

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE

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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the “Budget” is in regard to the 2024 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2021 and 2022, enacted levels for 2023, and the President’s Budget request for 2024. Amounts for 2023 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

Throughout this publication, the “2018 Farm Bill” is used to refer to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Most programs funded by the 2018 Farm Bill are funded through 2023. Amounts shown in 2024 for most Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

AGENCY-WIDE**PURPOSE STATEMENT**

USDA Rural Development’s (RD) Business – Cooperative Programs provide loans, loan guarantees, grants, and payments designed to increase economic opportunity in rural America.

Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program – Authorized by section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S.C 1932(g). The guaranteed loan program supports financing for business and industrial acquisition, construction, conversion, enlargement, repair or modernization in rural areas not in a town or city with a population of more than 50,000.

Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) – Authorized by section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)) as amended by section 6012 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) and reauthorized by section 6411 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334). This grant program is designed to benefit small and emerging private businesses and cooperatives in rural areas by providing grant and technical assistance for economic and community development. This grant program will assist a wide range of recipients, including economic development organizations, business and community intermediaries, universities, and Indian tribes.

Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) – Authorized by section 310H of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936b) as added by section 6017 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79). Revolving loan programs, such as the IRP, address the lack of available credit and financial market conditions that exist in many rural communities, especially for smaller entities, service businesses and start-up activities. These conditions often limit the ability of rural economies to create jobs, enhance amenities, and increase incomes to enable rural families to prosper.

Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants (REDLG) – Authorized by section 313B of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended by section 6504(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 940c(b)(2)). This program provides zero-interest loans and small grants to electric and telephone utilities eligible for financing through the RD utilities programs, which in turn use the funding to promote sustainable rural economic development and job creation projects and to capitalize revolving loan funds for economic development and job creation purposes.

Rural Business Investment Program (RBIP) – Authorized by section 384S of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc et seq.) as added by section 6029 of the Farm Security and Rural Development Investments Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171), reauthorized by section 6028 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79), and amended by section 6426 and reauthorized by section 6427 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334). RBIP is designed to promote economic development and create wealth and job opportunities among individuals living in rural areas and help meet the equity capital investment needs primarily of smaller enterprises located in such areas. Under the RBIP, for-profit Rural Business Investment Companies (RBIC) make venture capital investments in rural areas with the objectives of fostering economic development in such areas and returning maximum profits to the RBIC’s investors.

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) – Authorized by section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107) as added by section 9001(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246), amended and reauthorized by section 9007 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79), and amended and reauthorized by section 9007 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334). Section 9007 guaranteed loan and grant programs help farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. Renewable energy projects benefit agricultural producers and rural small businesses with new and sustainable, income streams; reduced reliance on fossil fuels; and an improved environment. Energy efficiency projects also reduce the cost of production and business operations. Grants may also be used for energy audits.

Biobased Markets Program – Authorized by Section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Investments Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8102), amended and reauthorized by section 9002 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79), and amended and reauthorized by section 9002 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334). The purpose of the Biobased Markets Program is to increase the purchase and use of biobased products to spur economic development, create new jobs, and provide new markets for farm commodities. The two major parts of the program are: mandatory purchasing requirements for federal agencies and their contractors; and a voluntary “BioPreferred” labeling initiative for producers for biobased products.

Rural Cooperative Development Grants (RCDG) – Authorized by section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)). RCDGs improve the economic condition of rural areas by promoting a range of cooperative development activities. Grants are made to nonprofit corporations and institutions of higher education to operate centers for cooperative development.

Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) – Authorized by section 231 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-224), as amended. Value-added agricultural market development grants enable producers of agricultural commodities to participate in the economic returns found in the value-added market. Grants may be used to develop business plans and strategies for creating marketing opportunities. This program has been superseded by the Local Agriculture Market Program (see below).

Small Socially-Disadvantaged Producers Grants – Authorized by section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)). Grants to assist small, minority agricultural producers in rural areas provide funding for cooperative development centers, cooperatives, or associations of cooperatives whose primary focus is to assist such producers, and whose governing board and/or membership is comprised of at least 75 percent socially disadvantaged members. Grants may be used for developing business plans, conducting feasibility studies, or developing marketing plans for farmers, ranchers, loggers, agricultural harvesters, and fishermen.

Cooperative Research Agreements – Authorized by the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926 (7 U.S.C. 453). Cooperative agreements are used to encourage research on critical issues vital to the development and sustainability of cooperatives as a means of improving the quality of life in America's rural communities. Research proposals are solicited from institutions of higher education or non-profit organizations interested in applying for competitively awarded cooperative agreements for research related to agricultural and nonagricultural cooperatives serving rural communities.

Cooperative Education and Research Program – Authorized by the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926 (7 U.S.C. 453). The cooperative program conducts applied research on practical issues and problems facing cooperatives and disseminates information to farmers and the public on dealing with these issues. A range of educational activities and materials are developed to increase public awareness of cooperative strategies that can increase rural economic activity.

Technical Assistance to Cooperatives Program – Authorized by the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926 (7 U.S.C. 453). The cooperative program is authorized to provide advice and assistance to existing cooperatives and groups of farmers contemplating the formation of cooperatives. Technical assistance studies are provided at the request of a cooperative or steering committee at no fee and may cover a range of business operational, organizational, financial, or developmental topics and problems.

Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) Program – Authorized by section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1932(i)) as added by section 6016 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246). ATTRA provides information to farmers and other rural users on a variety of sustainable agricultural practices that include both crop and livestock operations. The program

encourages agricultural producers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices that allow them to maintain or improve profits, produce high quality food, and reduce adverse impacts to the environment.

Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program – Authorized by section 379E(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s) as added by section 6022 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246). The purpose of the program is to support the development and ongoing success of rural microentrepreneurs and microenterprises. Direct loans and grants are provided to microentrepreneurs development organizations with the skills necessary to establish new rural microenterprises and continuing technical and financial assistance related to the successful operation of rural microenterprises.

Biorefinery Assistance Program – Authorized by section 9003 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103) as added under section 9001(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) and amended and reauthorized by section 9003 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334). The purpose of the program is to assist in the development of new and emerging technologies for the production/manufacture of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, and biobased products. The program will increase energy independence, promote resource conservation, diversify markets for agricultural and forestry products, create jobs, and enhance economic development in rural economies.

Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels – Authorized by section 9005 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8105) as added under section 9001(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) and amended and reauthorized by section 9005 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334). The program makes payments to eligible producers to support and ensure an expanding production of advanced biofuels. Advanced biofuels are defined as “fuel derived from renewable biomass other than corn kernel starch” in 7 U.S.C. 8101(3). To receive a payment, an eligible producer shall enter into a contract with the Secretary of Agriculture for production of advanced biofuels.

Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Program – Authorized by section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) as added by section 6424 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334) to make grants available to help eligible entities establish jobs accelerators and Innovation Centers to support the rural workforce by helping rural communities identify and maximize local assets and connect to regional opportunities, networks, and industry clusters.

Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP) – Authorized by section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c note) as added by section 10102 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334). This program combines and streamlines two existing local and regional food system programs, the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program and Value-Added Producers Grant Program.

RD is comprised of three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Utilities Service, and Business-Cooperative Service. RD’s headquarter is located in Washington, DC. As of September 30, 2022, there were 4,616 permanent full-time employees, including 334 in the headquarters office and 4,282 in the field offices.

OIG AND GAO REPORTS

Table RBCS-1. Completed GAO Reports

ID	Date	Title	Result
GAO-22-104436	2/14/2022	Compacts of Free Association: Implications of Planned Ending of Some U.S. Economic Assistance	No recommendations.
GAO-22-104241	5/18/2022	Alaska Native Issues: Federal Agencies Could Enhance Support for Native Village Efforts to Address Environmental Threats	No recommendations.
GAO-22-104602	5/19/2022	Tribal Funding: Actions Needed to Improve Information on Federal Funds That Benefit Native Americans.	No recommendations.

ID	Date	Title	Result
GAO-22-104611	5/31/2022	Broadband: National Strategy Needed to Guide Federal Efforts to Reduce Digital Divide	No recommendations.
GAO-22-105215	8/30/2022	Tribal Economic Development: Action is Needed to Better Understand the Extent of Federal Support	No recommendations.

Table RBCS-2. In-Progress GAO Reports

ID	Title
106113	The Status of Empowerment Zone Recommendations
106144	The U.S. Sugar Program

ACCOUNT 1: RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

- 1 Rural Business Program Account (including transfers of funds)
- 2 For the cost of loan guarantees and grants, for the rural business development programs authorized by section 310B
- 3 and described in subsections (a), (c), (f) and (g) of section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
- 4 Act, [~~\$86,520,000~~]\$103,600,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated
- 5 under this heading, not to exceed \$500,000 shall be made available for one grant to a qualified national organization
- 6 to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development and \$9,000,000
- 7 shall be for grants to the Delta Regional Authority (7 U.S.C. 2009aa et seq.), the Northern Border Regional
- 8 Commission (40 U.S.C. 15101 et seq.), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 14101 et seq.) for
- 9 any Rural Community Advancement Program purpose as described in section 381E(d) of the Consolidated Farm and
- 10 Rural Development Act, of which not more than 5 percent may be used for administrative expenses: *Provided*
- 11 *further*, That \$4,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for business grants to benefit
- 12 Federally Recognized Native American Tribes, including \$250,000 for a grant to a qualified national organization to
- 13 provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development: *Provided further*,
- 14 That of the amount appropriated under this heading, [~~\$2,000,000~~]\$7,000,000 shall be for the Rural Innovation
- 15 Stronger Economy Grant Program (7 U.S.C. 2008w): *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the
- 16 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to funds made available under this heading.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table RBCS-3. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Grants	Loan Level	Subsidy
Estimate, 2023	\$48,000,000	\$1,800,000,000	\$38,520,000
Change in Appropriation	+ 8,000,000	+ 200,000,000	+ 9,080,000
Budget Estimate, 2024	<u>56,000,000</u>	<u>2,000,000,000</u>	<u>47,600,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table RBCS-4. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Program Level	2021 Actual BA	2022 Program Level	2022 Actual BA	2023 Program Level	2023 Estimated BA	2024 Program Level	2024 Estimated BA	Program Level Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key	Budget Authority Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:												
Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loans	\$912,281	\$10,400	\$1,250,000	\$25,125	\$1,800,000	\$38,520	\$2,000,000	\$47,600	+\$200,000	(1)	+\$9,080	(2)
Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG)	30,500	30,500	32,500	32,500	32,500	32,500	35,500	35,500	+3,000		+3,000	(3)
RBDG Native American Tribes	3,750	3,750	3,750	3,750	3,750	3,750	3,750	3,750	-		-	(3)
RBDG Technical Assistance Transportation	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	-		-	(3)
RBDG Native American Tribes Transportation	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	-		-	(3)
RBDG Coastal Communities	2,000	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	(3)
Delta Regional Authority Grants	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	-		-	(4)
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grants	5,000	5,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	7,000	7,000	+5,000		+5,000	(5)
Subtotal	963,281	61,400	1,298,000	73,125	1,848,000	86,520	2,056,000	103,600	+208,000		+17,080	
Offsetting Collections:												
Total Adjusted Approp	963,281	61,400	1,298,000	73,125	1,848,000	86,520	2,056,000	103,600	+208,000		+17,080	
Total Appropriation	963,281	61,400	1,298,000	73,125	1,848,000	86,520	2,056,000	103,600	+208,000		-17,080	
Transfers In:												
Interchange Trans. (Community Facilities to Rural Business Programs)	-	-	99,502	2,000	-	-	-	-	-		-	
Interchange Trans. (Water and Waste Disposal to Rural Business Programs)	-	-	167,313	3,363	-	-	-	-	-		-	
Total Transfers In	-	-	266,816	5,363	-	-	-	-	-		-	
Recoveries, Other	354,535	8,244	261,366	11,541	298,613	10,184	255,075	9,303	-43,538		-881	
Bal. Available, SOY	1,307,336	27,571	53,726	3,500	50,549	8,577	270,501	11,793	+219,951		+3,217	
Total Available	2,625,152	97,215	1,879,908	93,528	2,197,162	105,281	2,581,575	124,696	+384,414		+19,416	
Lapsing Balances	-14,388	-360	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	
Bal. Available, EOY	-10,219	-3,500	-53,323	-8,577	-300,222	-11,793	-255,970	-10,198	+44,252		+1,596	
Total Obligations	2,600,545	93,356	1,826,585	84,952	1,896,940	93,487	2,325,606	114,499	+428,666		+21,011	

Note: The details associated with Supplemental appropriations provided to the Office of the Secretary, but implemented in this account, is found in the USDA Budget Summary and is not reflected above.

Table RBCS-5. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Program Level	2021 Actual BA	2022 Program Level	2022 Actual BA	2023 Program Level	2023 Estimated BA	2024 Program Level	2024 Estimated BA	Program Level Inc. or Dec.	Budget Authority Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loans	\$2,021,876	\$23,049	\$1,777,358	\$35,725	\$1,842,890	\$39,438	\$2,265,015	\$53,907	+\$422,124	+\$14,469
Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG)	31,688	31,688	33,281	33,281	37,656	37,656	38,470	38,470	+814	+814
RBDG Native American Tribes.....	4,161	4,161	4,168	4,168	4,394	4,394	5,371	5,371	+977	+977
RBDG Technical Assistance Transportation.....	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	-	-
RBDG Native American Tribes Transportation.....	250	250	250	250	500	500	250	250	-250	-250
RBDG Coastal Communities	2,000	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delta Regional Authority Grants	9,000	9,000	9,028	9,028	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	-	-
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grants.....	10,000	10,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	7,000	7,000	+5,000	+5,000
Subtotal Disc oblig.....	2,079,475	80,648	1,826,585	84,952	1,896,940	93,487	2,325,606	114,499	+428,666	+21,011
Supplemental Obligations:										
B&I CARES Act.....	521,070	12,708	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations.....	2,600,545	93,356	1,826,585	84,952	1,896,940	93,487	2,325,606	114,499	+428,666	+21,011
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	14,388	360	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, EOY:										
Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loans	6,796	77	45,664	918	294,736	6,307	251,764	5,992	-42,972	-315
Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG)	2,380	2,380	5,924	5,924	3,755	3,755	3,473	3,473	-282	-282
RBDG Native American Tribes.....	792	792	1,485	1,485	1,731	1,731	733	733	-998	-998
RBDG Native American Tribes Transportation.....	250	250	250	250	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY.....	10,219	3,500	53,323	8,577	300,222	11,793	255,970	10,198	-44,252	-1,596
Total Available.....	2,625,152	97,215	1,879,908	93,528	2,197,162	105,281	2,581,575	124,696	+384,414	+19,416
Less:										
Total Transfers In.....	-	-	-266,816	-5,363	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other	-354,535	-8,244	-261,366	-11,541	-298,613	-10,184	-255,075	-9,303	+43,538	+881
Bal. Available, SOY.....	-1,307,336	-27,571	-53,726	-3,500	-50,549	-8,577	-270,501	-11,793	-219,951	-3,217
Total Appropriation.....	963,281	61,400	1,298,000	73,125	1,848,000	86,520	2,056,000	103,600	+208,000	+17,080

Note: The details associated with Supplemental appropriations provided to the Office of the Secretary, but implemented in this account, is found in the USDA Budget Summary and is not reflected above.

Rural Business Programs

Rural Business and Cooperative Service (RBCS) programs work with local partners to invest in small business expansion, helping rural communities keep local entrepreneurs and business owners and attract new ones.

RBCS program funding requests are addressing the following Strategic Goals, Objectives and Justice 40 investments for Climate Change

Goal 1: Combat Climate Change to Support America’s Working Lands, Natural Resources and Communities: Strategic Objective 1.4: Increase Carbon Sequestration, Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Create Economic Opportunities (and Develop Low-Carbon Energy Solutions). By supporting rural and tribal clean electricity generation and energy efficiency.

Goal 2: Ensure America’s Agricultural System is Equitable, Resilient, and Prosperous; Objective 2.2: Build Resilient Food Systems, Infrastructure, and Supply Chain by assessing the impact of the Department’s Build Back Better and American Rescue Plan investments on key outcomes using grant performance metrics for local and regional food systems (such as partnerships developed, business development changes, diversification and expanded market development), and the supply chain (such as feasibility studies conducted, value chain enhancements made, increased small food business activity, number of new market access points established).

Goal 5: Expand Opportunities for Economic Development and Improve Quality of Life in Rural and Tribal Communities: Objective 5.3: Increase Capacity, Sustainability, and Economic Vitality in Rural and Tribal Communities; and Objective 5.4: Promote Environmental Justice by Maximizing Sustainable and Green Economic Development in Rural and Tribal Communities.

RBCS programs contribute towards meeting Justice 40 commitments on Climate change and racial equity. Business Programs provide financial backing and technical assistance to stimulate business creation and growth. The programs work through partnerships with public and private community-based organizations and financial institutions to provide financial assistance, business development, and technical assistance to rural businesses. These programs help to provide capital, equipment, space, job training, and entrepreneurial skills that can help to start and/or grow a business. Business Programs also support the creation and preservation of quality jobs in rural areas.

Loans, loan guarantees, and grants are available to individuals, businesses, cooperatives, farmers and ranchers, public bodies, non-profit corporations, Native American Tribes, and private companies in rural communities. The financial resources of the Business Programs are often leveraged with those of other public and private credit source lenders to meet business and credit needs in under-served areas. The funding is intended to help improve the quality of life in rural communities by enhancing economic opportunities and ensuring self-sustainability for generations to come.

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

Justification of Increases and Decreases:

1. An increase of \$200,000,000 in program level for the Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loans program (\$1.800,000,000 available in 2023).

The purpose of the Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program is to improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities through the development, improvement, or financing of business, industry, and employment. The program provides guarantees on loans made by private lenders to eligible rural borrowers. The B&I program provides guarantees for loans made to businesses that save or create jobs in rural areas. Borrowers may be individuals, partnerships, cooperatives, for-profit or non-profit corporations, Indian tribes, or public bodies. The program is open to new and existing businesses. Eligible business activities include manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, providing services, and other activities that provide employment and improve the economic or environmental climate. For 2017-2022 the B&I program has obligated nearly \$18 million for 10 Tribal projects Nationwide. Over the last five years the B&I Guaranteed program obligated over \$9 billion in guaranteed loans to businesses, public bodies, cooperatives, and other vital community partners across the Nation. In that time, nearly 15 percent of the funds have been obligated to persistent poverty areas.

The Southern region of the Nation, where unemployment and poverty rates rank among the highest, has received over \$4.8 billion in B&I Guaranteed loan funds during the same period. Loan funds are used to improve the quality of life in rural America by encouraging the establishment and capital growth of rural businesses and cooperatives, which ultimately improves the availability, stability, and quality of jobs in rural America. This program also strives to expand economic and trade opportunities for agricultural producers and other rural residents and build leveraging partnerships with State, local, and private conglomerates to expand the total amount of resources provided in rural areas.

The largest investment segments funded through the B&I guaranteed loans have been in the accommodation and food services sector and manufacturing sector, totaling over 45 percent of obligations between the two. This program is important for distressed and Energy communities, supporting local investments that can improve their standard of living and provide new high-paying jobs. With a funding level of \$2 billion in 2024, B&I can guarantee 276 loans at an average loan value of \$7.2 million. This program supports underserved communities by offering a reduced guaranteed fee of 1 percent, and approximately 12 percent of the program level is targeted at these communities. In 2024, the program will be implementing an increase of 0.05 percent in the annual renewal fee for the non-distressed loans to 0.55 percent, the same as Small Business Administration loans. For 2024, the blended subsidy rate of 2.38 percent assumes an upfront fee of 2.76 percent, an annual fee of 0.544 percent, and a guaranteed percentage of 90 percent for distressed communities and 80 percent for non-distressed communities. These changes can be accomplished through the OneRD regulation. The budget proposal focuses on underserved communities and provides the best resources available to improve their economic standing.

2. An increase of \$9,080,000 in budget authority for the Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loans program (\$38,520,000 available in 2023).

The increase in budget authority is driven in part by the request of \$2 billion in program level and in part by an increase in the subsidy rate.

By statute this program can only charge a 2 percent upfront fee. However, the budget proposes to continue a general provision authorizing RBCS to charge an upfront fee of up to 3 percent.

3. An increase of \$3,000,000 for Rural Business Development Grants (\$37,000,000 available in 2023).

The Budget request for the Rural Business Development Grant funding level is \$40 million. It demonstrates a continued commitment to assisting small business in rural areas with high demand for technical assistance to help developing capacity for small businesses in rural areas. Small means that the business has fewer than 50 new workers and less than \$1 million in gross revenue. Funding for this program is spread across the Nation with a focus on the Southern region where poverty and unemployment rates are currently the highest. This program has increased annual obligations from \$27.5 million in 2017 to \$38.2 million in 2022, with a total of nearly \$200 million obligated during that period.

This program is instrumental in developing job potential in socially disadvantaged communities, which helps these communities thrive and improve their economic standards and reduce/eliminate inequalities. Funding for this program assists in establishing business support centers, provides funds for job training and leadership development, and finances or develops small and emerging businesses in rural areas. The program also finances technical assistance (salaries and expenses) which specifically helps to improve human capital in low-capacity areas. The funding requested in 2024 will support approximately 421 grants.

4. No change for Delta Regional Authority, Northern Regional Authority and Appalachian Regional Commission grants (\$9,000,000 available in 2023).

The 2024 budget is requesting \$9 million to support the agency's partnership with the Delta, Appalachia, and Northern Border Regional Commissions. The funding will be provided to the three Regional Commissions that serve eight States in the lower Mississippi Delta region, 13 Appalachian, and four Northern Border Regional States. Grant funds are used to advance the economic vitality of these communities through the practical application of innovative ideas and strategies that foster inclusive communities, achieve a sustained, long-term economic development, and produce meaningful opportunities for all traditionally underserved people in these areas. Projects are targeted to the Strategic Goals of improved workforce competitiveness, strengthened infrastructure, and increased community capacity.

Funding in 2024 will provide an estimated four grants in partnership with the Delta, Appalachia, and Northern Border Regional Commissions.

5. An increase of \$5,000,000 for the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grants program (\$2,000,000 available in 2023).

Section 6424 of the 2018 Farm Bill authorized grant funding for rural job growth by expanding opportunity for job accelerator partnerships by facilitating the creation of a working group with key community partners and stakeholders that understand the type of industry clusters that are declining, emerging, or existing in rural areas. Funding used for construction or purchase are limited to buildings that will serve as innovation centers for a jobs accelerator. Equipment purchases must be necessary to support the functions of the jobs accelerator. The RISE program is designed to provide financial assistance to support job accelerator partnerships that improve the ability of distressed rural communities to create high wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, and help rural communities identify and maximize local assets. These types of grants will allow RD to target funding for developing sustainable communities that will thrive economically, particularly energy communities. Since 2020, \$12 million has been obligated through this program. A funding level of \$7 million in 2024 will support an estimated nine grants.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS

Table RBCS-6. Guaranteed Business and Industry Loans Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alabama	\$64,110	\$18,485	-	-
Alaska	14,359	4,994	-	-
Arizona.....	106,776	41,732	-	-
Arkansas.....	-	33,863	-	-
California	86,973	93,587	-	-
Colorado.....	42,913	89,262	-	-
Delaware	3,400	25,000	-	-
Florida.....	95,653	72,080	-	-
Georgia.....	40,995	35,874	-	-
Guam.....	-	1,835	-	-
Hawaii	-	7,883	-	-
Idaho	19,598	31,150	-	-
Illinois	39,157	11,418	-	-
Indiana	14,416	-	-	-
Iowa	21,352	10,952	-	-
Kansas.....	-	6,971	-	-
Kentucky.....	64,875	109,754	-	-
Louisiana.....	174,191	144,621	-	-
Maine	9,000	-	-	-
Maryland.....	14,810	17,400	-	-
Michigan.....	32,446	14,684	-	-
Minnesota.....	24,800	3,115	-	-
Mississippi.....	17,600	40,200	-	-
Missouri	66,588	42,622	-	-
Montana	5,113	19,138	-	-
Nebraska	8,456	-	-	-
Nevada	-	9,425	-	-
New Hampshire	5,000	20,638	-	-
New Jersey.....	9,500	-	-	-
New Mexico.....	17,212	5,369	-	-
New York.....	14,914	116,204	-	-
North Carolina	236,946	100,151	-	-
North Dakota.....	16,985	2,500	-	-
Ohio	38,833	57,889	-	-
Oklahoma.....	127,879	126,645	-	-
Oregon	54,803	3,677	-	-
Pennsylvania	35,121	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	9,722	21,250	-	-
Rhode Island	-	24,500	-	-
South Carolina	71,732	88,860	-	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
South Dakota.....	961	-	-	-
Tennessee.....	69,378	42,596	-	-
Texas.....	159,149	118,142	-	-
Utah.....	2,500	28,959	-	-
Vermont.....	1,962	9,650	-	-
Virgin Islands.....	32,976	4,100	-	-
Virginia.....	21,265	9,344	-	-
Washington.....	49,132	73,728	-	-
West Virginia.....	33,300	8,650	-	-
Wisconsin.....	19,359	6,350	-	-
Wyoming.....	25,666	22,111	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$1,842,890	\$2,265,015
Obligations.....	2,021,876	1,777,358	1,842,890	2,265,015

Table RBCS-7. Rural Business Development Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alabama.....	\$868	\$1,379	-	-
Alaska.....	197	409	-	-
Arizona.....	510	478	-	-
Arkansas.....	661	706	-	-
California.....	1,654	1,250	-	-
Colorado.....	65	196	-	-
Connecticut.....	221	195	-	-
Delaware.....	125	130	-	-
Florida.....	519	150	-	-
Georgia.....	846	849	-	-
Hawaii.....	195	124	-	-
Idaho.....	253	312	-	-
Illinois.....	685	1,115	-	-
Indiana.....	730	851	-	-
Iowa.....	455	530	-	-
Kansas.....	307	325	-	-
Kentucky.....	1,398	800	-	-
Louisiana.....	368	754	-	-
Maine.....	545	528	-	-
Maryland.....	342	73	-	-
Massachusetts.....	221	323	-	-
Michigan.....	1,374	1,098	-	-
Minnesota.....	555	549	-	-
Mississippi.....	504	402	-	-
Missouri.....	1,007	1,195	-	-
Montana.....	271	264	-	-
Nebraska.....	214	224	-	-
Nevada.....	129	133	-	-
New Hampshire.....	248	184	-	-
New Jersey.....	444	220	-	-
New Mexico.....	449	851	-	-
New York.....	1,296	1,620	-	-
North Carolina.....	1,447	1,328	-	-
North Dakota.....	284	710	-	-
Ohio.....	881	1,544	-	-
Oklahoma.....	722	775	-	-
Oregon.....	484	404	-	-
Pennsylvania.....	1,158	1,277	-	-
Puerto Rico.....	411	842	-	-
Rhode Island.....	95	97	-	-
South Carolina.....	906	968	-	-
South Dakota.....	216	227	-	-
Tennessee.....	1,079	1,325	-	-
Texas.....	996	1,281	-	-
Utah.....	172	50	-	-
Vermont.....	1,991	1,184	-	-
Virgin Islands.....	50	-	-	-

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Virginia	847	853	-	-
Washington	809	770	-	-
West Virginia	635	670	-	-
Wisconsin.....	713	638	-	-
Wyoming	138	123	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$37,656	\$38,470
Obligations.....	31,688	33,281	37,656	38,470

Table RBCS-8. Rural Business Development Grants Native American Tribes Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Arizona.....	\$849	\$1,245	-	-
California	75	96	-	-
Colorado.....	270	-	-	-
Idaho	60	-	-	-
Maine	93	-	-	-
Massachusetts	30	-	-	-
Minnesota.....	297	-	-	-
Montana	30	-	-	-
Nebraska	1,032	2,578	-	-
Nevada	108	49	-	-
New Mexico.....	-	200	-	-
North Dakota.....	53	-	-	-
Oklahoma.....	705	-	-	-
Oregon	100	-	-	-
South Dakota.....	309	-	-	-
Washington	125	-	-	-
Wisconsin.....	27	-	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$4,394	\$5,371
Obligations.....	4,161	4,168	4,394	5,371

Table RBCS-9. Rural Business Development Grants Technical Assistance Transportation Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Maryland.....	\$500	\$500	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$500	\$500
Obligations.....	500	500	500	500

Table RBCS-10. Rural Business Development Grants Native American Transportation Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Maryland.....	\$250	\$250	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$500	\$250
Obligations.....	250	250	500	250

Table RBCS-11. Rural Business Development Grants Coastal Communities Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Oregon	\$1,901	-	-	-
Washington	99	-	-	-
Obligations.....	2,000	-	-	-

Table RBCS-12. Delta Regional Authority, Appalachian Regional Commission and Northern Border Regional Commission Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Kentucky	\$3,000	\$3,000	-	-
Mississippi	3,000	3,028	-	-
New Hampshire	3,000	3,000	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$9,000	\$9,000

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Obligations.....	9,000	9,028	9,000	9,000

Table RBCS-13. Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alaska	\$740	-	-	-
Arizona.....	991	-	-	-
California	750	-	-	-
Colorado.....	1,717	-	-	-
Idaho	1,247	-	-	-
Kansas.....	745	-	-	-
Louisiana.....	781	-	-	-
Michigan.....	-	\$555	-	-
Minnesota.....	750	-	-	-
Missouri	-	730	-	-
Ohio	-	715	-	-
Oklahoma.....	468	-	-	-
Wyoming	1,812	-	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$2,000	\$7,000
Obligations.....	10,000	2,000	2,000	7,000

Table RBCS-14. Business and Industry Guaranteed CARES Act Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alabama.....	\$39,110	-	-	-
Arizona.....	3,525	-	-	-
Arkansas.....	6,544	-	-	-
California	10,150	-	-	-
Colorado.....	848	-	-	-
District of Columbia.....	2,660	-	-	-
Florida.....	16,656	-	-	-
Hawaii.....	2,270	-	-	-
Idaho	3,200	-	-	-
Indiana	1,000	-	-	-
Iowa	25,302	-	-	-
Kentucky.....	46,723	-	-	-
Louisiana.....	32,421	-	-	-
Maryland.....	14,970	-	-	-
Michigan.....	23,624	-	-	-
Minnesota.....	7,470	-	-	-
Mississippi.....	12,750	-	-	-
Missouri	1,730	-	-	-
Nebraska	2,500	-	-	-
Nevada	3,725	-	-	-
New York.....	22,250	-	-	-
North Carolina	29,972	-	-	-
Ohio	34,079	-	-	-
Oklahoma.....	48,758	-	-	-
Oregon	1,954	-	-	-
Pennsylvania	6,050	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	78	-	-	-
South Carolina	28,240	-	-	-
South Dakota.....	3,600	-	-	-
Tennessee.....	550	-	-	-
Texas.....	48,401	-	-	-
Virgin Islands.....	500	-	-	-
West Virginia.....	291	-	-	-
Wisconsin.....	14,171	-	-	-
Wyoming	25,000	-	-	-
Obligations.....	521,070	-	-	-

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table RBCS-15. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	\$93,356	\$84,952	\$93,487	\$114,499
	Total, Other Objects	93,356	84,952	93,487	114,499
99.9	Total, new obligations	93,356	84,952	93,487	114,499

ACCOUNT 2: INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

- 1 Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (including transfer of funds)
 2
 3 For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7
 4 U.S.C. 1936b), [~~\$18,889,000~~]\$18,890,000. For the cost of direct loans, [~~\$3,313,000~~]\$5,733,000, as authorized by
 5 the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), of which [~~\$331,000~~]\$573,000 shall be
 6 available through June 30, [~~2023~~]2024, for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes; and of which
 7 [~~\$663,000~~]\$1,147,000 shall be available through June 30, [~~2023~~]2024, for Mississippi Delta Region counties (as
 8 determined in accordance with Public Law 100–460): *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying
 9 such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.
 10
 11 In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan programs, \$4,468,000 shall be paid to the
 12 appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table RBCS-16. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Loan Level	Subsidy	Administrative Expense
Estimate, 2023	\$18,888,000	\$3,313,000	\$4,468,000
Change in Appropriation	+2,000	+ 2,420,000	-
Budget Estimate, 2024	<u>18,890,000</u>	<u>5,733,000</u>	<u>4,468,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table RBCS-17. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Program Level	2021 Actual BA	2022 Program Level	2022 Actual BA	2023 Program Level	2023 Estimated BA	2024 Program Level	2024 Estimated BA	Program Level Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key	Budget Authority Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:												
Intermediary Relending Program.....	\$18,889	\$2,939	\$18,889	\$1,524	\$18,888	\$3,313	\$18,890	\$5,733	+\$2	(1)	+\$2,420	(2)
Administrative Expenses.....	-	4,468	-	4,468	-	4,468	-	4,468	-		-	
Subtotal.....	18,889	7,407	18,889	5,992	18,888	7,781	18,890	10,201	+2		+2,420	
Total Adjusted Approp.....	18,889	7,407	18,889	5,992	18,888	7,781	18,890	10,201	+2		+2,420	
Total Appropriation.....	18,889	7,407	18,889	5,992	18,888	7,781	18,890	10,201	+2		+2,420	
Transfers Out:												
Working Capital Fund	-4,008	-624	-5,500	-444	-	-	-	-	-		-	
Total Transfers Out	-4,008	-624	-5,500	-444	-	-	-	-	-		-	
Total Available.....	14,881	6,783	13,389	5,548	18,888	7,781	18,890	10,201	+2		+2,420	
Lapsing Balances	-881	-137	-229	-18	-	-	-	-	-		-	
Total Obligations.....	14,000	6,646	13,160	5,530	18,888	7,781	18,890	10,201	+2		+2,420	

Table RBCS-18. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Program Level	2021 Actual BA	2022 Program Level	2022 Actual BA	2023 Program Level	2023 Estimated BA	2024 Program Level	2024 Estimated BA	Program Level Inc. or Dec.	Budget Authority Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Intermediary Relending Fund.....	\$14,000	\$2,178	\$13,160	\$1,062	\$18,888	\$3,313	\$18,890	\$5,733	+\$2	+\$2,420
Administrative Expense	-	4,468	-	4,468	-	4,468	-	4,468	-	-
Subtotal Disc oblig.....	14,000	6,646	13,160	5,530	18,888	7,781	18,890	10,201	+2	+2,420
Total Obligations	14,000	6,646	13,160	5,530	18,888	7,781	18,890	10,201	+2	+2,420
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	881	137	229	18	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available.....	14,881	6,783	13,389	5,548	18,888	7,781	18,890	10,201	+2	+2,420
Less:										
Total Transfers Out.....	4,008	624	5,500	444	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriation	18,889	7,407	18,889	5,992	18,888	7,781	18,890	10,201	+2	+2,420

Intermediary Relending Program

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

Justification of Increases and Decreases:

- (1) An increase of \$2,000 for the Intermediary Relending Loan program (\$18,888,000 available in 2023).

Funding for the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) is used to alleviate poverty and increase economic activity and employment in rural communities. Loans are provided to local organizations (intermediaries) for the establishment of revolving loan funds. These revolving loan funds are used to make loans to businesses and community and economic development organizations that are unable to obtain commercial credit to assist them with financing business and economic development activities to create or retain jobs in disadvantaged and remote communities. Intermediaries are encouraged to work in concert with State and regional strategies and in partnership with other public and private organizations that can provide complementary resources. This program is very well used across the country and has proven its effectiveness by creating jobs and revitalizing communities. In 2022, 16 intermediaries across the nation will provide services that are estimated to create or save over 860 jobs and assist nearly 170 rural businesses.

Since 2017, IRP loan obligations total over \$100 million with funding focused in the Western and Midwestern regions of the Nation. West Virginia, Mississippi, and Louisiana, the three States with the highest poverty rate range of 15.08 -18.7 percent have obligated more than \$3 million over the last five fiscal years.

The requested funding level in 2024 will provide 21 loans.

- (2) An increase of \$2,420,000 in Intermediary Relending Loan program budget authority (\$3.313,000 available in 2023).

The increase in budget authority is due to an increase in subsidy rate from 2022, which went from 17.54 percent to 30.35 percent. This is the level of budget authority necessary to support the loan level requested.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS

Table RBCS-19. Intermediary Relending Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alabama	-	\$500	-	-
California	\$500	1,000	-	-
Colorado.....	-	1,500	-	-
Idaho	2,000	1,000	-	-
Iowa	500	500	-	-
Kansas.....	-	1,000	-	-
Kentucky.....	2,000	-	-	-
Louisiana.....	1,000	-	-	-
Mississippi.....	-	1,000	-	-
Missouri	1,000	1,000	-	-
Montana	500	-	-	-
Nevada	-	1,000	-	-
New York.....	-	750	-	-
North Carolina	1,000	-	-	-
Oklahoma.....	1,000	1,000	-	-
Pennsylvania.....	500	-	-	-
South Carolina	1,000	-	-	-
South Dakota.....	1,750	1,910	-	-
Vermont	500	-	-	-
Virginia.....	-	1,000	-	-
West Virginia.....	750	-	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$18,888	\$18,890
Obligations.....	14,000	13,160	18,888	18,890

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table RBCS-20. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	\$4,468	\$4,468	\$4,468	\$4,468
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	2,178	1,062	3,313	5,733
	Total, Other Objects	6,646	5,530	7,781	10,201
99.9	Total, new obligations	6,646	5,530	7,781	10,201

ACCOUNT 3: RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

- 1 Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account
- 2
- 3 For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized under section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act, for
- 4 the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, \$75,000,000.
- 5
- 6 The cost of grants authorized under section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of
- 7 promoting rural economic development and job creation projects shall not exceed [~~\$15,000,000~~]\$10,000,000.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table RBCS-21. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Loan Level
Estimate, 2023	\$75,000,000
Change in Appropriation	-
Budget Estimate, 2024	75,000,000

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table RBCS-22. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Program Level	2021 Actual BA	2022 Program Level	2022 Actual BA	2023 Program Level	2023 Estimated BA	2024 Program Level	2024 Estimated BA	Program Level Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key	Budget Authority Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Transfers In:												
Offsetting collections from RED Grants account.....	\$47,150	\$4,503	\$47,150	\$2,207	\$70,725	\$6,981	\$70,725	\$12,631	-	(1)	+\$5,650	(2)
Total Transfers In.....	47,150	4,503	47,150	2,207	70,725	6,981	70,725	12,631	-		+5,650	
Recoveries, Other.....	10,460	999	33,303	1,559	7,880	778	4,801	857	-\$3,079		+79	
Bal. Available, SOY.....	7,186	686	88,367	4,136	57,722	5,697	33,892	6,053	-23,830		+356	
Total Available.....	64,796	6,188	168,820	7,901	136,327	13,456	109,418	19,541	-26,909		+6,085	
Bal. Available, EOY.....	-43,304	-4,136	-121,735	-5,697	-61,327	-6,053	-34,418	-6,147	+26,909		-94	
Total Obligations.....	21,492	2,052	47,086	2,204	75,000	7,403	75,000	13,395	-		+5,991	

Table RBCS-23. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Program Level	2021 Actual BA	2022 Program Level	2022 Actual BA	2023 Program Level	2023 Estimated BA	2024 Program Level	2024 Estimated BA	Program Level Inc. or Dec.	Budget Authority Inc. or Dec.
Mandatory Obligations:										
Rural Economic Development Loans.....	\$21,492	\$2,052	\$47,086	\$2,204	\$75,000	\$7,403	\$75,000	\$13,395	-	+\$5,991
Subtotal Mand Oblig.....	21,492	2,052	47,086	2,204	75,000	7,403	75,000	13,395	-	+5,991
Total Obligations.....	21,492	2,052	47,086	2,204	75,000	7,403	75,000	13,395	-	+5,991
Balances Available, EOY:										
Rural Economic Development Loans.....	43,304	4,136	121,735	5,697	61,327	6,053	34,418	6,147	-\$26,909	+94
Total Bal. Available, EOY.....	43,304	4,136	121,735	5,697	61,327	6,053	34,418	6,147	-26,909	+94
Total Available.....	64,796	6,188	168,820	7,901	136,327	13,456	109,418	19,542	-26,909	+6,085
Total Transfers In.....	-47,150	-4,503	-47,150	-2,207	-70,725	-6,981	-70,725	-12,631	-	-5,650
Recoveries, Other.....	-10,460	-999	-33,303	-1,559	-7,880	-778	-4,801	-857	+3,079	-79
Bal. Available, SOY.....	-7,186	-686	-88,367	-4,136	-57,722	-5,697	-33,892	-6,053	+23,830	-356
Total Appropriation.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Rural Economic Development Direct Loans

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

Justification of Increases and Decreases:

1. No change for Rural Economic Development (RED) Direct Loans (\$75,000,000 available in 2023).

Funding for this program continues to create good paying jobs by providing zero interest loans and small grants to electric and telephone utilities that are financed by Rural Development’s utilities programs, which in turn use the funding to promote sustainable rural economic development and job creation projects and to capitalize revolving loan funds for economic development and job creation purposes.

In addition to the activities and functions specifically described in the budget request, current year and budget year funds will be used to carry out activities and functions consistent with the full range of authorities and activities delegated to the agency. For 2022, an investment of \$74,000 in loan funding was made to Wayne-White Electric Cooperative, which will relend the funds to the Brownsville (Illinois) Water Project, Inc. Funds will be relent to the local water company at 0 percent to purchase an upgraded water metering system. The project will benefit 320 rural members, with many of those being agricultural producers and other small businesses from the distressed community. This project will help save jobs and will provide potable water to many agricultural producers in the area. The program is estimated to provide 61 loans in 2024. This program is funded from fees collected from the electric underwriting program. No discretionary funding is required.

Continuation of this program is critical because the program:

- a. Supports a variety of purposes and activities serving local and regional-based projects in rural areas.
- b. Assists rural businesses and community development projects by providing access to additional capital resources.
- c. Provides opportunities for job creation and growth in rural areas building clean energy production.

2. An increase of \$5,650,000 in budget authority (\$6,981,000 available in 2023).

The increase in budget authority (BA) is due to an increase in the subsidy rate for this program in 2024 and to support an increase in requested loan level. The BA for this program is coming from fees collected from the Electric Underwriting program and will not have any impact on the discretionary funding.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS

Table RBCS-24. Rural Economic Development Loans Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Arkansas.....	\$291	-	-	-
Colorado.....	6	\$2,580	-	-
Georgia.....	-	1,500	-	-
Illinois.....	1,748	194	-	-
Iowa.....	4,000	24,000	-	-
Kansas.....	480	-	-	-
Michigan.....	900	-	-	-
Minnesota.....	2,100	5,000	-	-
Mississippi.....	1,000	1,000	-	-
Missouri.....	2,999	7,000	-	-
Montana.....	1,000	-	-	-
North Carolina.....	2,718	2,387	-	-
North Dakota.....	-	1,505	-	-
Oregon.....	-	220	-	-
South Dakota.....	-	1,200	-	-
Tennessee.....	3,000	500	-	-
Texas.....	1,000	-	-	-
Wisconsin.....	250	-	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$75,000	\$75,000
Obligations.....	21,492	47,086	75,000	75,000

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table RBCS-25. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	\$2,052	\$2,204	\$7,403	\$13,395
	Total, Other Objects	2,052	2,204	7,403	13,395
99.9	Total, new obligations	2,052	2,204	7,403	13,395

ACCOUNT 4: RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table RBCS-26. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2023	\$15,000,000
Change in Appropriation	-5,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2024	<u>10,000,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table RBCS-27. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated	Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Mandatory Appropriations:						
Rural Economic Development Grants	-	\$5,000	\$5,000	-	-\$5,000	(1)
Offsetting Collections:						
Total Adjusted Approp	-	5,000	5,000	-	-5,000	
Add back:						
Rescission, Transfers In and Out	-	-5,000	-5,000	-	+5,000	
Total Appropriation	-	-	-	-	-	
Transfers In:						
Rural Elect. and Telecomm Liq. Acct CoC...	\$46,315	-	-	-	-	
Commodity Credit Corporation	-	5,000	5,000	-	-5,000	
Rural Elec. and Tele. underwriter loan fees. .	20,321	20,442	23,000	\$23,000	-	
Total Transfers In	66,636	25,442	28,000	23,000	-5,000	
Sequestration	-842	-703	-1,277	-1,334	-57	
Recoveries, Other	122,052	2,369	2,020	390	-1,630	
Offsetting Collections paid to Rural						
Economic Development account	-4,503	-2,207	-6,981	-12,631	-5,651	
Bal. Available, SOY	357,781	241,794	45,534	26,279	-19,256	
Total Available	541,124	266,695	67,296	35,704	-25,942	
Bal. Available, EOY	-241,794	-45,534	-26,279	-25,704	+575	
Total Obligations	<u>299,330</u>	<u>221,161</u>	<u>41,018</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-31,018</u>	

Table RBCS-28. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated	Inc. or Dec.
Mandatory Obligations:					
Rural Economic Development Grants	\$7,341	\$9,430	\$15,000	\$10,000	-\$5,000
ReConnect Pilot Broadband 100% Grants	278,712	201,531	5,618	-	-5,618
ReConnect Pilot Technical Assistance	-	-	20,400	-	-20,400
ReConnect Pilot Administrative	13,277	10,200	-	-	-
Subtotal Mand Obligations	<u>299,330</u>	<u>221,161</u>	<u>41,018</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-31,018</u>
Total Obligations	299,330	221,161	41,018	10,000	-31,018
Balances Available, EOY:					
Rural Economic Development Grants	191,794	21,117	26,279	25,704	-575
ReConnect Pilot Broadband 100% Grants	50,000	24,418	-	-	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY	<u>241,794</u>	<u>45,534</u>	<u>26,279</u>	<u>25,704</u>	<u>-575</u>
Total Available	541,124	266,695	67,296	35,704	-31,593
Less:					
Total Transfers In	-66,636	-25,442	-28,000	-23,000	+5,000
Sequestration	842	703	1,277	1,334	+57
Recoveries, Other	-122,052	-2,369	-2,020	-390	+1,630
Offsetting Collections paid to Rural Economic					
Development account	4,503	2,207	6,981	12,631	+5,651
Bal. Available, SOY	-357,781	-241,794	-45,534	-26,279	+19,256
Total Appropriation	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Rural Economic Development Grants

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

Justification of Increases and Decreases:

1. A decrease of \$5,000,000 for the Rural Economic Development Grants program (\$15,000,000 available in 2023).

Funding for the rural economic development grant program continue to support the creation of good paying jobs in rural areas. The program provides small grants to promote sustainable rural economic development and job creation projects and to capitalize revolving loan funds for economic development and job creation purposes. The program is estimated to provide 34 grants in 2024.

In addition to the activities and functions specifically described in the budget request, current year and budget year base funds will be used to carry out activities and functions consistent with the full range of authorities and activities delegated to the agency.

Continuation of this program is critical because the program:

- a. Supports a variety of purposes and activities serving local and regional-based projects in rural areas.
- b. Assists rural businesses and community development projects by providing access to additional capital resources.
- c. Provides opportunities for job creation and growth in rural areas building clean energy production.

Since 2017, over \$56 million has been obligated for this program with funds focused on rural communities located in the Midwest and Southern regions of the Nation. A consistent decrease in the poverty rate for all regions funded has been realized over the same time period. In 2024, the mandatory funding of \$5 million provided in Section 6504 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L 115-334) will expire. The request is based on continuing to receive about \$23 million in fees from the electric underwriting program.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS

Table RBCS-29. Rural Economic Development Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Colorado.....	-	\$600	-	-
Illinois	\$191	-	-	-
Indiana	190	-	-	-
Iowa	2,609	1,748	-	-
Minnesota.....	300	300	-	-
Missouri	-	1,440	-	-
Nebraska	-	600	-	-
North Carolina	2,951	2,608	-	-
Ohio	300	600	-	-
Oregon	250	300	-	-
South Dakota.....	-	937	-	-
Texas.....	300	-	-	-
Wisconsin.....	250	297	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$15,000	\$10,000
Obligations.....	7,341	9,430	15,000	10,000

Table RBCS-30. Reconnect Program Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alaska	\$43,706	\$96,895	-	-
Arizona.....	14,888	3,775	-	-
Colorado.....	10,595	1,998	-	-
Georgia.....	10,592	-	-	-
Idaho	5,491	-	-	-
Iowa	369	-	-	-

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Kentucky	11,797	-	-	-
Michigan	-	24,944	-	-
Minnesota	2,381	-	-	-
Missouri	49,494	-	-	-
Montana	-	24,973	-	-
Nebraska	3,105	-	-	-
New Mexico	-	18,431	-	-
New York	21,460	-	-	-
North Dakota	3,944	-	-	-
Oklahoma	35,569	13,908	-	-
Oregon	12,868	-	-	-
South Carolina	13,088	-	-	-
Tennessee	8,239	-	-	-
Texas	-	16,607	-	-
Utah	17,002	-	-	-
Virginia	14,124	-	-	-
Distribution Unknown	-	-	\$5,618	-
Obligations	278,712	201,531	5,618	-

Table RBCS-31. Reconnect Program Technical Assistance Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Distribution Unknown	-	-	\$20,400	-
Obligations	-	-	20,400	-

Table RBCS-32. Reconnect Program Administrative Expenses Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
District of Columbia	\$13,277	\$10,200	-	-
Obligations	13,277	10,200	-	-

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table RBCS-33. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	\$13,277	\$10,200	-	-
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	286,053	210,961	\$41,018	\$10,000
	Total, Other Objects	299,330	221,161	41,018	10,000
99.9	Total, new obligations	299,330	221,161	41,018	10,000

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ACCOUNT 5: RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

1 Rural Cooperative Development Grants
 2
 3 For rural cooperative development grants authorized under section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
 4 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), [~~\$28,300,000~~]\$29,800,000, of which [~~\$3,500,000~~]\$2,800,000 shall be for
 5 cooperative agreements for the appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program: *Provided*, That not to
 6 exceed [~~\$3,000,000~~]\$4,000,000 shall be for grants for cooperative development centers, individual cooperatives,
 7 or groups of cooperatives that serve socially disadvantaged groups and a majority of the boards of directors or
 8 governing boards of which are comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups; and
 9 of which \$16,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for value-added agricultural product market
 10 development grants, as authorized by section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, of which
 11 \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for Agriculture Innovation Centers authorized pursuant
 12 to section 6402 of Public Law 107–171.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table RCBS-34. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2023	\$28,300,000
Change in Appropriation	+ 1,500,000
Budget Estimate, 2024	<u>29,800,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table RBCS-35. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated	Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:						
Rural Cooperative Development Grants	\$5,800	\$5,800	\$5,800	\$7,000	+\$1,200	(1)
Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas Agreements	2,800	2,800	3,500	2,800	-700	(2)
Grants to Assist Minority Producers	3,000	3,000	3,000	4,000	+1,000	(3)
VAPG Ag Marketing Development Grants	9,300	10,140	10,075	10,075	-	(4)
Agricultural Marketing Resource Center Grants.....	300	325	325	325	-	(4)
VAPG Beginning & Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers.....	1,200	1,268	1,300	1,300	-	(4)
VAPG Marketing Development Mid-tier Chains.....	1,200	1,268	1,300	1,300	-	(4)
Agriculture Innovation Demonstration Grants.....	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	-	(4)
Subtotal	<u>26,600</u>	<u>27,600</u>	<u>28,300</u>	<u>29,800</u>	<u>+1,500</u>	
Mandatory Appropriations:						
Local Agriculture Market Program VAPG	16,488	16,488	16,488	16,488	-	
Local Agriculture Market Program VAPG Admin	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	-	
Value-Added Producer Grants (COVID)	35,000	-	-	-	-	
Value-Added Producer Grants (COVID) Admin	3,043	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	<u>55,981</u>	<u>17,938</u>	<u>17,938</u>	<u>17,938</u>	<u>-</u>	
Total Adjusted Approp.....	<u>82,581</u>	<u>45,538</u>	<u>46,238</u>	<u>47,738</u>	<u>+1,500</u>	
Add back:						
Rescission, Transfers In and Out.....	-19,022	-19,022	-19,022	-19,022	-	
Sequestration	1,084	1,084	1,084	1,084	-	
Total Appropriation	<u>64,643</u>	<u>27,600</u>	<u>28,300</u>	<u>29,800</u>	<u>+1,500</u>	
Transfers In:						
Commodity Credit Corporation	19,022	19,022	19,022	19,022	-	
Total Transfers In	<u>19,022</u>	<u>19,022</u>	<u>19,022</u>	<u>19,022</u>	<u>-</u>	
Sequestration	-1,084	-1,084	-1,084	-1,084	-	

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated	Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Recoveries, Other	3,189	4,526	1,836	1,268	-568	
Bal. Available, SOY	19,139	16,370	15,762	12,268	-3,494	
Total Available.....	104,908	66,433	63,835	61,273	-2,562	
Lapsing Balances.....	-256	-	-	-	-	
Rescinded Balances.....	-	-	-	-8,000	-8,000	
Bal. Available, EOY.....	-16,370	-15,762	-12,268	-2,338	+9,930	
Total Obligations.....	88,282	50,671	51,568	50,935	-633	

Table RBCS-36. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated	Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:					
Rural Cooperative Development Grants	\$5,800	\$5,800	\$5,800	\$7,000	+\$1,200
Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas Agreements	2,800	2,800	3,500	2,800	-700
Grants to Assist Minority Producers	2,744	3,000	3,000	4,000	+1,000
VAPG Ag Marketing Development Grants	12,577	12,070	12,200	11,100	-1,100
Agricultural Marketing Resource Center Grants.....	-	176	600	450	-150
VAPG Beginning & Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers.....	1,200	1,302	1,300	1,300	-
VAPG Marketing Development Mid-tier Chains.....	-	-	2,000	2,000	-
Agriculture Innovation Demonstration Grants.....	-	2,387	3,000	3,000	-
Subtotal Disc Obligations	25,122	27,535	31,400	31,650	+250
Mandatory Obligations:					
Local Agriculture Market Program VAPG	23,811	16,931	18,200	17,850	-350
Local Agriculture Market Program VAPG Admin	1,435	1,435	1,435	1,435	-
Value Added Agriculture Producers Marketing Grants	2,597	1,970	-	-	-
Value-Added Producer Grants (COVID).....	32,275	2,800	533	-	-533
Value-Added Producer Grants (COVID) Admin	3,043	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Mand Obligations	63,161	23,137	20,168	19,285	-883
Total Obligations.....	88,282	50,671	51,568	50,935	-633
Add back:					
Lapsing Balances.....	256	-	-	-	-
Rescinded Balances.....	-	-	-	8,000	+8,000
Balances Available, EOY:					
VAPG Ag Marketing Development Grants	1,450	908	595	838	+243
Agricultural Marketing Resource Center Grants.....	300	449	174	49	-125
Agriculture Innovation Demonstration Grants.....	7,392	8,006	8,006	6	-8,000
VAPG Marketing Development Mid-tier Chains.....	-	2,468	1,768	1,068	-700
VAPG Beginning & Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers.....	-	0	24	24	-
Value-Added Producer Grants (COVID).....	2,725	533	-	-	-
Local Agriculture Market Program VAPG	2,842	3,399	1,701	354	-1,348
Value Added Agriculture Producers Marketing Grants (Mand.).....	985	0	0	0	-
Agricultural Marketing Resource Center (Mand.)	675	0	0	0	-
Special Earmark Grants.....	0	0	0	0	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY	16,370	15,762	12,268	2,338	-9,930
Total Available.....	104,908	66,433	63,835	61,273	-2,562
Less:					
Total Transfers In	-19,022	-19,022	-19,022	-19,022	-
Sequestration	1,084	1,084	1,084	1,084	-
Recoveries, Other	-3,189	-4,526	-1,836	-1,268	+568
Bal. Available, SOY	-19,139	-16,370	-15,762	-12,268	+3,494
Total Appropriation.....	64,643	27,600	28,300	29,800	+1,500

Rural Cooperative Development Grants

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

Justification of Increases and Decreases:

1. An increase of \$1,200,000 for Rural Cooperative Development Grants (\$5,800,000 available in 2023).

Cooperatives offer an alternative to investor-owned companies through which those using the entity's goods or services are actively involved in the governance of the organization. Over the last decade, Rural Development has used the RCDG program to develop a network of cooperative development centers, whose trained staff work with new and emerging cooperatives covering a broad range of activities, including traditional farm supply, marketing, dependent care, and conversions of traditional companies to employee ownership. From 2017-2022 nearly \$35 million has been obligated Nationwide with the Western and Midwestern regions receiving nearly 60 percent of the total funding.

The 2024 budget request of \$7 million will provide 34 cooperative grants.

2. A decrease of \$700,000 for Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas Agreements (ATTRA) (\$3,500,000 available in 2023).

This request continues support for the agency's cooperative agreement with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). Funding for ATTRA is used to provide high-value information and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, extension agents, educators, and others involved in sustainable agriculture in the United States. Project focuses include sustainable agriculture, sustainable and renewable energy, energy conservation, resource-efficient housing, and sustainable community development. In 2022, a grant of nearly \$3 million was made to the NCAT who has projected to assist up to 2,500 rural businesses with their services.

3. An increase of \$1,000,000 for the Grants to Assist Minority Producers program (\$3,000,000 available in 2023).

Grant funds are provided directly for assistance to small, minority agricultural producers in rural areas. Recipients include cooperative development centers, cooperatives, or associations of cooperatives whose primary focus is to help such producers, and whose governing board and/or membership is comprised of at least 75 percent socially disadvantaged members. Grants may be used for developing business plans, conducting feasibility studies, or developing marketing plans for farmers, ranchers, loggers, agricultural harvesters, and fishermen. For 2022, program funding supported producers in developing business in rural areas, improving the local economy, employing rural residents, and uplifting persistent poverty areas through 12 grants totaling \$3 million. Five of those grants, totaling over \$874,000, directly funded persistent poverty areas. The program provides loan funds to intermediaries to capitalize revolving microloan fund programs. In the last five years RD obligated over \$18 million through this program with funding focused in both Southern and Western regions of the Nation.

A funding level of \$4 million in 2024 will support an estimated 27 grants.

4. No change for the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grants (VAPG) program (\$16,000,000 available in 2023).

The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities and increase producer income. The funding requested supports the agency's ability to directly assist viable Independent Producers, Agricultural Producer Groups, Farmer and Rancher Cooperatives, and Majority-Controlled Producer-Based Businesses in starting or expanding value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of Value-Added Agricultural Products. From the funding made available for this program, the Agriculture Innovation Center will be funded.

VAPG obligations increased from \$2.5 million in 2017 to \$16 million in 2022 and totaled more than \$89 million. In the same time period, over \$190 million in total funding has been obligated with additional Mandatory and Covid-19 obligations included. Maximum Grant amounts are \$75,000 for Planning and \$250,000 for Working Capital projects. Funding reserves exist for (1) applications submitted by Beginning and

Socially-Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers; and (2) for applications from farmers or ranchers proposing development of Mid-Tier Value Chains. This program provides priority to applicants proposing to increase the development of local and regional food systems and is highly popular, though there is usually some annual rollover due to the structure of the applicant proposals.

A funding level of \$13 million in 2024 for the VAPG will support an estimated 68 grants. The Agriculture Innovation Center will receive \$3 million, the same as the 2023 enacted level.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS

Table RBCS-37. Rural Cooperative Development Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alabama	\$199	-	-	-
Alaska	-	\$200	-	-
California	400	400	-	-
Colorado	200	90	-	-
Georgia	70	-	-	-
Hawaii	200	-	-	-
Illinois	-	164	-	-
Indiana	200	90	-	-
Kansas	-	179	-	-
Kentucky	200	200	-	-
Massachusetts	200	200	-	-
Minnesota	600	600	-	-
Montana	400	400	-	-
Nebraska	200	200	-	-
New York	-	80	-	-
North Carolina	400	400	-	-
North Dakota	200	200	-	-
Ohio	199	200	-	-
Oregon	200	200	-	-
Pennsylvania	200	200	-	-
South Carolina	135	200	-	-
South Dakota	200	200	-	-
Texas	199	199	-	-
Virginia	400	400	-	-
Washington	400	400	-	-
Wisconsin	397	400	-	-
Distribution Unknown	-	-	\$5,800	\$7,000
Obligations	5,800	5,800	5,800	7,000

Table RBCS-38. Appropriate Technology Transfer Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Montana	\$2,800	\$2,800	-	-
Distribution Unknown	-	-	\$3,500	\$2,800
Obligations	2,800	2,800	3,500	2,800

Table RBCS-39. Grants to Assist Minority Producers Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alabama	\$175	\$175	-	-
Arizona	95	270	-	-
California	350	350	-	-
Hawaii	175	-	-	-
Illinois	-	141	-	-
Massachusetts	175	175	-	-
Mississippi	350	350	-	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Montana	175	175	-	-
Nebraska	175	175	-	-
Pennsylvania	173	61	-	-
Puerto Rico	-	168	-	-
South Carolina	203	214	-	-
Texas.....	175	175	-	-
Virginia	175	175	-	-
Washington	348	350	-	-
Wisconsin.....	-	46	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$3,000	\$4,000
Obligations	2,744	3,000	3,000	4,000

Table RBCS-40. Discretionary Value-Added Ag. Product Marketing Development Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alaska	\$325	\$125	-	-
Arkansas.....	250	-	-	-
California	589	1,366	-	-
Florida.....	373	432	-	-
Georgia.....	1,301	-	-	-
Idaho	250	250	-	-
Indiana	247	-	-	-
Iowa	263	-	-	-
Kansas	50	219	-	-
Kentucky.....	183	540	-	-
Maine	-	215	-	-
Maryland.....	299	-	-	-
Massachusetts	16	250	-	-
Michigan	250	492	-	-
Minnesota.....	274	750	-	-
Mississippi	250	50	-	-
Missouri	-	333	-	-
Montana	590	730	-	-
Nebraska	352	-	-	-
Nevada	250	-	-	-
New Hampshire	75	-	-	-
New Jersey.....	25	-	-	-
New Mexico.....	-	49	-	-
New York.....	1,034	442	-	-
North Carolina	748	-	-	-
North Dakota.....	250	100	-	-
Ohio	-	108	-	-
Oregon	766	485	-	-
Pennsylvania	-	547	-	-
Puerto Rico	990	650	-	-
Rhode Island	48	-	-	-
South Carolina	460	1,459	-	-
Tennessee.....	34	-	-	-
Texas.....	571	-	-	-
Vermont	500	249	-	-
Virginia	300	1,360	-	-
Washington	366	369	-	-
West Virginia.....	50	250	-	-
Wisconsin.....	250	250	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$12,200	\$11,100
Obligations	12,577	12,070	12,200	11,100

Table RBCS-41. Agriculture Marketing Resource Center Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Iowa	-	\$176	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$600	\$450
Obligations	-	176	600	450

Table RBCS-42. Discretionary VAPG Beginning & Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alaska	-	\$232	-	-
California	-	70	-	-
Illinois	\$450	-	-	-
Maine	-	250	-	-
New York.....	250	-	-	-
Oregon	-	250	-	-
Pennsylvania	250	-	-	-
South Carolina	250	250	-	-
Wisconsin.....	-	250	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$1,300	\$1,300
Obligations	1,200	1,302	1,300	1,300

Table RBCS-43. Discretionary VAPG Marketing Development Mid-Tire Chains Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$2,000	\$2,000
Obligations	-	-	2,000	2,000

Table RBCS-44. Agriculture Innovation Demonstration Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Indiana	-	\$1,000	-	-
Minnesota.....	-	500	-	-
Missouri	-	887	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$3,000	\$3,000
Obligations	-	2,387	3,000	3,000

Table RBCS-45. Mandatory Local Agriculture Market Programs Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alabama	\$484	-	-	-
Alaska	-	\$50	-	-
California	1,013	530	-	-
Colorado.....	149	18	-	-
Connecticut	-	250	-	-
Florida.....	477	334	-	-
Georgia.....	2,250	750	-	-
Hawaii	250	300	-	-
Idaho	595	50	-	-
Illinois	67	129	-	-
Indiana	981	-	-	-
Iowa	492	1,415	-	-
Kansas	783	33	-	-
Kentucky.....	269	224	-	-
Maine	1,028	118	-	-
Maryland.....	238	-	-	-

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Massachusetts	183	-	-	-
Michigan	-	500	-	-
Midway Islands	-	-	-	-
Minnesota	569	500	-	-
Mississippi	250	-	-	-
Missouri	457	466	-	-
Montana	691	1,047	-	-
Nebraska	600	500	-	-
New Hampshire	250	250	-	-
New Jersey	-	750	-	-
New Mexico	530	425	-	-
New York	319	868	-	-
North Carolina	576	50	-	-
North Dakota	-	250	-	-
Ohio	63	-	-	-
Oklahoma	643	250	-	-
Oregon	1,580	922	-	-
Pennsylvania	1,673	144	-	-
Puerto Rico	1,760	1,375	-	-
Rhode Island	250	-	-	-
South Carolina	830	1,143	-	-
Tennessee	276	474	-	-
Texas	564	250	-	-
Vermont	102	221	-	-
Virginia	500	751	-	-
Washington	672	979	-	-
West Virginia	100	225	-	-
Wisconsin	1,300	392	-	-
Distribution Unknown	-	-	\$18,200	\$17,850
Obligations	23,811	16,931	18,200	17,850

Table RBCS-46. Mandatory Local Agriculture Market Programs Administrative Expenses Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
District of Columbia	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435
Obligations	1,435	1,435	1,435	1,435

Table RBCS-47. Mandatory Value-Added Producer Marketing Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alaska	-	\$250	-	-
California	\$500	50	-	-
Colorado	250	250	-	-
Connecticut	-	47	-	-
Hawaii	214	-	-	-
Iowa	-	675	-	-
Kansas	250	-	-	-
Maine	-	132	-	-
Nebraska	-	50	-	-
New Jersey	43	-	-	-
New York	164	-	-	-
North Carolina	250	-	-	-
North Dakota	250	-	-	-
Ohio	-	142	-	-
South Carolina	338	274	-	-
Vermont	38	-	-	-
Virginia	50	-	-	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Washington	250	50	-	-
Wisconsin.....	-	50	-	-
Obligations.....	2,597	1,970	-	-

Table RBCS-48. Mandatory Value-Added Producer Grants (COVID) Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Arizona.....	\$61	\$69	-	-
California	1,336	50	-	-
Colorado.....	259	-	-	-
Florida	250	-	-	-
Georgia.....	750	-	-	-
Hawaii	485	-	-	-
Idaho	575	-	-	-
Illinois	500	-	-	-
Indiana	300	-	-	-
Iowa	1,165	-	-	-
Kansas.....	947	-	-	-
Kentucky.....	650	250	-	-
Maine	1,000	-	-	-
Maryland.....	300	-	-	-
Massachusetts	50	-	-	-
Michigan.....	825	250	-	-
Minnesota.....	250	-	-	-
Mississippi.....	500	-	-	-
Missouri	808	-	-	-
Montana	1,752	600	-	-
Nebraska	982	-	-	-
Nevada	50	-	-	-
New Hampshire	239	-	-	-
New Jersey.....	272	-	-	-
New Mexico.....	234	-	-	-
New York.....	756	250	-	-
North Carolina	49	-	-	-
Ohio	586	192	-	-
Oklahoma.....	1,325	-	-	-
Oregon	1,550	500	-	-
Pennsylvania	561	253	-	-
Puerto Rico	692	250	-	-
Rhode Island.....	765	-	-	-
South Carolina	1,649	46	-	-
South Dakota.....	175	-	-	-
Tennessee.....	478	-	-	-
Texas.....	369	-	-	-
Utah.....	250	-	-	-
Vermont	2,151	-	-	-
Virginia	1,312	-	-	-
Washington	1,544	-	-	-
West Virginia.....	374	91	-	-
Wisconsin.....	2,572	-	-	-
Wyoming	575	-	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$533	-
Obligations	32,275	2,800	533	-

Table RBCS-49. Mandatory Value-Added Producer Grants (COVID) Administrative Expenses Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
District of Columbia.....	\$3,043	-	-	-
Obligations.....	3,043	-	-	-

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table RBCS-50. Classification by Objects – Discretionary Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	\$25,122	\$27,535	\$31,400	\$31,650
	Total, Other Objects.....	25,122	27,535	31,400	31,650
99.9	Total, new obligations	25,122	27,535	31,400	31,650

Table RBCS-51. Classification by Objects – Mandatory Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435	\$1,435
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	61,726	21,702	18,733	17,850
	Total, Other Objects.....	63,161	23,137	20,168	19,285
99.9	Total, new obligations	63,161	23,137	20,168	19,285

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ACCOUNT 6: RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

- 1 Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program
- 2
- 3 For the principal amount of direct loans as authorized by section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
- 4 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s), [~~\$25,000,000~~]\$4,777,000.
- 5
- 6 For the cost of loans and grants, [~~\$6,000,000~~]\$8,250,000 under the same terms and conditions as authorized by
- 7 section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s).

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table RBCS-52. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Grants	Loan Level	Subsidy
Estimate, 2023	\$4,665,000	\$25,000,000	\$1,335,000
Change in Appropriation	+2,835,000	-20,222,930	-585,000
Budget Estimate, 2024	<u>7,500,000</u>	<u>4,777,070</u>	<u>750,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table RBCS-53. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Program Level Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key	Budget Authority	
	Program Level	2021 Actual BA	Program Level	2022 Actual BA	Program Level	2023 Estimated BA	Program Level	2024 Estimated BA			Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:												
Microenterprise Loans	\$12,739	\$400	\$150,000	-	\$25,000	\$1,335	\$4,777	\$750	-\$20,223	(1)	-\$585	(2)
Microenterprise Grants	5,600	5,600	6,500	\$6,500	4,665	4,665	7,500	7,500	+2,835	(3)	+2,835	(3)
Subtotal.....	18,339	6,000	156,500	6,500	29,665	6,000	12,277	8,250	-17,388		+2,250	
Total Adjusted Approp.....	18,339	6,000	156,500	6,500	29,665	6,000	12,277	8,250	-17,388		+2,250	
Total Appropriation.....	18,339	6,000	156,500	6,500	29,665	6,000	12,277	8,250	-17,388		+2,250	
Transfers Out:												
Working Capital Fund.....	-	-	-3,150	-3,150	-	-	-	-	-		-	
Total Transfers Out	-	-	-3,150	-3,150	-	-	-	-	-		-	
Recoveries, Other	3,914	339	101	184	1,209	145	393	125	-815		-20	
Bal. Available, SOY.....	11,189	636	336	794	10,553	978	2,921	772	-7,632		-206	
Total Available.....	33,441	6,975	153,788	4,328	41,426	7,123	15,591	9,147	-25,835		+2,024	
Lapsing Balances	-11,332	-2,334	-148,087	-91	-17,700	-1,480	-	-	+17,700		+1,480	
Bal. Available, EOY.....	-14,921	-794	-437	-978	-7,866	-772	-1,713	-477	+6,153		+295	
Total Obligations.....	7,188	3,847	5,264	3,259	15,860	4,870	13,878	8,670	-1,982		+3,800	

Table RBCS-54. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Program Level Inc. or Dec.	Budget Authority Inc. or Dec.
	Program Level	2021 Actual BA	Program Level	2022 Actual BA	Program Level	2023 Estimated BA	Program Level	2024 Estimated BA		
Discretionary Obligations:										
Microenterprise Loans	\$3,450	\$108	\$2,005	-	\$7,865	\$420	\$4,777	\$750	-\$3,088	+\$330
Microenterprise Grants	3,557	3,557	3,259	\$3,259	4,100	4,100	7,500	7,500	+3,400	+3,400
Subtotal Disc oblig.....	7,007	3,666	5,264	3,259	11,965	4,520	12,277	8,250	+312	+3,730
Mandatory Obligations:										
Microenterprise Loans	-	-	-	-	3,745	200	1,401	220	-2,344	+20
Microenterprise Grants	181	181	-	-	150	150	200	200	+50	+50
Subtotal Mand Oblig.....	181	181	-	-	3,895	350	1,601	420	-2,294	+70
Total Obligations.....	7,188	3,847	5,264	3,259	15,860	4,870	13,878	8,670	-1,982	+3,800
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	11,332	2,334	148,087	91	17,700	1,480	-	-	-17,700	-1,480
Balances Available, EOY:										
Microenterprise Loans	14,585	458	-	541	7,494	400	1,466	230	-6,028	-170
Microenterprise Grants	336	336	437	437	372	372	247	247	-125	-125
Total Bal. Available, EOY.....	14,921	794	437	978	7,866	772	1,713	477	-6,153	-295
Total Available.....	33,441	6,975	153,788	4,328	41,426	7,122	15,591	9,147	-25,835	+2,025
Total Transfers Out	-	-	3,150	3,150	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other	-3,914	-339	-101	-184	-1,209	-145	-393	-125	+815	+20
Bal. Available, SOY.....	-11,189	-636	-336	-794	-10,553	-978	-2,921	-772	+7,632	+206
Total Appropriation.....	18,339	6,000	156,500	6,500	29,665	6,000	12,277	8,250	-17,388	+2,250

Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

Justification of Increases and Decreases:

1. A decrease of \$20,223,000 in program level for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Loan program (\$25,000,000 available in 2023).

The purpose of the program is to support the development and ongoing success of rural microentrepreneurs and microenterprises. To accomplish this purpose, the program makes direct loans to selected Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs). Selected MDOs use the funds to provide microloans for working capital, business acquisitions, debt refinancing, fixtures, supplies, furniture, inventory, and equipment costs, and purchase or lease of facility. The program provides loan funds to intermediaries to capitalize revolving microloan fund programs. The revolving microloan fund programs make loans of not more than \$50,000 to recipients in rural communities involving equipment purchases and working capital for start-up or expansion of microenterprises. The term of the loan is for 20 years.

The rural microenterprise assistance program addresses the lack of available credit and financial market conditions for microenterprise activities. These conditions often limit the ability of rural economies to create jobs, enhance amenities, and increase incomes to enable rural families to prosper. The funding supports the Administration's priority of improving the economic opportunities in rural America and help create good paying jobs. From 2017 to 2020, \$17 million in Mandatory RMAP loan funding was obligated and over \$9 million in discretionary funding has been obligated for this program since 2020, with over \$2 million obligated in 2022 alone.

The proposed funding level of \$4.777 million in 2024 meets the historical demand in the program and will support an estimated 13 loans.

2. A decrease of \$585,000 in budget authority for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Loan program (\$1,335,000 available in 2023).

The decrease is a combination of changes in the subsidy rate and the decrease in the loan level requested in 2024. This is the subsidy rate necessary to support the \$4.8 million loan level.

3. An increase of \$2,835,000 for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Grants programs (\$4,665,0000 available in 2023).

The purpose of the program is to support the development and ongoing success of rural microentrepreneurs and microenterprises. With the grants the MDOs provide technical assistance to small microenterprise producers and assistance to those that otherwise may not be able to afford a loan. RMAP Grants are generally distributed evenly across all census regions with \$19 million in total funding from 2017-2022.

A funding level of \$7.5 million in 2024 will support an estimated 142 grants.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS**Table RBCS-55. Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program Direct Loans, Discretionary. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)**

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Arkansas	-	\$500	-	-
California	\$500	-	-	-
Georgia	500	-	-	-
Maine	750	500	-	-
Massachusetts	400	-	-	-
Minnesota	500	-	-	-
Missouri	300	-	-	-
Nevada	-	250	-	-
New Hampshire	-	250	-	-
New York	-	430	-	-
Oklahoma	500	-	-	-
Wyoming	-	75	-	-
Distribution Unknown	-	-	\$7,865	\$4,777
Obligations.....	3,450	2,005	7,865	4,777

Table RBCS-56. Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program Grants, Discretionary. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Arizona.....	\$126	\$33	-	-
Arkansas.....	-	100	-	-
California	390	289	-	-
Delaware	25	32	-	-
Georgia.....	100	-	-	-
Idaho	59	74	-	-
Illinois	9	122	-	-
Kentucky	227	370	-	-
Maine	339	29	-	-
Maryland.....	22	7	-	-
Massachusetts.....	240	82	-	-
Michigan	71	43	-	-
Minnesota.....	151	98	-	-
Missouri	75	19	-	-
Montana	102	215	-	-
Nebraska	271	305	-	-
Nevada	-	171	-	-
New Hampshire.....	31	73	-	-
New Jersey.....	75	90	-	-
New Mexico.....	-	100	-	-
North Carolina.....	193	64	-	-
North Dakota.....	239	-	-	-
Ohio	49	56	-	-
Oklahoma.....	100	-	-	-
Pennsylvania	92	130	-	-
South Carolina.....	86	158	-	-
South Dakota.....	53	184	-	-
Tennessee	-	58	-	-
Vermont	137	54	-	-
Washington	69	90	-	-
West Virginia	62	62	-	-
Wisconsin.....	165	152	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$4,100	\$7,500
Obligations.....	3,557	3,259	4,100	7,500

Table RBCS-57. Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program Direct Loans, Mandatory. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$3,745	\$1,401
Obligations.....	-	-	3,745	1,401

Table RBCS-58. Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program Grants, Mandatory. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Maryland.....	\$132	-	-	-
Tennessee.....	49	-	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$150	\$200
Obligations.....	181	-	150	200

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table RBCS-59. Classification by Objects – Discretionary Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	\$3,666	\$3,259	\$4,520	\$8,250
	Total, Other Objects	3,666	3,259	4,520	8,250
99.9	Total, new obligations	3,666	3,259	4,520	8,250

Table RBCS-60. Classification by Objects – Mandatory Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	\$181	-	\$350	\$420
	Total, Other Objects	181	-	350	420
99.9	Total, new obligations	181	-	350	420

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ACCOUNT 7: RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

Rural Energy for America Program

For the principal amount of loan guarantees, under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107), [~~\$20,000,000~~]\$50,000,000.

For the cost of a program of loan guarantees and grants, under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107), [~~\$18,000~~]\$30,000,000:
Provided, That the cost of loan guarantees, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table RBCS-61. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Grants	Loan Level	Subsidy
Estimate, 2023	-	\$20,000,000	\$18,000
Change in Appropriation	+30,000,000	+30,000,000	-18,000
Budget Estimate, 2024	30,000,000	50,000,000	-

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table RBCS-62. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Program Level	2021 Actual BA	2022 Program Level	2022 Actual BA	2023 Program Level	2023 Estimated BA	2024 Program Level	2024 Estimated BA	Program Level Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key	Budget Authority Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:												
Guaranteed renewable energy loans	\$20,000	\$392	\$50,000	\$420	\$20,000	\$18	\$50,000	-	+\$30,000	(1)	-\$18	(2)
Sec 781 renewable energy grants pilot program.....	10,000	\$10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Renewable energy grants	-	-	12,500	12,500	-	-	30,000	\$30,000	+30,000	-	+30,000	(3)
Subtotal.....	30,000	10,392	62,500	12,920	20,000	18	80,000	30,000	+60,000	-	+29,982	-
Mandatory Appropriations:												
Guaranteed renewable energy loans	500,000	9,800	675,357	5,673	1,000,000	900	1,000,000	-	-	-	-900	-
Guaranteed renewable energy efficient equipment loans	-	-	75,000	630	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Renewable energy grants	35,464	35,464	38,961	38,961	44,364	44,364	36,777	36,777	-7,587	-	-7,587	-
Renewable energy grants for under 20k	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,544	7,544	+7,544	-	+7,544	-
Renewable energy audits and technical assistance.....	1,886	1,886	1,886	1,886	1,886	1,886	2,829	2,829	+943	-	+943	-
Subtotal.....	537,350	47,150	791,204	47,150	1,046,250	47,150	1,047,150	47,150	+900	-	-	-
Supplemental Appropriations:												
IRA renewable energy grants.....	-	-	820,250	820,250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRA renewable energy grants - new technology.....	-	-	144,750	144,750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRA renewable energy grants - multi-year	-	-	-	-	180,277	180,277	169,911	169,911	-10,366	-	-10,366	-
IRA renewable energy grants - underutilized technology	-	-	-	-	31,814	31,814	29,984	29,984	-1,829	-	-1,829	-
Subtotal.....	-	-	965,000	965,000	212,090	212,090	199,895	199,895	-12,195	-	-12,195	-
Total Adjusted Approp.....	567,350	57,542	1,818,704	1,025,070	1,278,340	259,258	1,327,045	277,045	+48,705	-	+17,787	-
Add back:												
Rescission, Transfers In and Out	-569,830	-50,000	-839,029	-50,000	-1,112,376	-50,000	-50,000	-50,000	+1,062,376	-	-	-
Sequestration	32,480	2,850	47,825	2,850	660,441	2,850	15,045	15,045	-645,396	-	+12,195	-
Total Appropriation.....	30,000	10,392	1,027,500	977,920	826,405	212,108	1,292,090	242,090	+465,685	-	+29,982	-
Transfers In:												
Commodity Credit Corporation	569,830	50,000	839,029	50,000	1,112,376	50,000	50,000	50,000	-1,062,376	-	-	-
Total Transfers In.....	569,830	50,000	839,029	50,000	1,112,376	50,000	50,000	50,000	-1,062,376	-	-	-
Sequestration	-32,480	-2,850	-47,825	-2,850	-660,441	-2,850	-15,045	-15,045	+645,396	-	-12,195	-
Recoveries, Other	51,924	6,661	85,002	8,837	866,541	6,205	5,265	6,015	-861,276	-	-190	-
Bal. Available, SOY.....	153,068	7,741	481,175	13,958	2,982,053	983,967	686,554	698,376	-2,295,499	-	-285,592	-
Total Available	772,341	71,944	2,384,881	1,047,865	5,126,934	1,249,430	2,018,864	981,435	-3,108,070	-	-267,995	-
Bal. Available, EOY	-90,955	-13,958	-1,739,823	-983,967	-3,941,784	-698,376	-6,552	-19,124	+3,935,232	-	+679,252	-
Total Obligations.....	680,946	57,977	645,058	63,897	1,185,150	551,055	2,012,311	962,311	+827,161	-	+411,257	-

Table RBCS-63. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Program Level	2021 Actual BA	2022 Program Level	2022 Actual BA	2023 Program Level	2023 Estimated BA	2024 Program Level	2024 Estimated BA	Program Level Inc. or Dec.	Budget Authority Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Guaranteed renewable energy loans	\$19,559	\$383	\$50,000	\$420	\$20,000	\$18	\$50,000	-	+\$30,000	-\$18
Sec 781 renewable energy grants pilot program.....	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-10,000	-10,000
Renewable energy grants	-	-	12,500	12,500	-	-	30,000	\$30,000	+30,000	+30,000
Subtotal Disc oblig.....	19,559	383	62,500	12,920	30,000	10,018	80,000	30,000	+50,000	+19,982
Mandatory Obligations:										
Guaranteed renewable energy loans	615,864	12,071	469,084	3,940	540,000	486	1,000,000	-	+460,000	-486
Guaranteed renewable energy efficient equipment loans....	-	-	67,000	563	74,667	67	-	-	-74,667	-67
Renewable energy grants	33,811	33,811	35,119	35,119	41,600	41,600	40,000	40,000	-1,600	-1,600
Renewable energy grants for under 20k	9,848	9,848	9,472	9,472	690	690	8,300	8,300	+7,610	+7,610
Renewable energy audits and technical assistance.....	1,864	1,864	1,884	1,884	2,130	2,130	3,090	3,090	+960	+960
Subtotal Mand Oblig.....	661,387	57,594	582,558	50,978	659,087	44,973	1,051,390	51,390	+392,303	+6,417
Supplemental Obligations:										
IRA renewable energy grants.....	-	-	-	-	416,000	416,000	404,250	404,250	-11,750	-11,750
IRA renewable energy grants - new technology.....	-	-	-	-	48,250	48,250	96,500	96,500	+48,250	+48,250
IRA renewable energy grants - multi-year	-	-	-	-	-	-	350,187	350,187	+350,187	+350,187
IRA renewable energy grants - underutilized technology ...	-	-	-	-	31,814	31,814	29,984	29,984	-1,829	-1,829
Subtotal Supp Oblig.....	-	-	-	-	496,064	496,064	880,921	880,921	+384,858	+384,858
Total Obligations.....	680,946	57,977	645,058	63,897	1,185,150	551,055	2,012,311	962,311	+827,161	+411,257
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	441	9	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, EOY:										
Guaranteed renewable energy loans	78,287	1,290	749,656	1,733	3,246,330	2,922	-	12,572	-3,246,330	+9,650
Guaranteed renewable energy efficient equipment loans....	-	-	8,000	67	-	-	-	-	-	-
Renewable energy grants	1,755	1,755	6,223	6,223	13,387	13,387	5,514	5,514	-7,873	-7,873
Renewable energy grants for under 20k	572	572	691	691	771	771	775	775	+4	+4
Renewable energy audits and technical assistance.....	340	340	253	253	269	269	263	263	-6	-6
Sec 781 renewable energy grants pilot program.....	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRA renewable energy grants.....	-	-	820,250	820,250	404,250	404,250	-	-	-404,250	-404,250
IRA renewable energy grants - new technology.....	-	-	144,750	144,750	96,500	96,500	-	-	-96,500	-96,500
IRA renewable energy grants - multi-year	-	-	-	-	180,277	180,277	-	-	-180,277	-180,277
Total Bal. Available, EOY.....	90,955	13,958	1,739,823	983,967	3,941,784	698,376	6,552	19,124	-3,935,232	-679,252
Total Available.....	772,341	71,944	2,384,881	1,047,865	5,126,934	1,249,430	2,018,864	981,435	-3,108,070	-267,995
Less:										
Total Transfers In.....	-569,830	-50,000	-839,029	-50,000	-1,112,376	-50,000	-50,000	-50,000	+1,062,376	-
Sequestration	32,480	2,850	47,825	2,850	660,441	2,850	15,045	15,045	-645,396	+12,195
Recoveries, Other	-51,924	-6,661	-85,002	-8,837	-866,541	-6,205	-5,265	-6,015	+861,276	+190
Bal. Available, SOY.....	-153,068	-7,741	-481,175	-13,958	-2,982,053	-983,967	-686,554	-698,376	+2,295,499	+285,592
Total Appropriation.....	30,000	10,392	1,027,500	977,920	826,405	212,108	1,292,090	242,090	+465,685	+29,982

Rural Energy for America Program

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

Justification of Increases and Decreases:

1. An increase of \$30,000,000 in program level for the Rural Energy for America (REAP) Guaranteed Loans program (\$20,000,000 available in 2023).

The REAP program provides guaranteed loan financing to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing. The purpose of program funding is to assist farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses in developing these types of renewable energy systems and making energy-efficiency improvements to their operations.

This program receives \$50 million in mandatory budget authority. With a negative subsidy rate, the program will support loans at \$1 billion loan level.

This program also received funding under Section 22002 of the Inflation Reduction Act, which provided up to \$2.025 billion for the Rural Energy for America Program, with \$303 million set aside for underutilized technologies and technical assistance. Funds are anticipated to support renewable energy and energy-efficiency projects for more than 41,500 farms and small businesses.

In Executive Order 14008, the Administration established that 40 percent of Federal funding would be for distressed communities. The Justice40 Initiative is a critical part of the Administration's whole-of-government approach to advancing climate action and environmental justice.

Program obligations have increased from \$7 million in 2017 to over \$50 million in 2022, totaling over \$110 million in Guaranteed loans funded for eligible energy projects. More than \$2.2 billion has been obligated in REAP Mandatory funding over the same period. In 2022, REAP invested \$177 million, and eliminated 155,011 metric tons of Greenhouse Gases.

A funding level of \$50 million in 2024 will support an estimated six loans.

2. A decrease of \$18,000 in budget authority for the Rural Energy for America Guaranteed Loans program (\$18,000 available in 2023).

In 2024 this program has a negative subsidy rate of -0.69 percent.

3. An increase of \$30,000,000 for the Rural Energy for America Grants program (\$0 available in 2023).

REAP also provides grants provides financial and technical assistance to aid in sustainably producing and distributing renewable resources. The grants assist farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses with purchasing renewable energy systems and making energy efficiency improvements to their physical plants. This assistance goes to farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, small businesses, rural utilities, tribal governments, and rural municipalities and covers biomass, solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal technologies and provides support for energy efficiency/conservation improvements.

Historically the REAP Grant program obligates roughly \$50 million annually with a total of over \$265 million obligated from 2017-2022. The Southern and Eastern regions of the U.S. currently lead the country in the number of projects initiated. Nationwide, the poverty rate has steadily decreased since 2017 for the areas where program funding has been focused. In recent years this program has seen increased interest from small businesses looking to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and diversify power generation and fuel production. Renewable energy projects funded by USDA grants improve the local economy by creating high-paying new jobs at energy plants, enhancing the tax base, and increasing local business profits. In addition, funds allow many agricultural producers and rural small business owners to decrease their energy consumption and increase their profit margins. A funding level of \$30 million will support an estimated 622 grants.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS**Table RBCS-64. Rural Energy for America Guaranteed Loans, Discretionary, Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)**

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
California	\$7,400	-	-	-
Maine	-	\$635	-	-
New Jersey	1,505	-	-	-
North Carolina.....	8,775	8,815	-	-
Puerto Rico.....	397	-	-	-
South Carolina.....	-	25,000	-	-
Texas.....	1,085	-	-	-
Virginia	-	10,400	-	-
West Virginia.....	-	150	-	-
Wisconsin.....	398	5,000	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$20,000	\$50,000
Obligations.....	19,559	50,000	20,000	50,000

Table RBCS-65. Rural Energy for America Grants Pilot Project, Discretionary, Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$10,000	-
Obligations.....	-	-	10,000	-

Table RBCS-66. Rural Energy for America Grants, Discretionary, Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alaska	-	\$87	-	-
Arkansas.....	-	421	-	-
California	-	1,194	-	-
Connecticut	-	22	-	-
Delaware	-	146	-	-
Florida.....	-	111	-	-
Georgia.....	-	379	-	-
Illinois	-	788	-	-
Indiana.....	-	1,326	-	-
Iowa	-	1,310	-	-
Kentucky	-	123	-	-
Maryland.....	-	37	-	-
Massachusetts.....	-	17	-	-
Michigan	-	790	-	-
Minnesota.....	-	1,367	-	-
Missouri	-	169	-	-
Nebraska	-	946	-	-
New Hampshire.....	-	364	-	-
New Jersey.....	-	8	-	-
New Mexico.....	-	159	-	-
New York.....	-	125	-	-
North Carolina.....	-	296	-	-
Ohio	-	195	-	-
Oklahoma	-	29	-	-
Pennsylvania	-	175	-	-
Puerto Rico.....	-	881	-	-
Rhode Island	-	25	-	-
Tennessee	-	30	-	-
Texas.....	-	252	-	-
Vermont	-	689	-	-
West Virginia.....	-	20	-	-
Wyoming.....	-	18	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	-	\$30,000
Obligations.....	-	12,500	-	30,000

Table RBCS-67. Rural Energy for America Guaranteed Loans, Mandatory, Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alabama	\$7,000	-	-	-
Arizona.....	50,000	-	-	-
California	33,755	\$44,008	-	-
Colorado.....	-	8,000	-	-
Connecticut	-	3,688	-	-
Hawaii	17,537	-	-	-
Illinois	8,008	3,505	-	-
Iowa	6,000	-	-	-
Maine	71,307	119,564	-	-
Massachusetts.....	25,000	-	-	-
Michigan	1,500	-	-	-
Minnesota.....	11,575	19,781	-	-
Nebraska	670	-	-	-
New York.....	22,821	60,083	-	-
North Carolina.....	252,126	114,336	-	-
North Dakota.....	25,000	-	-	-
Oklahoma	-	4,995	-	-
Oregon.....	25,123	-	-	-
South Carolina.....	58,442	62,010	-	-
Virginia	-	10,000	-	-
Wyoming.....	-	19,113	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$540,000	\$1,000,000
Obligations.....	615,864	469,084	540,000	1,000,000

Table RBCS-68. Rural Energy for America Guaranteed Renewable Energy Efficient Equipment Loans, Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Kentucky	-	\$50,000	-	-
Rhode Island	-	17,000	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$74,667	-
Obligations.....	-	67,000	74,667	-

Table RBCS-69. Rural Energy for America Grants, Mandatory, Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alabama	\$881	\$884	-	-
Alaska	251	518	-	-
Arizona.....	578	574	-	-
Arkansas.....	674	708	-	-
California	1,915	1,345	-	-
Colorado.....	727	625	-	-
Connecticut	426	425	-	-
Delaware	328	382	-	-
Florida	815	1,061	-	-
Georgia.....	985	1,023	-	-
Guam.....	-	50	-	-
Hawaii	279	351	-	-
Idaho	444	540	-	-
Illinois	667	643	-	-
Indiana.....	1,378	1,092	-	-
Iowa	940	925	-	-
Kansas	447	288	-	-
Kentucky	890	887	-	-
Louisiana.....	664	491	-	-
Maine	517	514	-	-
Maryland.....	478	1,122	-	-
Massachusetts.....	446	284	-	-
Michigan	943	858	-	-
Minnesota.....	1,348	892	-	-
Mississippi	897	819	-	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Missouri	844	568	-	-
Montana	329	141	-	-
Nebraska	465	1,177	-	-
Nevada	378	-	-	-
New Hampshire.....	421	1,333	-	-
New Jersey	378	381	-	-
New Mexico	341	500	-	-
New York.....	1,065	1,063	-	-
North Carolina.....	1,671	1,176	-	-
North Dakota.....	381	226	-	-
Ohio	833	869	-	-
Oklahoma	164	571	-	-
Oregon.....	514	519	-	-
Pennsylvania	844	842	-	-
Puerto Rico.....	483	486	-	-
Rhode Island	382	201	-	-
South Carolina.....	805	752	-	-
South Dakota.....	423	425	-	-
Tennessee.....	907	905	-	-
Texas.....	1,129	1,288	-	-
Utah.....	75	380	-	-
Vermont	431	1,007	-	-
Virginia	778	731	-	-
Washington	576	578	-	-
West Virginia	600	658	-	-
Wisconsin.....	659	681	-	-
Wyoming.....	19	364	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$41,600	\$40,000
Obligations.....	33,811	35,119	41,600	40,000

Table RBCS-70. Rural Energy for America Grants Under \$20,000 Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alabama	\$123	\$55	-	-
Alaska	128	66	-	-
Arizona.....	173	143	-	-
Arkansas.....	132	90	-	-
California	227	60	-	-
Colorado.....	144	63	-	-
Connecticut.....	116	11	-	-
Delaware	65	65	-	-
Florida.....	67	87	-	-
Georgia.....	309	126	-	-
Hawaii.....	36	20	-	-
Idaho	96	136	-	-
Illinois	446	505	-	-
Indiana.....	300	248	-	-
Iowa	1,070	1,113	-	-
Kansas	184	180	-	-
Kentucky	243	294	-	-
Louisiana.....	20	78	-	-
Maine	159	133	-	-
Maryland.....	118	65	-	-
Massachusetts.....	83	69	-	-
Michigan	234	331	-	-
Minnesota.....	812	1,107	-	-
Mississippi	187	151	-	-
Missouri	678	801	-	-
Montana	139	148	-	-
Nebraska	245	273	-	-
Nevada	3	8	-	-
New Hampshire.....	139	165	-	-
New Jersey	71	-	-	-

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
New Mexico.....	98	123	-	-
New York.....	227	301	-	-
North Carolina.....	268	-	-	-
North Dakota.....	128	78	-	-
Ohio.....	275	116	-	-
Oklahoma.....	18	93	-	-
Oregon.....	159	195	-	-
Pennsylvania.....	233	312	-	-
Puerto Rico.....	141	174	-	-
Rhode Island.....	57	40	-	-
South Carolina.....	164	34	-	-
South Dakota.....	20	143	-	-
Tennessee.....	141	118	-	-
Texas.....	264	79	-	-
Utah.....	70	16	-	-
Vermont.....	140	142	-	-
Virginia.....	70	80	-	-
Washington.....	173	218	-	-
West Virginia.....	178	225	-	-
Wisconsin.....	203	345	-	-
Wyoming.....	74	49	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$690	\$8,300
Obligations.....	9,848	9,472	690	8,300

Table RBCS-71. Rural Energy for America Audits and Technical Assistance Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alabama.....	-	\$100	-	-
Alaska.....	-	200	-	-
Colorado.....	-	100	-	-
Connecticut.....	-	100	-	-
Florida.....	\$100	-	-	-
Kansas.....	-	100	-	-
Kentucky.....	-	200	-	-
Louisiana.....	100	-	-	-
Maine.....	100	-	-	-
Michigan.....	100	-	-	-
Minnesota.....	100	-	-	-
Mississippi.....	-	54	-	-
Missouri.....	100	-	-	-
New Hampshire.....	-	191	-	-
New Jersey.....	100	100	-	-
North Carolina.....	64	89	-	-
Ohio.....	100	-	-	-
Oklahoma.....	-	100	-	-
Oregon.....	200	200	-	-
Pennsylvania.....	100	100	-	-
Rhode Island.....	100	-	-	-
Texas.....	100	50	-	-
Washington.....	200	200	-	-
West Virginia.....	200	-	-	-
Wyoming.....	100	-	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$2,130	\$3,090
Obligations.....	1,864	1,884	2,130	3,090

Table RBCS-72. Rural Energy for America Inflation Reduction Act Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$416,000	\$404,250
Obligations.....	-	-	416,000	404,250

Table RBCS-73. Rural Energy for America Inflation Reduction Act New Technology Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$48,250	\$96,500
Obligations.....	-	-	48,250	96,500

Table RBCS-74. Rural Energy for America Inflation Reduction Act Multi-Year Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	-	\$350,187
Obligations.....	-	-	-	350,187

Table RBCS-75. Rural Energy for America Inflation Reduction Act Underutilized Technology Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$31,814	\$29,984
Obligations.....	-	-	31,814	29,984

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table RBCS-76. Classification by Objects – Discretionary Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	\$383	\$12,920	\$10,018	\$30,000
	Total, Other Objects	383	12,920	10,018	30,000
99.9	Total, new obligations	383	12,920	10,018	30,000

Table RBCS-77. Classification by Objects – Mandatory Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	\$57,594	\$50,978	\$541,037	\$932,311
	Total, Other Objects	57,594	50,978	541,037	932,311
99.9	Total, new obligations	57,594	50,978	541,037	932,311

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ACCOUNT 8: HEALTHY FOODS FINANCING INITIATIVE

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

Healthy Food Financing Initiative

For the cost of loans and grants that is consistent with section 243 of subtitle D of title II of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953), as added by section 4206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, for necessary expenses of the Secretary to support projects that provide access to healthy food in underserved areas, to create and preserve quality jobs, and to revitalize low-income communities, [~~\$3,000,000~~]\$5,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs of loans, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table RBCS-78. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2023	\$3,000,000
Change in Appropriation	+ 2,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2024	<u>5,000,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table RBCS-79. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated	Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:						
Healthy Foods Financing Initiative (2-Year).....	\$5,000	-	-	-	-	
Healthy Foods Financing Initiative (No-Year).....	-	\$5,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	+\$2,000	(1)
Total Appropriation.....	5,000	5,000	3,000	5,000	+2,000	
Recoveries, Other	-	1,378	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, SOY	3,259	3,622	2,757	-	-2,757	
Total Available.....	8,259	10,000	5,757	5,000	-757	
Bal. Available, EOY	-3,622	-2,757	-	-	-	
Total Obligations.....	4,636	7,243	5,757	5,000	-757	

Note: The details associated with Supplemental appropriations provided to the Office of the Secretary, but implemented in this account, is found in the USDA Budget Summary and is not reflected above.

Table RBCS-80. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated	Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:					
Healthy Foods Financing Initiative (2-Year).....	\$4,636	\$5,000	-	-	-
Healthy Foods Financing Initiative (No-Year).....	-	2,243	\$5,757	\$5,000	-\$757
Total Obligations.....	4,636	7,243	5,757	5,000	-757
Balances Available, EOY:					
Healthy Foods Financing Initiative (2-Year).....	3,622	-	-	-	-
Healthy Foods Financing Initiative (No-Year).....	-	2,757	-	-	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY.....	3,622	2,757	-	-	-
Total Available.....	8,259	10,000	5,757	5,000	-757
Less:					
Recoveries, Other	-	-1,378	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-3,259	-3,622	-2,757	-	+2,757
Total Appropriation.....	5,000	5,000	3,000	5,000	+2,000

Note: The details associated with Supplemental appropriations provided to the Office of the Secretary, but implemented in this account, is found in the USDA Budget Summary and is not reflected above.

Healthy Foods Financing Initiative

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

Justification of Increases and Decreases:

- (1) An increase of \$2,000,000 for the Healthy Foods Financing Initiative (\$3,000,000 available in 2023).

The 2024 budget requests an increase for the Healthy Foods Financing Initiative (HFFI). These funds will increase the availability of affordable, healthy foods in underserved rural communities to create and preserve quality jobs and revitalize low-income communities, particularly through the development or equipping of grocery stores and other healthy food retailers. For this initiative, USDA will make available \$5 million in financial and technical assistance to community development financial institutions, other nonprofits, public agencies, and businesses with sound strategies for addressing the healthy food needs of communities. These organizations will use Federal grants, below-market rate loans, loan guarantees and tax credits to attract private sector capital for an even greater investment in projects that increase access to fresh produce and other healthy foods. The goal is to support efforts to provide access to healthy foods in underserved areas, to create and preserve quality jobs, and to prioritize the revitalization of low-income communities.

Obligations from 2017-2022 have steadily increased with a low of \$2 million in 2017 to a high of \$7 million in 2022. Funds are administered by the Reinvestment Fund and targeted to severely underserved low- and moderate-income communities. These areas are located nationwide and experience compounded issues with low-incomes and low supermarket access creating food deserts in many communities. Most often, low-income communities are less attractive, under conventional financing, to retailers of healthy food. However, effective local programs have shown that well-targeted financing and technical assistance can create viable business outcomes and access to healthier foods and create new markets for farmers, but also to create good paying jobs and support broader development efforts to revitalize distressed communities. Through grants and technical assistance, RD can support market planning and promotion efforts as well as infrastructure and operational improvements designed to stimulate consumer demand, enhance marketing, expand demand and retail outlets for farm products, and increase availability of locally and regionally produced foods.

This program also received \$155 million through the American Rescue Plan Act.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS

Table RBCS-81. Healthy Foods Financing Initiative 2-Year Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Pennsylvania	\$4,636	\$5,000	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	-	-
Obligations.....	4,636	5,000	-	-

Table RBCS-82. Healthy Foods Financing Initiative No-Year Grants Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Pennsylvania	-	\$2,243	-	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$5,757	\$5,000
Obligations.....	-	2,243	5,757	5,000

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table RBCS-83. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	\$4,636	\$7,243	\$5,757	\$5,000
	Total, Other Objects	4,636	7,243	5,757	5,000
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	4,636	7,243	5,757	5,000

ACCOUNT 9: BIOREFINERY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, RENEWABLE CHEMICAL, AND BIOBASED PRODUCT MANUFACTURING ASSISTANCE

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table RBCS-84. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Program Level	2021 Actual BA	2022 Program Level	2022 Actual BA	2023 Program Level	2023 Estimated BA	2024 Program Level	2024 Estimated BA	Program Level Inc. or Dec.	Budget Authority Inc. or Dec.
Mandatory Appropriations:										
Guaranteed Biorefinery Loans.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriation.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY.....	\$1,952,151	\$291,456	\$779,683	\$256,983	\$779,683	\$256,983	\$187,300	\$61,734	-\$592,383	-\$195,249
Total Available.....	1,952,151	291,456	779,683	256,983	779,683	256,983	187,300	61,734	-592,383	-195,249
Bal. Available, EOY.....	-1,847,561	-256,983	-779,683	-256,983	-187,300	-61,734	-	-	+187,300	+61,734
Total Obligations.....	104,590	34,473	-	-	592,383	195,249	187,300	61,734	-405,083	-133,515

Table RBCS-85. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Program Level	2021 Actual BA	2022 Program Level	2022 Actual BA	2023 Program Level	2023 Estimated BA	2024 Program Level	2024 Estimated BA	Program Level Inc. or Dec.	Budget Authority Inc. or Dec.
Mandatory Obligations:										
Guaranteed Biorefinery Loans.....	\$104,590	\$34,473	-	-	\$592,383	\$195,249	\$187,300	\$61,734	-\$405,083	-\$133,515
Total Obligations.....	104,590	34,473	-	-	592,383	195,249	187,300	61,734	-405,083	-133,515
Add back:										
Balances Available, EOY:										
Guaranteed Biorefinery Loans.....	1,847,561	256,983	\$779,683	\$256,983	187,300	61,734	-	-	-187,300	-61,734
Total Available.....	1,952,151	291,456	779,683	256,983	779,683	256,983	187,300	61,734	-592,383	-195,249
Less:										
Bal. Available, SOY.....	-1,952,151	-291,456	-779,683	-256,983	-779,683	-256,983	-187,300	-61,734	+592,383	+195,249
Total Appropriation.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS

Table RBCS-86. Mandatory Guaranteed Biorefinery Loans Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Wisconsin.....	\$104,590	-		-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-	\$592,383	\$187,300
Obligations	104,590	-	592,383	187,300

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table RBCS-87. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	\$34,473	-	\$195,249	\$61,734
	Total, Other Objects.....	34,473	-	195,249	61,734
99.9	Total, new obligations	34,473	-	195,249	61,734

ACCOUNT 10: ENERGY ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS**PROJECT STATEMENTS****Table RBCS-88. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars)**

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated	Inc. or Dec.
Mandatory Appropriations:					
Bioenergy for Advanced Biofuels ^{a/}	\$6,601	\$6,601	\$6,601	-	-\$6,601
Higher Blends Infra. Incentive Program ^{b/}	-	100,000	-	-	-
Subtotal	6,601	106,601	6,601	-	-6,601
Supplemental Appropriations:					
Inflation Reduction Act – HBIIP	-	500,000	-	-	-
Total Adjusted Approp.....	6,601	606,601	6,601	-	-6,601
Add back:					
Rescission, Transfers In and Out.....	-7,000	-107,000	-7,000	-	+7,000
Sequestration	399	399	399	-	-399
Total Appropriation.....	-	500,000	-	-	-
Transfers In:					
Commodity Credit Corporation	7,000	107,000	7,000	-	-7,000
Total Transfers In.....	7,000	107,000	7,000	-	-7,000
Sequestration	-399	-399	-399	-	+399
Recoveries, Other	384	1,658	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	84,809	38,753	631,568	\$479,354	-152,213
Total Available.....	91,794	647,012	638,169	479,354	-158,814
Bal. Available, EOY.....	-38,753	-631,568	-479,354	-55,169	+424,185
Total Obligations.....	53,041	15,444	158,814	424,185	+265,371

^{a/} Mandatory funding provided by section 9005 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, Public Law 115-334, dated December 20, 2018. The Act provides funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation of \$7,000,000 for 2019 through 2023, to remain available until expended.

^{b/} HBIIP is funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter authority.

Note: The details associated with Supplemental appropriations provided to the Office of the Secretary, but implemented in this account, is found in the USDA Budget Summary and is not reflected above.

Table RBCS-89. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated	Inc. or Dec.
Mandatory Obligations:					
Bioenergy for Advanced Biofuels.....	\$6,668	\$6,584	\$8,814	-	-\$8,814
Higher Blends Infra. Incentive Program	46,374	8,860	100,000	\$24,185	-75,815
Subtotal Mand Obligations	53,041	15,444	108,814	24,185	-84,629
Supplemental Obligations:					
Inflation Reduction Act – HBIIP	-	-	50,000	400,000	+350,000
Total Obligations.....	53,041	15,444	158,814	424,185	+265,371
Add back:					
Balances Available, EOY:					
Bioenergy for Advanced Biofuels.....	7,175	7,382	5,169	5,169	-
Higher Blends Infra. Incentive Program	31,578	124,185	24,185	-	-24,185
Inflation Reduction Act – HBIIP	-	500,000	450,000	50,000	-400,000
Total Bal. Available, EOY	38,753	631,568	479,354	55,169	-424,185
Total Available.....	91,794	647,012	638,169	479,354	-158,814
Less:					
Total Transfers In	-7,000	-107,000	-7,000	-	+7,000
Sequestration	399	399	399	-	-399
Recoveries, Other	-384	-1,658	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-84,809	-38,753	-631,568	-479,354	+152,213

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated	Inc. or Dec.
Total Appropriation.....	-	500,000	-	-	-

Note: The details associated with Supplemental appropriations provided to the Office of the Secretary, but implemented in this account, is found in the USDA Budget Summary and is not reflected above.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS

Table RBCS-90. Mandatory Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuel Payments Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Alabama.....	\$39		\$50	-
Arizona.....	75		-	-
Arkansas.....	330		254	-
California.....	88		47	-
Colorado.....	440		405	-
Florida.....	0		-	-
Georgia.....	302		303	-
Hawaii.....	34		25	-
Illinois.....	594		681	-
Indiana.....	176		308	-
Iowa.....	533		565	-
Kansas.....	286		368	-
Kentucky.....	177		169	-
Maine.....	116		103	-
Maryland.....	25		40	-
Massachusetts.....	319		286	-
Michigan.....	103		108	-
Minnesota.....	476		516	-
Mississippi.....	67		49	-
Missouri.....	290		306	-
Nebraska.....	280		371	-
New Hampshire.....	13		21	-
North Dakota.....	29		15	-
Ohio.....	171		-	-
Oklahoma.....	255		214	-
Oregon.....	64		76	-
Pennsylvania.....	456		445	-
Rhode Island.....	27		10	-
South Dakota.....	213		251	-
Tennessee.....	206		197	-
Texas.....	337		313	-
Vermont.....	12		10	-
Virginia.....	10		2	-
Washington.....	4		2	-
West Virginia.....	59		45	-
Wisconsin.....	62		27	-
Distribution Unknown.....	-	-		\$8,814
Obligations.....	6,668	6,584	8,814	-

Table RBCS-91. Mandatory Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
California.....	\$2,114		\$3,277	-
Connecticut.....	227		-	-
Florida.....	1,855		-	-
Georgia.....	1,062		-	-
Hawaii.....	393		-	-

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Illinois	2,624	2,991	-	-
Indiana	220	285	-	-
Iowa	1,896	-	-	-
Kansas	1,008	-	-	-
Kentucky	2,142	-	-	-
Maine	52	-	-	-
Maryland	-	1,569	-	-
Massachusetts	5,524	-	-	-
Michigan	152	-	-	-
Minnesota	30	-	-	-
Mississippi	76	-	-	-
Missouri	429	-	-	-
Nebraska	3,452	-	-	-
New Hampshire	149	-	-	-
New Jersey	-	340	-	-
New York	758	126	-	-
North Carolina	615	-	-	-
Ohio	392	-	-	-
Oklahoma	4,884	-	-	-
Pennsylvania	-	76	-	-
South Dakota	-	196	-	-
Texas	8,100	-	-	-
Wisconsin	8,220	-	-	-
Distribution Unknown	-	-	\$100,000	\$24,185
Obligations	46,374	8,860	100,000	24,185

Table RBCS-92. IRA Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program Geographic Breakdown of Obligations (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Distribution Unknown	-	-	\$50,000	\$400,000
Obligations	-	-	50,000	400,000

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table RBCS-93. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	\$53,041	\$15,444	\$158,814	\$424,185
	Total, Other Objects	53,041	15,444	158,814	424,185
99.9	Total, new obligations	53,041	15,444	158,814	424,185

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STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS) programs increase economic opportunity in rural America through direct loans, loan guarantees, grants, and technical assistance for development of cooperatives. Rural Development (RD) State and field office staffs work collaboratively with political and business leaders to leverage RD resources.

RBCS promotes economic development in rural communities by supporting loan guarantees to businesses through commercial lenders. Direct loan and grant programs support local and regional economic development organizations that provide guidance to established businesses or business start-ups, conduct feasibility studies, and develop business plans, technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses.

Table RBCS-94. RBCS Program Funding (millions of dollars)

Program	Total Obligations	Total Number Loans or Grants
Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loans	\$1,777.4	265
Rural Business Development Grant Funds	38.2	435
Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP)	8.9	14
Bioenergy for Advanced Biofuels	6.6	362
Delta Regional Authority (DRA) - Northern Border Region Commission (NBRC) Grants	9.0	5
Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) Loans	13.2	16
Healthy Food Financing Initiative	7.2	4
Rural Economic Development (RED) Loan Funds	47.1	42
Rural Economic Development (RED) Grant Funds	211.0	46
Local Agriculture Market Program - Value Added Producer Grant (LAMP-VAPG)	37.5	207
Agricultural Marketing Resource Center	0.2	1
Rural Cooperative Development Grants (RCDG)	5.8	31
Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant (SDGG) Program	3.0	20
Appropriate Technology Transfer to Rural America (ATTRA)	2.8	1
Rural Microenterprise Grant Funds	3.3	67
Rural Microenterprise Loan Funds	2.0	6
Rural Energy for America (REAP) Grant Funds	59.0	1,389
Rural Energy for America (REAP) Loan Funds	586.1	78
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant Funds	2.0	3
Total	2,820.3	2,992

Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program**Current Activities:**

The B&I Guaranteed Loan Program supports business growth in rural areas by providing funding through small or regional scale lenders to ensure rural communities have access to capital. In 2022, RD supported 265 loans for a total of \$1.777 billion. This funding is estimated to create or save 10,000 jobs. Within these totals, over \$399 million in loans were made to distressed communities and persistent poverty areas throughout rural America.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

In Oahu, Hawaii, RCA Trade Center received \$7.88 million in B&I Guaranteed loan funds to complete construction of four agricultural warehouses totaling over 56,000 square feet and hire additional employees. Local growers and distributors will rent the warehouse space and a solar development firm will add additional revenue by renting the roof space for solar panels.

In Sequoia, Oklahoma, S&U Partners received \$600,000 in B&I Guaranteed loan funds to assist in the financing of a rural convenience store. This funding is expected to create or save up to six jobs in the community.

In Douglas, Washington, Om Shree Sai LLC received \$7 million in B&I Guaranteed loan funds to fund the purchase of the Best Western Plus Wenatchee hotel for their family-owned rural business. This business will purchase local foods produced within 400 miles to serve in the breakfast bar. Three new jobs are expected to be created with 18 jobs saved in the community.

Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) Program**Current Activities:**

RBDG provides grants to support towns, communities, State agencies, authorities, nonprofit corporations, institutions of higher education, Federally-recognized tribes, and rural cooperatives (if organized as a private nonprofit corporation) in rural areas. Targeted technical assistance, training, and other activities lead to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses with fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues. Programmatic activities are separated into enterprise (RBEG), opportunity (RBOG), and transportation type grant activities. In 2022, the RBDG program awarded 435 grants totaling \$38.2 million that will be used to benefit approximately 17,000 related rural businesses and create or save roughly 41,000 jobs. Nearly 260 of these grants were obligated for technical assistance critical to minority producers in underserved areas.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

The Dilkon, Arizona, Chapter of the Navajo Nation received a \$21,000 grant for a local economic development project that consists of developing a Community Land Use Plan. The ultimate goal of the plan is to achieve tribal self-sufficiency and improve the overall quality of tribal business and entrepreneurial skills. The plan seeks to accomplish this by creating a diversified, job-generating private sector capable of supporting and increasing job creation efforts in the area. The project is expected to create 23 new jobs and save six existing jobs.

The town of Marion, Alabama received a funding investment of \$150,000 to establish a revolving loan fund that will benefit small businesses located in historic downtown Marion. Revolving loan funds will allow existing businesses to improve their spaces and entrepreneurs to open brick and mortar locations. Five small businesses will be assisted, saving six jobs and creating 14 jobs.

In Navajo, Arizona, a grant of \$99,500 will be used to develop a master plan that will support "Rock the Canyon", an annual music and arts festival in the Shonto area. The master plan process will study expansion of the festival and recommend portable venue options (stages and venues for artisans, etc.), and facilitate business visioning sessions for those businesses that will benefit from the annual festival. These funds are expected to create or save up to 11 jobs and assist nearly 35 rural businesses.

Nearly \$15 Million obligated in business capital through loan guarantees to commercial lenders who in turn can provide affordable financing with Zip Zone Express, Inc., a convenience store group, located in Inez, Martin County, Kentucky. Their goal is to refinance and buy new equipment for their 13 stores, 11 located across eastern Kentucky and 2 located in West Virginia. The proposal will result in 45 jobs created and 48 jobs saved by this single project.

Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP)**Current Activities:**

The purpose of the HBIIP is to significantly increase the sales and use of higher blends of ethanol and biodiesel by expanding the infrastructure for renewable fuels derived from U.S. agricultural products. The program will

encourage a more comprehensive approach to market higher blends by sharing the costs related to building out biofuel-related infrastructure.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

New Leaf Biofuel, LLC, a fuel distribution facility company received a grant of \$2.6 million to create infrastructure to expand the sale and use of renewable fuels. This project will consist of installing three 13,000 bbl storage tanks, two 8,500 (bbl) biodiesel storage tanks, new pumping, and piping equipment at their facility in Fontana, California. The project estimates it will increase the amount of biodiesel sold by 129.8 million gallons per year.

Heinz, Inc, a small fueling station business owner received an investment of \$196,000 that will be used to create infrastructure to expand the sales and use of renewable fuel. This project will replace four dispensers and four storage tanks at one fueling station located in Summit, South Dakota. This project estimates it will increase the amount of biodiesel sold by 533,355 gallons per year.

Bioenergy for Advanced Biofuels

Current Activities:

The Bioenergy for Advanced Biofuels program offers payments to eligible advanced biofuel producers to produce fuel from the renewable biomass (excluding corn starch). In 2022, this program obligated \$6.6 million in funding.

Selected Examples of Recent Projects:

Blue Ridge Biofuels, a biofuel producer in North Carolina received a grant for \$49 thousand to help lower cost and support this producer who faced unexpected market losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This investment in sustainable fuel markets and biofuel production will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expand America's energy independence and combat the impacts of climate change.

In Illinois, Power Mart Express Corp., DBA PME, received a \$2.9 million grant to increase ethanol sales by 17.5 million gallons per year. This project will replace 293 dispensers and 30 storage tanks at 15 fueling stations in Chicago, Maywood, Ciero, Des Plaines, and Wilmington.

Delta Regional Authority (DRA), Northern Border Region Commission (NBRC) and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grants

Current Activities:

The DRA and NBRC provide technical assistance and training along with various economic outreach activities and strategic investments in the Delta and Northern Border regions of the country. In 2022, these programs obligated over \$9 million for five projects designed to spur job creation and economic growth to these financially distressed rural communities.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

In 2022, \$1.4 million was obligated for the ARC to provide assistance to businesses and residents located in the designated counties in 13 states (Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia). The proposed project is for comprehensive regional economic development planning in rural areas, leadership planning and to fund projects eligible under the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) and Community Facility Grant programs.

The NBRC received a \$3 million investment to enhance the Commission's work to catalyze regional, collaborative, and transformative community economic development approaches that alleviate economic distress. Funding will target rural businesses to support business growth and innovation and workforce development, and to provide technical assistance to the outdoor recreation sector. The project will be accomplished through collaboration between a variety of stakeholders working across the awardee's service area, including targeted regions of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

In 2022, an Appalachian Regional Commission investment of \$1.16 million supported Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC), located in Floyd County, Kentucky, to renovate an existing welding technology laboratory space on their Mayo Campus in Paintsville, Kentucky. This project serves Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin and Pike Counties in Kentucky. The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) received \$3 million to catalyze regional, collaborative, and transformative community economic development approaches that alleviate economic distress. Funding is targeted to rural businesses, supporting business growth and innovation, workforce development, and technical assistance to the outdoor recreation economy sector. The project will assist at least four businesses to create or save 45 jobs.

Intermediary Relending Program (IRP)

Current Activities:

The IRP makes loans to economic development intermediaries (non-profits and public bodies) that re-lend those funds to small rural businesses and organizations (ultimate recipients) that might not otherwise be able to obtain such financing. In 2022, IRP issued 16 loans totaling over \$13 million to intermediaries to establish and recapitalize revolving loan funds. The IRP financing for 2022 resulted in 243 businesses being assisted, thereby creating or saving nearly 900 jobs. Within these totals, eight of the projects totaling over \$6.1 million was made available to small businesses located in rural communities with persistent poverty and other target initiative areas. These target initiative area loans created or saved 492 jobs.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

The female-owned Justine Petersen Housing Reinvestment fund in St. Louis, Missouri was awarded \$1 million to provide low-interest loans for rural small businesses. The projects assisted with IRP loan funds are expected to result in the creation of at least 50 jobs.

Healthy Food Financing Initiative grant (HFFI)

Current Activities:

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative aims to improve access to healthy foods in underserved areas, to create and preserve quality jobs, and to revitalize low-income communities. The program aims to build a more equitable food system that supports the health and economic vibrancy of all Americans. Authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and reauthorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, the HFFI Targeted Small Grants Program is administered by the Reinvestment Fund on behalf of USDA Rural Development. HFFI provides capacity building and financial resources to eligible healthy food retail projects to overcome the higher costs and initial barriers to entry in underserved areas.

In 2022, HFFI made \$7.2 million in total obligations to the Reinvestment Fund, a national mission-driven financial institution that creates opportunity for underserved people and places through partnerships like National Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). The Reinvestment Fund provides grant awards ranging from \$20,000 to \$200,000. Funding supports projects that are designed to improve access to fresh, healthy food through food retail. Grants are one-time investments of capital into a food retail or food enterprise projects. Grant funds can assist with a variety of project needs, including predevelopment, brick and mortar facility development, other hard capital costs, equipment needs, and one-time soft costs including training, consulting needs, marketing, or merchandising. Approximately \$300,000 is available for technical assistance. The assistance will be provided to applicants who have early-stage projects where resources would help build local capacity to develop a food retail outlet or enterprise and would clarify or advance an eligible project.

Selected examples of Recent Progress:

In San Carlos, Arizona, Nalwoodi Denzhone Community General Store is a nonprofit that will address the ongoing food challenges facing the San Carlos Apache communities by developing a general store on a tribally-owned 90-acre farm.

Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) Program

Current Activities:

The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program provides funding for rural projects through local utility organizations. USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses (ultimate recipients) for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. USDA also provides grants to local utility organizations that use the funding to establish Revolving Loan Funds (RLF). Loans are made from the revolving loan funds to projects that will create or retain rural jobs. When the revolving loan fund is terminated, the grant is repaid to USDA.

In 2022 not including funding for broadband, REDLG obligated nearly \$57 million for 77 loans and grants to local utility organizations in rural America. Of that amount, over \$47.5 million in loans and \$9.4 million in grants went to qualifying utilities that assisted 137 rural businesses and created or saved 1,851 jobs. In addition to creating and saving jobs, in 2022 REDLG funded projects that helped small underserved rural communities improve sanitation services, provide cleaner drinking water and improve safety for residents.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

In 2022, a \$36,936 grant was awarded as part of a \$385,000 project to help the Sacred Heart, MN Volunteer Fire Department purchase a new fire truck to help with fire protection and first responder medical care to area residents.

One million dollars were awarded to the Central Electric Power Association to be relented to Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) to assist them in the making improvements to several commercial and industrial properties owned by MBCI. The renovations and improvements to their facilities will allow MBCI to retain their current tenants, as well as attract new tenants therefore saving and creating roughly 25 jobs for their community. The unemployment rate in the project area is 26 percent above the national rate, while the per capita personal income is only 61 percent of the national income level.

Local Agriculture Market Program-Value Added Producer Grant (LAMP-VAPG) Program

Current Activities:

The LAMP-VAPG program helps agricultural producers grow their businesses by turning raw commodities into value added products, expanding marketing opportunities, and developing new uses for existing products. In 2022, the LAMP-VAPG Program funded 207 grants for a total of nearly \$38 million. These grants created or saved an estimated 675 jobs.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

In Hampshire County, West Virginia an investment of \$250,000 will be used by Triple E Farms LLC to create new jobs and reach new customers through a strategic marketing campaign, built around on-line marketing of pasture fed meats shipped directly to consumers. A \$250,000 borrower contribution is included in the project.

Agricultural Marketing Resource Center (AgMRC)

Current Activities:

Funding for AgMRC is made available through the Farm Bill, which makes 2.5 percent of available Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) funds authorized for this purpose (note that prior to the 2018 Farm Bill five percent of the available VAPG funds were authorized for this purpose). In 2022 one AgMRC award was made for over \$176,000 to Iowa State University. The AgMRC strives to serve a national value-added agriculture audience. To reach a national audience, AgMRC tools include its web platform, relationships with other land-grant universities and various technical assistance providers from across the country. AgMRC team members work closely with internal and external partners to:

- Maintain an electronic, web-based library with powerful search capabilities to make value-added market, economic and business information and other resources available to producers nationwide.

- Provide value-added business and economic analysis tools, including information on business principles, legal, financial and logistical issues;
- Link producers with electronically available information and resources on major value-added commodities and niche markets; and
- Provide resources that support producers in their efforts to prepare and participate in Value-Added Producer Grants.

Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG)

Current Activities:

RCDGs are awarded to non-profit groups and higher education institutions that use the funds to operate centers to develop or expand cooperatives and mutually owned businesses. These centers work with and support new cooperative businesses. The funding can be used to conduct feasibility studies, create and implement business plans, offer technical assistance, establish low-interest loans, and help rural businesses develop new markets for their products and services. In 2022, grants totaling approximately \$5.8 million were made to 31 cooperative development centers. These centers assisted 633 small businesses and cooperatives, creating and saving more than 1,048 jobs. Three of those grants totaling over \$600,000 supported assistance directly to underserved areas and communities with persistent poverty.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

A grant of \$200,000 assisted individuals and businesses to start, expand, or improve rural cooperatives and other mutually owned businesses through Cooperative Development Centers such as the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development located in Hardin County. The center is proposing to improve economic conditions of rural Kentucky by promoting new cooperatives and continuing to improve existing cooperatives and agribusinesses. The applicant's proposal will serve all of rural Kentucky and result in 52 jobs being created and saving 194 jobs. Of this total, \$600,000 was obligated in persistent poverty areas.

Socially-Disadvantaged Group Grant (SDGG) Program

Current Activities:

The SDGG program, also known as the Socially Disadvantaged Producer Grants, provides technical assistance grants to socially-disadvantaged groups (cooperatives, groups of cooperatives, and cooperative development centers) for the purpose of developing cooperatives. Socially-disadvantaged groups include members who have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. In 2022, the SDGG program awarded \$3 million in 20 grants.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

In Lancaster County, Pennsylvania an investment of \$60,555 will help the Keystone Development Center Inc. provide technical assistance for the development of a woman farmers and worker-ownership conversion cooperative in rural Pennsylvania. The goal is to create better quality jobs and cooperative businesses to benefit woman farmers and workers. This project will assist over 100 businesses and create or save over 30 jobs.

In Massachusetts the independent producer Red Apple Farms received a \$250,000 grant that will allow the underrepresented group of fourth-generation family farmers to expand their hard cider production, distribution, and sales.

Appropriate Technology Transfer to Rural America (ATTRA)

Current Activities:

The ATTRA program, also called the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, provides sustainable agriculture information to those engaged in or serving commercial agriculture, such as farmers, ranchers, extension agents, farm organizations, farm-based businesses, and small-scale, beginning, limited-resource, and returning veteran farmers. Created in the 1985 Farm Bill, the ATTRA program is managed by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) through a cooperative agreement with USDA/RD.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

In 2022, the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) based in Montana received a \$2.8 million grant to carry out the objectives of the ATTRA program. Headquartered in Butte, Montana, NCAT maintains regional offices and a staff of over 70 individuals. Many of their staff are national experts in their fields and include engineers, architects, as well as experts in areas of organic farming, small acreage production, urban agriculture production, entomology, agriculture economics, soil health, diversified crop and livestock operations, and other agricultural specialties. NCAT provides hands-on assistance to farmers, ranchers, individuals, government agencies and business owners in all 50 States. In recent years, NCAT has expanded their focus to sustainable agriculture, small-scale intensive farming, urban farming, and local foods; assistance to small farmers, beginning and new farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, and veterans wishing to become farmers.

Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP)**Current Activities:**

The RMAP program supports the development and ongoing success of rural microentrepreneurs and microenterprises that consist of ten or fewer employees. Direct loans and technical assistance grants are made to select Microenterprise Development Organizations. In 2022, a total of \$2 million in loans was obligated to six RMAP applicants. The RMAP program also awarded \$3.3 million in grants to 67 RMAP awardees to support their ongoing development of successful rural microenterprises. These loans and grants created or saved an estimated 1,168 jobs and helped over 400 business and farmers.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

In Pennsylvania, a \$100,000 grant will be used to fund a technical assistance program for ECCR Group, Inc. The group will provide business training to rural, underserved, and minority microenterprises with focus on the skills, knowledge, and training to start or grow their business. This project is estimated to save or create up to 200 jobs and assist up to 200 businesses.

Rural Nevada Development Corporation (RNDC) received a direct loan for \$250,000. This RMAP loan will be used to provide microloans to small business in the rural areas of Nevada. It is projected that six jobs will be created or saved with this RMAP project in White Pine County, Nevada, with a population of 9,745.

In 2022, ECCR Group, Inc. received a grant of \$100,000 that will be used to fund a technical assistance program for ECCR Group to provide business training to rural, underserved, and minority microenterprises with the skills, knowledge, and training to start or grow their business. It is projected that up to 200 jobs will be created or saved with this RMAP assistance in Monroe County, Pennsylvania.

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)**Current Activities:**

In 2022, REAP supported 1,467 obligations with \$645.1 million in total funding. Of this total, REAP obligated \$582.6 million in mandatory funding with \$536 million in loan guarantees and over \$46 million in grants. Discretionary funding totaled \$62.5 million obligated for 289 loan and grant projects.

REAP mandatory funding supported 1,109 grants as follows:

- Regular grants: \$35.1 million supporting 426 grants
- Audit grants: \$0.8 million supporting 9 grants
- Technical Assistance: \$1 million supporting 11 grants
- Energy Savings and Efficiency grants less than \$20,000: \$9.5 million supporting 663 grants.

These loans and grants support projects such as anaerobic digesters, solar projects, and other renewable energy sources including ethanol and alternative fuel projects. Total jobs created or saved is estimated at 826 employees. This funding supported nearly 2,500 different projects for rural microenterprises. The 2022 REAP program estimated energy savings from energy efficiency improvement projects is 351,891,243 kWh. The estimated energy generation from renewable energy system projects is 2,493,889,799 kWh. This is a total of 2,845,781,042 kWh, or enough energy to power 262,598 homes per year.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

In Wyoming, WTE-Burnett Dairy RNG, LLC received over \$19 million in funding to develop an anaerobic digester tank system to convert cow manure into biogas. Burnett Enterprises, Inc. and Burnett Land and Livestock LTD LLP, a locally owned and operated dairy, will lease the site for the anaerobic digester and the dairy manure feedstock to WTE-Burnett Dairy RNG, LLC. BP Energy will contract with WTE-Burnett Dairy RNG, LLC to purchase the renewable natural gas piped into the Tallgrass interstate natural gas pipeline.

A loan of over \$2.2 million toward the purchase and installation of a 2.76 MW solar system for AGA TAG Solar II, LLC, a newly created entity for the purpose of generating electricity in Cowpens, SC. Their system is estimated to produce 4,783,000 kWh per year, which is enough electricity to power 447 homes in the area.

In July 2022, RD provided nearly \$30,000 in grant funds that will leverage over \$115,000 towards installing energy efficiency improvements to Little Lakes Catfish Farm, LLC and their 16 catfish production ponds. Project funds will be used to install an automated oxygen monitoring system in each of the 16 ponds. This includes a dissolved oxygen monitoring buoy and aerator controllers. The project will realize \$30,339 per year in savings, a 40.08 percent energy consumption reduction for the 12-month period. Additionally, this project will save 248,000 kilowatt (kwh) hours of electricity and 2,640 gallons of diesel, which is enough energy to power 22 homes.

Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Program (RISE)**Current Activities:**

The RISE Grant Program offers grant assistance to create and augment high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, support industry clusters and maximize the use of local productive assets in eligible low-income rural areas. The RISE Grant Program meets a recognized need for federal support for jobs accelerator partnerships for the promotion of private investment in regional economies. The flexible use of funds by RISE grant recipients allows a region to establish and operate innovation centers for job development and training, including use of new or improved broadband service by jobs accelerators. The RISE program will improve the ability of rural communities to create high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of rural businesses, and strengthen regional economies. In 2022, Rural Development obligated \$2 million supporting three RISE grants.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

In Ohio, the Appalachia Ohio Manufacturers Coalition received \$715,000 in grant funds used to leverage a \$2.2 million project to identify opportunities for job creation and training a workforce to fill those jobs. The Coalition will foster connections between rural Appalachian area and industry clusters that show potential for growth in the Appalachian region. Their focus is on aligning the learning system with the needs of the business community to support economic growth and higher quality of life in the Southeast Ohio Region.

In addition to the funding provided through the annual appropriations, RBCS is administering the following programs for the Office of the Secretary.

Food Supply Chain Guaranteed program.

This program is a part of USDA's Build Back Better initiative to strengthen critical supply chains and our food system. This program guarantees loans of up to \$40 million for qualified lenders to finance food systems projects, specifically for the start-up or expansion of activities in the middle of the food supply chain. The program will support new investments in infrastructure for food aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesaling, and distribution to increase capacity and create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain. This program is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. Funding for this program is allocated from the funding appropriated to the Office of the Secretary and an internal appropriation was provided to RD.

Examples of fund uses by food supply chain businesses include:

- Business conversion, enlargement, repair, modernization, or development
- The purchase and development of land, buildings, and associated infrastructure for commercial or industrial purposes

- Building or equipping facilities for lease to public or private enterprises engaged in commercial or industrial operations
- The purchase and installation of machinery and equipment, including manufacturing and Information Technology (IT) systems
- Working capital

This program has supported 14 loans for a total of \$254 million.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

Sitka, Alaska based Sayak Logistics LLC dba Northline Seafoods, which operates primarily in Bristol Bay, received Food Supply Chain loan guarantee investment of \$40 million. The funding will provide long-term financing for a newly constructed commercial fishing tender and processing barge. This project is expected to create 37 jobs and save nine jobs in the community.

A \$35 million FSC loan was approved for Origo Cold Madera Phase I, LLC. Funds will be used to develop a 250,000 square foot cold storage facility in Madera, California, to provide cold storage for almond growers and processors. This climate-controlled storage will reduce the risk of spoilage and reduce the use of pesticides on the almonds.

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI).

As mentioned above, HFFI provides capacity building and financial resources to eligible healthy food retail projects to overcome the higher costs and initial barriers to entry in underserved areas. With additional funding, this program has obligated \$155 million to three grants. Funding for this program is allocated from the funding appropriated to the Office of the Secretary and an internal appropriation was provided to RD.

Reinvestment Fund Awardee projects are located in 46 States, in addition to Puerto Rico and Washington, DC. Of the 134 grant awardees for the most recent funding cycle, 45 percent serve rural communities and 81 percent are owned or led by people of color, women, and/or native people. Of the awardees, 69 percent are grocery retail projects. Another 31 percent of awardees offer alternative retail models including mobile markets, community supported agriculture programs, or food boxes.

Bioenergy payments for Biofuels Producers.

This program authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make payments to U.S.-based producers of advanced, cellulosic, or conventional biofuel, biomass-based diesel, or renewable fuel to offset unexpected market losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

Aurora Cooperative Elevator Company, a Nebraska based corn ethanol producer, received a payment of -\$2,905,719.50 to help cover unexpected market loss due to COVID19. Market loss was calculated by comparing calendar year 2020 production to 2019, the difference is the amount of assistance that the payment was based on.

Meat and Poultry Intermediary Relending Program (MPILP).

RD will provide grants of up to \$15 million to nonprofit lenders, including private nonprofits, cooperatives, public agencies and tribal entities. These intermediaries will use this funding to establish a revolving loan fund (RLF) to finance a variety of activities related to meat and poultry processing. For example, businesses may use the loans to acquire land, build or expand facilities and modernize equipment. The objective of the MPILP is to strengthen the financing capacity for independent meat processors, and to create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain.

When loans are repaid, intermediaries can make additional loans to support activities throughout the middle of the food supply chain. This funding can help businesses aggregate, process, manufacture, store, transport, wholesale and distribute food.

The design of MPILP was informed by the other active programs that are part of the Biden Administration’s Action Plan to Build a Fairer, More Competitive, and More Resilient Meat and Poultry Supply Chain. The funding package for Phase I of the program was approved on September 2, 2022, and \$75 million has been obligated for eight awards ranging from \$2 to \$15 million (three lenders are receiving the full \$15 million) in seven States - GA, IA, MN, MT, NC, ND, and SD. Both MPILP lenders and meat and poultry processors have expressed interest in the timing of the MPILP announcement so they can begin to market, make, and acquire loans. RBCS launched Phase II of the MPILP on November 1 with an announcement of an additional \$125 million available. Applications will be due December 31, 2022, and award notifications are slated for late February 2023. Funding for this program is allocated from the funding appropriated to the Office of the Secretary for pandemic response and an internal appropriation was provided to RD.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

An investment of \$15 million will be used to establish a Revolving Loan Fund to facilitate financing for the start-up, expansion, and operation of entities engaged in the primary processing or further processing of meat and poultry, to strengthen the financing capacity for independent processors, and to help create a more resilient diverse and secure food supply chain in Raleigh, North Carolina. This project is expected to create or save 98 jobs in the community.

In Georgia, CSRA Business lending has provided funding for the following borrowers:

- Borrower needs \$8 million for a new expanded updated larger facility. Borrower currently operates very small processing facility and owns that land, building and equipment valued at \$800,000. Borrower’s bank is willing to fund \$4 million. New equipment costing \$1,500,000 is being financed by a local community revolving loan fund or by another state or federal funding source. Our Georgia Meat and Poultry RLF could consider financing the remaining \$1,700,000 needed for the facility in subordinate second mortgage at a below market fixed for 25 years. The value of the existing facility would count toward the borrowers 10 percent down payment.
- Borrower has existing \$500,000 mortgage on established successful farming operation and needs \$3.2 million to add small processing facility as well as \$300,000 operating capital for the new facility. \$4 million total financing need. Borrower’s bank could fund \$2 million needed to refinance existing mortgage and build new facility and provide operating capital. Our Georgia Meat and Poultry RLF could consider financing the remaining \$2 million needed in subordinate second mortgage at a below market fixed rate for 25 years.
- Borrower needs \$4 million to construct a new small start-up facility and \$300,000 for working capital and other expenses. Borrower owns the property and an existing building that will be modified into the processing valued at \$600,000. Bank is willing to finance \$2 million in a first mortgage. CSRA through our existing SBA-504 program can finance 35 percent, or \$1.4 million. Our Georgia Meat and Poultry RLF could consider financing the remaining \$300,000 for operating capital at a below market fixed rate for 10 years.

Table RBCS-95. OSEC Supplemental Appropriations (millions of dollars)

Program	Total Obligations	Total Number Loans or Grants
Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loans	\$254.0	14
Healthy Food Financing Initiative - ARP	155.0	3
Emergency Grant Relief for Biofuel Producers Program COVID	683.4	106
Meat and Poultry Intermediary Relending Program	75.0	8
Total	1,167.4	131