115–334. Verification of valid hemp licenses will occur at the time of award.

The Agency will not solicit or consider new scoring or eligibility information that is submitted after the application deadline. The Agency reserves the right to contact applicants to seek clarification on materials contained in the submitted application. See the Application Template for a full discussion of each item. For requirements of completed grant applications, refer to Section D of this document.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), USDA requested that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) conduct an emergency review of a new information collection that contains the Information Collection and Recordkeeping requirements contained in this notice by May 28, 2021. In addition to the emergency clearance, the regular clearance process is initiated in the regulation publication (RIN 0570–AB06), which published in the issue June 15, 2021 issue of the Federal Register, to provide the public with the opportunity to comment under a full comment period. The information collection requirement contained in this notice is under the OMB Control Number 0570–0075.

A. Program Description

The RISE program is a new grant program authorized under section 6424 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115–334) (2018 Farm Bill) to help struggling communities by funding job accelerators in low-income rural communities. You are required to comply with the regulations for this program published at 7 CFR part 4284, subpart L, which is adopted by reference in this notice. Therefore, you should become familiar with these regulations. The primary objective of the RISE program is to support job accelerator partnerships to improve the ability of distressed rural and energy communities to create high wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, and help rural communities identify and maximize local assets.

Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. The minimum award per grant is $500,000 and the maximum award amount per grant is $2,000,000. Grant funds may be used to pay for up to 80 percent of eligible project costs. Grant funds may be used to pay for costs directly related to the purchase or construction of an innovation center located in a rural area; costs directly related to operations of an innovation center including purchase of equipment, office supplies, and administrative costs including salaries directly related to the project; costs directly associated with support programs to be carried out at or in direct partnership with job accelerators; reasonable and customary travel expenses directly related to job accelerators and at rates in compliance with 2 CFR 200.474; utilities, operating expenses of the innovation center and job accelerator programs and associated programs; and administrative costs of the grantee not exceeding 10% of the grant amount for the duration of the project.

Definitions

The terms you need to understand are defined and published at 7 CFR 4284.1103. In addition, the terms “rural” and “rural area,” defined at section 343(a)(13) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)), are adopted by reference, and will be used for this program. The term “you” referenced throughout this notice should be understood to mean “you” the applicant.

B. Federal Award Information

Type of Award: Competitive Grant.

Fiscal Year Funds: FY 2020 and FY 2021.

Total Funding: $10,000,000.

Minimum Award: $500,000.

Maximum Award: $2,000,000.

Anticipated Award Date: September 15, 2021.

C. Eligibility Information

1. Eligibility

Applicants must meet all the following eligibility requirements. Applications which fail to meet any of these requirements by the application deadline will be deemed ineligible and will not be evaluated further.

(1) Applicant Eligibility

To be considered an eligible applicant, you must be a rural jobs accelerator partnership formed on or after December 20, 2018, and meet the eligibility criteria found in 7 CFR 4282.1112 to apply for this program. The rural jobs accelerator partnership must include one or more representatives of the following:

(a) A state, Tribal or local government;

(b) A state, Tribal, or local government entity;

(c) A land-grant college or university or other institution of higher education, as defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001);

(d) A rural non-profit cooperative; or,

(e) A private entity, which may include a business in an industry cluster, economic development or community development organization, financial institution including a community development financial institution, philanthropic organization, or labor organization.

(2) Lead Applicant Eligibility

The rural jobs accelerator partnership must also have a lead applicant who is responsible for the administration of the grant proceeds and activities. A lead applicant must be one of the following entities:

(a) A district organization;

(b) An Indian Tribe, or a political subdivision of an Indian Tribe, including a special purpose unit of an Indian Tribe, or a consortium of Indian Tribes;

(c) A state or a political subdivision of a state, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;

(d) An institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001) or a consortium of institutions of higher education;

(e) A public or private nonprofit organization.

(3) Additional Eligibility Requirements

You must also meet the following requirements:

(a) An applicant is not eligible if they have been debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549, “Debarment and Suspension.” The Agency will check the System for Award Management (SAM) at the time of application and prior to funding any grant award to determine if the applicant has been debarred or suspended. In addition, an applicant will be considered ineligible for a grant due to an outstanding judgment obtained by the U.S. in a Federal Court (other than U.S. Tax Court), is delinquent on the payment of Federal income taxes, or is delinquent on Federal debt. See 7 CFR 4284.6. The applicant must certify as part of the application that they do not have an outstanding judgment against them. The Agency will check the Do Not Pay System at the time of application and also prior to funding any grant award to verify this information.

(b) Any corporation that has been convicted of a federal criminal violation under any Federal law within the past 24 months or that has any unpaid
Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, is not eligible for financial assistance, unless a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

(c) Applications will be deemed ineligible if the application includes any funding restrictions identified under Section D.6(a) and (b) of this notice. Inclusion of funding restrictions outlined in Section D.6(a) and (b) of this notice preclude the Agency from making a federal award.

(d) Applications will be deemed ineligible if the application is not complete in accordance with the requirements stated in Section C.3.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Your matching funds requirement is 20 percent of the total eligible project costs of any activity carried out using RISE grant funds. Additional information on matching funds is found at 7 CFR 4284.1114. When you calculate your matching funds requirement, please round up or down to whole dollars as appropriate. To calculate your matching funds requirement, multiply your total eligible project costs of each eligible activity by 0.20.

You must provide a written commitment of matching funds to verify that all matching funds are available during the grant period and provide this documentation with your application in accordance with requirements identified in Section D.2.(d)(5)(ii)(A) of this notice. If you are awarded a grant, additional verification documentation may be required to confirm the availability of matching funds for the duration of the grant term.

Matching funds must meet all of the following requirements:

(a) They must be spent on eligible expenses during the grant period.
(b) They must be from eligible sources.
(c) They must be spent in advance or as a pro-rata portion of grant funds being spent.
(d) They must be provided by either the applicant or a third party in the form of cash or in-kind contribution.
(e) They cannot include other Federal grants unless provided by authorizing legislation.

(f) They cannot include cash or in-kind contributions donated outside of the grant period.
(g) They cannot include over-valued, in-kind contributions.
(h) They cannot include any project costs that are ineligible under the RISE program.
(i) They cannot include any project costs that are restricted or unallowable under 2 CFR part 200, subpart E, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (for-profits) or successor regulations.
(j) They can include reasonable and customary travel expenses for staff delivering the RISE program if you have established written policies explaining how these costs are normally reimbursed, including rates. You must include an explanation of this policy in your application or the contributions will not be considered as eligible matching funds.
(k) You must be able to document and verify the number of hours worked and the value associated with any in-kind contribution being used to meet a matching funds requirement.
(l) In-kind contributions provided by individuals, businesses, or cooperatives which are being assisted by you cannot be provided for the direct benefit of their own projects as the Agency considers this to be a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest.

3. Other Eligibility Requirements

(a) Completeness

Your application will not be considered for funding if it fails to meet all eligibility criteria by the application deadline or if it does not provide sufficient information to determine eligibility and scoring. You must include all the forms and proposal elements as discussed in the regulation and as clarified further in this notice in one package. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed by the Agency. For more information on what is required for a complete application, see 7 CFR 4284.1115.

(b) Purpose Eligibility

Your application must propose the establishment of an innovation center and/or costs directly related to operations of an innovation center and/or costs directly associated with support of programs to be carried out at or in direct partnership with job accelerators as outlined in 7 CFR 4284.1113. The applicant project outcome must accelerate the formation of new businesses with high-growth potential, improve the ability of rural businesses and distressed rural communities to create high-wage jobs, and strengthen rural regional economies. You must use project funds, including grant and matching funds, for eligible purposes only as outlined in 7 CFR 4284.114.

(c) Project Eligibility

All project activities must be for the benefit of communities, industries and residents located in a rural area, as defined in 7 CFR 4284.1103. The applicant is cautioned against taking any actions or incurring any obligations prior to the Agency completing the environmental review that would either limit the range of alternatives to be considered or that would have an adverse effect on the environment, such as the initiation of construction. If the applicant takes any such actions or incurs any such obligations, it could result in project ineligibility.

Projects involving the construction of an innovation center as an eligible purpose are subject to the environmental requirements of 7 CFR part 1970, local building codes and all Federal, State, and local accessibility standards.

(d) Multiple Application Eligibility

Only one application can be submitted per applicant, who is defined as a lead applicant as found in 7 CFR 4282.1112(b). If two applications are submitted by the same lead applicant, both applications will be determined ineligible for funding.

(e) Grant Period

Your application must include no more than a four-year grant period, or it will not be considered for funding. The grant period should begin no earlier than October 1, 2021, and no later than January 1, 2022. Applications that request funds for a project with a performance period ending after January 1, 2026, will not be considered for funding. Projects must be completed within a four-year timeframe. Prior approval is needed from the Agency if you are awarded a grant and desire the grant period to begin earlier or later than previously discussed or approved.

The Agency may approve requests to extend the grant period for up to an additional two-year period at its discretion. Further guidance on grant period extensions will be provided in the award document.

(f) Satisfactory Progress

The lead applicant must be performing satisfactorily on any outstanding RISE award to be considered eligible for a new award as found in 7 CFR 4282.1110(a).

Satisfactory performance includes being
up to date on all financial and performance reports as prescribed in the grant award, and current on tasks and timeframes for utilizing grant and matching funds as approved in the work plan and budget.

D. Application and Submission Information

1. Address To Request Application Package

For further information and program materials, you should contact the Rural Development National Office at https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-innovation-stronger-economy-grants. materials may also be obtained at http://www.rd.usda.gov.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

Applications will be accepted electronically through Grants.gov. You are encouraged, but not required to utilize the application template found at https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-innovation-stronger-economy-grants.

(a) Electronic Submission


You can locate the Grants.gov downloadable application package for this program by using a keyword, the program name, or the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program.

When you enter the Grants.gov website, you will find information about applying electronically through the site, as well as the hours of operation.

To use Grants.gov, you must already have a DUNS number and you must also be registered and maintain registration in SAM. We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process through Grants.gov.

You must submit all your application documents electronically through Grants.gov. Applications must include electronic signatures. Original signatures may be required if funds are awarded.

After electronically applying through Grants.gov, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number.

(b) Supplemental Information

Your application must contain all the required forms and proposal elements described in 7 CFR 4284.1115 and as otherwise clarified in this notice. If your application is incomplete, it is ineligible to compete for funds. Applications lacking sufficient information to determine eligibility and scoring criteria will be considered ineligible. Information submitted after the application deadline will not be accepted.

(c) Clarifications on Forms

Your DUNS number should be identified in the “Organizational DUNS” field on Standard Form (SF) 424, “Application for Federal Assistance.” You must also provide your SAM Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code and expiration date under the applicant eligibility discussion in your proposal narrative. If you do not include the CAGE code and expiration date and the DUNS number in your application, it will not be considered for funding.

You can voluntarily fill out and submit the “Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants,” as part of your application if you are a nonprofit organization.

(d) Clarifications on Proposal Elements

Applicants may only submit one RISE grant application each Federal Fiscal Year. There are no specific limitations on the number of pages or other formatting requirements of an application, but a complete application should be in a narrative form using a minimum of 11-point font and must consist of the following components:

(1) Rural jobs accelerator partnership information including the members and structure of the partnership, the date formalized, and the governance or leadership board. The information will identify the lead applicant and each partner’s ties to the region, their roles in the delivery of the RISE program, and any history of previous collaboration between partners. The amount and source of anticipated matching funds will also be provided.

(2) Describe the geographic region to be served including the total population, economic characteristics of the region such as unemployment rates and income levels. Industry sectors, their status, size and economic contribution to the region and all communities including metropolitan statistical areas and nonmetro low income communities within the region should be identified. The availability and planned enhancements of broadband service and other assets of the region should also be identified. If the region to be served has a population of more than 50,000 inhabitants, the applicant must document why they believe the area is “rural in character” including, but not limited to, the area’s population density, demographics, and topography and how the local economy is tied to a rural economic base.

(3) Identify the industry cluster(s) that will be prioritized by the rural jobs accelerator partnership with information on the firms and support industries in those clusters. Describe the status of the industry (as emerging, existing, or declining) any existing interconnection and networks within the industry cluster and describe participation and scale of small and disadvantaged businesses within the industry cluster. Describe the opportunities or potential of industry growth in the region and competitive advantages of the region and industry cluster should be highlighted along with opportunities within the industry for the creation of or upgrading to high wage jobs.

(4) An executive summary, project plan and scope of work must be provided with the applicant’s strategy, activities, budget, goals and objectives for the use of RISE funds. The applicant should also provide information on the sustainability of the partnership and jobs accelerator at the conclusion of the RISE grant period.

(5) The lead applicant must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) and submit a complete application consisting of the elements specified in (b)(5)(i) through (b)(5)(iii), as applicable, of this section.

(i) Form SF-424, “Application for Federal Assistance.”

(ii) Form SF-424A, “Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs,” if applicable.

(iii) Form SF-424C, “Budget Information—Construction Programs,” if applicable.

(iv) Form SF-424D, “Assurances—Construction Programs,” if applicable.

(v) RD Form 400-1, “Equal Opportunity Agreement,” for construction projects only.

(vi) Identify the ethnicity, race, and gender characteristics of the lead applicant’s leadership. This information is optional and is not a required component for a complete application.

(vii) Certification that the lead applicant is a legal entity in good standing (as applicable) and operating in accordance with the laws of the state(s) or Tribe where the applicant exists.
(viii) The lead applicant must identify whether or not the lead applicant has a known relationship or association with an Agency employee. If there is a known relationship, the lead applicant must identify each Agency employee with whom the lead applicant has a known relationship.

(ix) Readiness Demonstration, which shall be comprised of the following items:

(A) Description of readiness of all partners of the rural jobs accelerator partnership to contribute to the project including their ability to coordinate activities, finances, and outcomes of the project.

(B) Evidence of a formal agreement among partners of the rural jobs accelerator partnership for delivery of the RISE program.

(C) Evidence of demonstrated readiness in administering the RISE grant, if awarded, including demonstration of potential success in establishment of a jobs accelerator project, which targets an industry cluster and the initiatives of the RISE grant. The application should indicate when activities related to the expected outcomes will commence.

(D) Description of how the project will be marketed in the region and how the rural jobs accelerator partnership will capture any program impacts and success stories.

(E) Timeline describing the proposed tasks to be accomplished and the schedule for implementation of each task.

(F) Provide documentation of how the RISE project will impact the initiatives below, as applicable, including a brief description of how and when the initiative will be delivered.

(A) Linking rural communities and entrepreneurs to markets, networks, industry clusters, and other regional opportunities to support high wage job creation, new business formation, business expansion, and economic growth;

(B) Integrating small businesses into a supply chain;

(C) Creating or expanding commercialization activities for new business formation;

(D) Identifying and building assets in rural communities that are crucial to supporting regional economies;

(E) Facilitating the repatriation of high wage jobs to the United States;

(F) Supporting the deployment of innovative processes, technologies, and products;

(G) Enhancing the capacity of small businesses in regional industry clusters, including small and disadvantaged businesses;

(H) Increasing United States exports and business interaction with international buyers and suppliers;

(I) Developing the skills and expertise of local workforce, entrepreneurs, and institutional partners to meet the needs of employers and prepare workers for high wage jobs in the identified industry clusters, including the upskilling of incumbent workers; and

(J) Ensuring rural communities have the capacity and ability to carry out projects related to housing, community facilities, infrastructure, or community and economic development to support regional industry cluster growth.

(xi) Potential to produce high wage jobs and benefit rural small and disadvantaged businesses, including a description of the following:

(A) Describe how the project will develop the skills and expertise of the local workforce, entrepreneurs and institutional partners to meet the needs of employers and prepare high wage jobs in the targeted industry cluster(s), which may also include the upskilling of incumbent worker.

(B) Demonstrate how the project will benefit the skills and expertise of small and disadvantaged businesses, as applicable.

(C) Demonstrate any participation of higher education, applied research institutions, workforce development entities and community-based organizations, that are willing to partner with the project to provide workers with skills relevant to the industry cluster needs of the region, with an emphasis on the use of on-the-job training, classroom occupational training or incumbent worker training, as applicable.

(D) Demonstrate any participating investment organizations, venture development organizations, venture capital firms, revolving loan funders, angel investment groups, community lenders, community development financial institutions, rural business investment companies, small business companies (as defined in Section 103 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 662)), philanthropic organizations, and other institutions focused on expanding access to capital, are committed partners in the job accelerator partnership and willing to potentially invest in projects emerging from the jobs accelerator.

(xii) Describe the targeted region, including the following information:

(A) Provide the latest Census Bureau information on the targeted region’s median household income.

(B) Provide the latest Census Bureau information on the targeted region’s educational attainment, specifically the percentage of the population who hold a bachelor’s degree.

(C) Discuss how any direct career training will be provided to existing residents of the region (existing residents being those that live in the region at the time of application submission).

(D) Discuss any local support for the RISE project.

(E) Discuss the entrepreneurial commitment to the RISE project.

(F) Discuss any innovative processes and technologies to be utilized in the targeted industry cluster(s) of the RISE project.

(G) Discuss the initial and continuing capital investment in the RISE project.

(H) Discuss any demand for regional and global markets of the product and/or service provided by the targeted industry cluster.

(I) Discuss if the region consists of any areas or communities that qualify for federal initiatives.

(J) Elaborate on the current broadband service within the region and any plans to leverage the current broadband service or enhance broadband service in the region through the RISE project.

(xiii) Financial information, including the following:

(A) Identification of matching funds and other sources of funds for the project. Provide written commitments for matching funds and other sources of funds at the time the application is submitted.

(B) Current financial statements and a narrative description demonstrating financial feasibility and sustainability of the project, all of which demonstrate sufficient resources and expertise to undertake and complete the project and how the project will be sustained following completion.

(e) Upon receipt of a complete application, the Agency will determine if the applicant and project are eligible and whether the intended outcomes described meet the requirements of the RISE program. If the application is ineligible or not feasible, the Agency will inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the Agency’s determination and no further evaluation of the application will occur.

3. Submission Date and Time

Explanation of Deadline: Completed applications must be submitted electronically by no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, August 2, 2021, through Grants.gov, to be eligible for grant funding. Please review the Grants.gov website at http://grants.gov/applicants/organization_registration.jsp for instructions on the process of registering your organization as soon as
possible to ensure that you can meet the
electronic application deadline.
Grants.gov will not accept applications
submitted after the deadline.
4. Intergovernmental Review of
Applications
Executive Order (E.O.) 12372,
“Intergovernmental Review of Federal
Programs,” does not apply to this
program.
5. Funding Restrictions
(a) Project funds, including grant and
matching funds, cannot be used for
ineligible grant purposes (see 7 CFR
4284.114(d), 2 CFR part 200, subpart
E, “Cost Principles,” and the most
current Federal Acquisition Regulation
(for-profits) or successor regulations.
(b) In addition, your application will
not be considered for funding if it:
(i) Focuses assistance on only one
business; or
(ii) Requests less than the minimum
grant amount or more than the
maximum grant amount.
6. Other Submission Requirements
(a) You should not submit your
application in more than one format
or in more than one submission. You must
submit your application electronically.
Note that we cannot accept applications
through mail or courier delivery, in-
person delivery, email, or fax. To submit
an application electronically, you must
follow the instruction for this funding
announcement at http://
www.grants.gov. A password is not
required to access the website.
(b) National Environmental Policy Act
All recipients under this notice are
subject to the requirements of 7 CFR
part 1970. However, technical assistance
awards under this notice are classified
as a Categorical Exclusion according to
7 CFR 1970.53(b), and usually do not
require any additional documentation.
The Agency will review each grant
application to determine its compliance
with 7 CFR part 1970. The applicant
may be asked to provide additional
information or documentation to assist
the Agency with this determination.
(c) Civil Rights Compliance
Requirements
All grants made under this notice are
subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act
of 1964 as required by the USDA (7 CFR
part 15, subpart A) and Section 504 of the
E. Application Review Information
The National Office will review
applications to determine if they are
eligible for assistance based on
requirements in 7 CFR part 4284,
subpart L, this notice, and other
applicable Federal regulations. If
determined eligible, your application
will be scored by a panel of USDA
employees in accordance with the point
allocation specified in this notice.
Applications will be funded in rank
order until the funding limitation has
been reached. Applications that cannot
be fully funded may be offered partial
funding at the Agency’s discretion.
1. Scoring Criteria
Scoring criteria will follow criteria
published at 7 CFR 4284.1117. The
regulatory and statutory criteria are
clarified and supplemented below.
The Agency will score each complete
and eligible RISE application using the
criteria specified in paragraphs (a)
through (g) of this section with a
maximum score of 100 points possible.
Points will be awarded only for factors
indicated by well documented,
reasonable plans which, in the opinion
of the Agency, provide assurance that
the items have a high probability of
being accomplished. Points will be
awarded at the discretion of the Agency
to scoring criteria with a minimum
and maximum number of points available.
Applicants that demonstrate the
experience or ability to deliver the
stated criteria will be awarded higher
points in that criteria.
(a) Demonstrated readiness. The rural
jobs accelerator partnership
demonstrates readiness in administering
the RISE grant successfully and shows
strong documentation indicating the
potential for success in establishing a
jobs accelerator project which targets an
industry cluster and the initiative(s) of
the RISE grant program. Points are
awarded on a scale of 0 to 10 with a
maximum of 10 points being awarded.
(b) Targeted initiatives. A maximum
of 15 points will be awarded for this
criterion based on meeting the targeted
initiatives as stated in § 4284.1115(b)(2)(xi)
of this part with action narratives outlined in
the application on how and when the
initiatives will be delivered. More
points will be awarded for reasonable
initiatives that can be delivered within
12 months of the grant award and for
those projects leveraging improvements
in high-speed broadband service to the
region.
(c) Project support. Points will be
awarded for the strength of local
support of the RISE project and
trepreneurial commitment. A maximum of 15 points can be awarded
for application materials that indicate the
strength of support for the RISE
project. Points are awarded from the
partnership’s demonstration of its
sources of funding, personnel and
technical resources committed to the
project, and a focus on the inclusion
of institutional partners expanding access
to capital and willingness to potentially
invest in projects emerging from the jobs
accelerator. Points shall also be awarded
for demonstrated resources that will
sustain the project beyond the term of
the RISE grant period.
(d) Targeted region. A maximum of 20
points will be awarded for this criterion
based on the region’s demographics
according to the latest Census Bureau
information. The applicant must
provide adequate documentation to the
latest Census Bureau information to
receive points.
(1) If the targeted region has a median
household income of:
(i) 50% or less of state median
household income; 5 points will be
awarded;
(ii) Over 50% and up to 80% of state
median household income; 3 points will
be awarded.
(2) If the targeted region residents
have the educational attainment of a
bachelor’s degree by:
(i) 10% or less of the population; 5
points will be awarded;
(ii) Over 10% and up to 30% of the
population; 3 points will be awarded.
(3) Existing residents of the targeted
region will receive direct career training
for new employment or upscaling to a
high wage job; 5 points will be awarded.
(4) If the identified region has fewer
than 50,000 residents according to the
most recent decennial census; 5 points
will be awarded.
(e) RISE grant funds requested. A
maximum of 10 points will be awarded
for this criterion if:
(i) The RISE grant request is for
$500,000 to $750,000; 10 points will be
awarded.
(ii) The RISE grant request is for over
$750,000 and up to $1,000,000; 5
points will be awarded.
(f) Regional impact. Points are
awarded on a scale of 0 to 5 points for
each category, with a total maximum of
20 points being awarded for this
criterion. To receive points, the
applicant must provide documentation
to warrant strength on the following
criteria, with points awarded for each:
(i) Targeted industry(ies) in the region is
classified as an emerging industry.
(ii) Applicant demonstrates that the
targeted industry(ies) in the region hold
a competitive advantage or will enhance
its competitive advantage through the
RISE project.
(iii) Applicant demonstrates that the
industry provides significant support of
regional assets, including broadband,
and provides community and economic
development support within the region.
(iv) The RISE project's forecasted outcomes align with RISE objectives.
(v) The RISE project will target support to existing industry(ies), whose
significance in the region may be stagnant or on the decline but can be
enhanced through outcomes of the RISE project.

(g) Administrator points. A maximum
of 10 points will be awarded, with
justification, at the discretion of the
Agency Administrator. The
Administrator may award points to an
application by a region comprised
primarily of distressed communities
with high concentrations of
employment in coal, oil and gas
industries, and coal-fired generation
facilities transitioning away from fossil
fueled energy production. A list of
qualifying communities, which includes
both county and zip code, can be found
at http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-
services/rural-innovation-stronger-
weathering-recovery-grants. The Administrator may also award points to an
application to achieve geographic distribution of RISE
grant awards across the maximum
number of States and diversity of
industries targeted.

2. Review and Selection Process
The National Office will review
applications to determine if they are
eligible for assistance based on
requirements in 7 CFR part 4284,
subpart L, this notice, and other
applicable Federal regulations. If
determined eligible, your application
will be scored by a panel of USDA
employees in accordance with the point
allocation specified in this notice. The
Administrator may choose to award up
to 10 Administrator priority points
based on criterion (g) in section E.1. of
this notice. These points will be added to
the cumulative score for a total
possible score of 100. Applications will
be funded in highest ranking order until
the available funding is exhausted.
Applications that cannot be fully
funded may be offered partial funding at
the Agency's discretion. If your
application is evaluated, but not funded,
it will not be carried forward into the
next competition. Successful applicants
must comply with requirements
identified in Section F, Federal Award
Administration Information.

F. Federal Award Administration
Information
1. Federal Award Notices
If you are selected for funding, you
will receive a signed notice of Federal
award by postal or electronic mail from
the State Office where your application
was submitted, containing instructions
and requirements necessary to proceed
with execution and performance of the
award. You must comply with all
applicable statutes, regulations, and
notice requirements before the grant
award will be funded.

If you are not selected for funding,
you will be notified in writing via postal
or electronic mail and informed of any
review and appeal rights. See 7 CFR part
11 for USDA National Appeals Division
procedures. There will be no available
funds for successful applicants once all
funds available under this notice are
awarded and obligated.

2. Administrative and National Policy
Requirements
Additional requirements that apply to
grantees selected for this program can be
found in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart L; the
Grants and Agreements regulations of the
Department of Agriculture codified in
2 CFR parts 180, 400, 415, 417, 418, 421;
2 CFR parts 25 and 170; and 48
CFR 31.2, and successor regulations to
those parts.

In addition, all recipients of Federal
financial assistance are required to
report information about first-tier
subawards and executive compensation
(see 2 CFR part 170). You will be
required to have the necessary processes
and systems in place to comply with the
Federal Funding Accountability and
82) reporting requirements (see 2 CFR
170.200(b), unless you are exempt under
2 CFR 170.110(b)).

The following additional
requirements apply to grantees selected for
awards within this program:

(a) Execution of an Agency-approved
financial assistance agreement; and

(b) Acceptance of a written letter of
submission and conditions of the following
Agency forms:
(1) Form RD 1940–1, "Request for
Obligation of Funds."
(2) Form RD 1942–46, "Letter of
Intent to Meet Conditions."
(3) Form RD 400–1 for construction
projects.

3. Reporting
After grant approval and through
grant completion, you will be required to
provide an SF-425, "Federal
Financial Report," and a performance
report on a semiannual basis (due 30
working days after the end of the
semiannual period) for the first two
years, and then annually thereafter, with
the first report submitted no later than
six months after receiving a grant under
this section. The project performance
reports shall include the following:

(a) All activities funded with the grant
funds.

(b) Evaluation of progress towards
strategic initiatives identified in the
application for the grant. Discuss any
issues which may have occurred.

(c) Measurement of progress using
performance measures during the
project period, which may include the
following:
(1) High wage jobs created;
(2) High wage jobs retained;
(3) Private investment leveraged;
(4) Businesses improved;
(5) Businesses retained;
(6) New business formations;
(7) New products, prototypes and/or
services commercialized;

(8) Improvement of the value of
existing products or services under
development;

(d) Regional collaboration as
measured by the number of
organizations actively engaged in the
industry cluster and/or the number of
organizations held by the industry cluster,
including organizations that are not
located in the immediate region defined by
the partnership and/or the number of
further cooperative agreements;

(10) Number of educations and
training activities relating to the
innovation;

(11) Number of innovative products,
services and/or prototypes launched;

(12) Number of jobs relocated from
outside of the United States to the
region;

(13) Amount and number of new
equity investments in industry cluster
firms;

(14) Amount and number of new
loans to industry cluster firms;

(15) Dollar increase in exports
resulting from the project activities;

(16) Percentage of employees
for which training was provided;

(17) Improvement in sales of
participating businesses;

(18) Improvement in wages paid at
participating businesses;

(19) Improvement in income of
participating workers;

(20) Any measure determined
appropriate by the Agency; and

(21) Broadband development in the
targeted region.

(d) Initiatives and timetable
established for the next reporting
period;

(e) Any additional information as
found in the annual Federal Register
notice.

G. Agency Contacts
If you have questions about this
notice, please consult the RISE program
web page at https://www.rd.usda.gov/RISE
where program guidance as well as
application and matching funds
templates may be obtained. If you want
to submit an electronic application, follow the instructions for the RISE funding announcement located at https://www.grants.gov. You may also contact National Office Program Management Division: RISE Program Lead, cpgrants@usda.gov or call the main line at 202-720–1400.

II. Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights laws and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/patient status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD–3027, found online at https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632–9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–9410; or

(2) Email: OAC@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Mark Brodzinski,
Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

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BILLING CODE 3410–XY–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Direct Investment Surveys: BE–15, Annual Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before Aug 2, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Ricardo Limes, Chief, Multinational Operations Branch (BE–69), Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, by email to Ricardo.limes@bea.gov and PRACollections@doc.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0608–0034 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Ricardo Limes, Chief, Multinational Operations Branch (BE–69), Bureau of Economic Analysis; via phone at (301) 278–9659; or via email at Ricardo.Limes@bea.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Annual Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE–15) obtains sample data on the financial structure and operations of foreign-owned U.S. business enterprises. The data are needed to provide reliable, useful, and timely measures of foreign direct investment in the United States to assess its impact on the U.S. economy. The sample is used to derive universe estimates in non-benchmark years from similar data reported in the BE–12 benchmark survey, which is conducted every five years. The data collected include balance sheets; income statements; property, plant, and equipment; employment and employee compensation; merchandise trade; sales of goods and services; taxes; and research and development activity for the U.S. operations. In addition to these national data, several data items are collected by state, including employment and property, plant, and equipment.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) is not proposing any changes to the BE–15 survey.

II. Method of Collection

BEA contacts potential respondents by mail in March of each year; responses covering a reporting company’s fiscal year ending during the previous calendar year are due by May 31 (or by June 30 for respondents that file using BEA’s eFile system). Reports are required from each U.S. business enterprise in which a foreign person has at least 10 percent of the voting stock in an incorporated business enterprise, or an equivalent interest in an unincorporated business enterprise, and that meets the additional conditions detailed in the BE–15 forms and instructions. Entities required to report will be contacted individually by BEA. Entities not contacted by BEA have no reporting responsibilities.

BEA offers electronic filing through its eFile system for use in reporting on the BE–15 annual survey forms. In addition, BEA posts all its survey forms and reporting instructions on its website (www.bea.gov/fdb). These may be downloaded, completed, printed, and submitted via fax or mail.

Potential respondents of the BE–15 are selected from those U.S. business enterprises that were required to report on the 2017 BE–12, Benchmark Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States, along with those U.S. business enterprises that subsequently entered the direct investment universe. The BE–15 is a sample survey; universe estimates are developed from the reported sample data.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0608–0034.

Form Number: BE–15.

Type of Review: Regular submission, reinstatement without change.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,600 annually, of which approximately 3,300 file A forms, 1,600 file B forms, 1,200 file C forms, and 500 file Claim for Exemption forms.