

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF AVOCACY AND OUTREACH

2010 Explanatory Notes

Table of Contents

Purpose Statement .....	2-45
Statement of Available Funds and Staff Years .....	2-46
Permanent Positions by Grade and Staff Year .....	2-46
Salaries and Expenses:	
Appropriation Language.....	2-47
Lead-off Tabular Statement .....	2-47
Project Statement.....	2-47
Justifications .....	2-48
Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years.....	2-49
Classification by Objects .....	2-49

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF AVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Purpose Statement

The Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO) was established as an office within Executive Operations under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Section 14013, P.L. 110-246.

The mission of OAO is to increase access to programs of the Department, and increase the viability and profitability of small farms and ranches, beginning farmers or ranchers, and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

## EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

## OFFICE OF AVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Available Funds and Staff Years  
2008 Actual and Estimated 2009 and 2010

<u>Item</u>	<u>2008 Actual</u>		<u>2009 Estimate</u>		<u>2010 Estimate</u>	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years
Direct Appropriation.....	--	--	--	--	\$3,000,000	15

Permanent Positions by Grade and Staff Year Summary  
2008 Actual and Estimated 2009 and 2010

<u>Grade</u>	<u>2008 Washington, D.C.</u>	<u>2009 Washington, D.C.</u>	<u>2010 Washington, D.C.</u>
ES .....	--	--	2
GS-15.....	--	--	1
GS-14.....	--	--	5
GS-13.....	--	--	1
GS-11.....	--	--	1
GS-10.....	--	--	4
GS-5.....	--	--	1
<hr/>			
Total Permanent Positions.....	--	--	15
<hr/>			
Unfilled Positions end-of-year.....	--	--	--
<hr/>			
Total, Permanent Full-Time Employment, end-of-year.....	--	--	15
<hr/> <hr/>			
Staff Year Estimate .....	--	--	15

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF AVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Appropriation Language

For necessary expenses of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach, \$3,000,000.

Lead-off Tabular Statement

Appropriations Act, 2009.....	0
Budget Estimate, 2010.....	<u>\$3,000,000</u>
Increase in Appropriation.....	<u>+3,000,000</u>

Summary of Increases and Decreases

(On basis of appropriation)

<u>Item of Change</u>	<u>2009 Estimate</u>	<u>Pay Costs</u>	<u>Program Changes</u>	<u>2010 Estimate</u>
Office of Advocacy and Outreach.....	--	--	+\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000

Project Statement

(On basis of appropriation)

	<u>2008 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Estimate</u>	<u>Increase or Decrease</u>	<u>2010 Estimate Amount</u>	<u>Staff Years</u>
Office of Advocacy and Outreach .....	--	--	+3,000,000	\$3,000,000	15

## EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

## OFFICE OF AVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Justification of Increases and Decreases(1) An increase of \$3,000,000 and 15 staff years for the Office of Advocacy and Outreach.

Ensuring that the government and its programs are open and transparent is a priority for USDA. The Department is committed to ensuring that all USDA constituents, including historically underserved groups, have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the programs offered by the Department.

To achieve these ambitious goals, the Department will dedicate necessary resources to increase its service offerings to and create additional opportunities for participation by those historically underserved groups, such as small farms and ranches, and beginning and socially disadvantaged producers.

Examples of recent progress include: establishing a working group to properly collect demographic information about USDA's constituents so that we can identify where discrimination may be occurring; instituting provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill including the receipt for service, that help the Department focus on improving civil rights; and conducting an assessment of the Department's civil rights and outreach business processes to find ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our programs.

To lead the effort in achieving these targets, USDA is establishing the Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO), as authorized in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). The Office will also serve as an advocate for underserved constituents and as an avenue for them to have input into programmatic and policy decisions to improve their viability and profitability. OAO will be separate from the Office of Civil Rights, which will remain focused on the rights of employees and service to all USDA customers. The funding underscores the increased effort underway by the Administration to encourage and advocate for full participation by all Americans in USDA programs.

The requested funding and staff will enable OAO to provide the necessary Departmental oversight of agency outreach activities and to actively engage with USDA program management to ensure participation by underserved groups. Specifically, funding will be used for:

- Overseeing the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers and the Advisory Committee for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. Through these advisory committees, OAO will work with the affected constituencies to gather public input on ways the Department can support minority and beginning producers;
- Consulting with the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) on the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Competitive Grants Program (2501 Program). Through this program, OAO and NIFA will make funding available to organizations providing outreach and technical assistance to improve the viability of socially disadvantaged producers;
- Assisting in the administration of Farm Labor Housing Grants Program with Rural Development to ensure that small farms, and beginning and socially disadvantaged producers are made aware of the program and are able to participate if they are building or buying housing for their laborers; and
- Overseeing the activities of the Office of Small Farms Coordination. Through this office, OAO will carry out consultation and communications activities with small farms to keep them apprised of developments in USDA programs and make them aware of funding opportunities.

## EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

## OFFICE OF AVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years  
2008 Actual and Estimated 2009 and 2010

	2008		2009		2010	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Years
District of Columbia.....	--	--	--	--	\$3,000,000	15

Classification By Objects  
2008 Actual and Estimated 2009 and 2010

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Personnel Compensation:			
Washington, D.C. ....	--	--	\$1,421,000
11 Total personnel compensation.....	--	--	1,421,000
12 Personnel benefits .....	--	--	455,000
Total pers. comp. & benefits.....	--	--	1,876,000
Other Objects:			
21 Travel.....	--	--	100,000
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc. charges .....	--	--	25,000
24 Printing and reproduction.....	--	--	4,000
25.2 Other services .....	--	--	200,000
25.3 Purchases of goods and services from Government Accounts.....	--	--	590,000
26 Supplies and materials .....	--	--	5,000
31 Equipment.....	--	--	100,000
42 Litigation Fees and Awards .....	--	--	100,000
Total other objects .....	--	--	1,124,000
Total direct obligations .....	--	--	3,000,000
<u>Position Data:</u>			
Average Salary, ES positions.....	--	--	\$177,200
Average Salary, GS positions .....	--	--	\$81,880
Average Grade, GS positions.....	--	--	13.1