

2022 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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AGENCY-WIDE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) was established through a Secretarial Memorandum in 2017 to improve customer engagement, maximize efficiency, and improve agency collaboration. The office was delegated the oversight of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO), the Office of Tribal Relations through FY 2021, the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison, the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the Women in Agriculture initiative, and the USDA Youth Programs and Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator.

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) recognized OPPE in statute. Section 12406 of the 2018 Farm changed the name of the OAO to OPPE, and the duties previously delegated to OAO are now delegated to OPPE. Additionally, section 12305 of the 2018 Farm Bill established the position of Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator to promote the role of youth-serving organizations and school-based agricultural education. The Coordinator position has been delegated to OPPE.

In addition to the requirements of the 2018 Farm Bill, OPPE will continue the oversight of:

- The Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison, established under section 12304 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, requiring the Department to help connect returning veterans with beginning farmer training and agricultural vocational and rehabilitation programs at USDA and to advocate on behalf of veterans in their interactions with USDA;
- The Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, established pursuant to Executive Order 13280 issued on December 12, 2002, and meant to appoint a Director in consultation with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.
- The Women in Agriculture Initiative.

As of September 30, 2020, there were 43 full-time permanent employees, including 24 located in Washington, D.C. and 19 located in the field.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTEs

Table OPPE-1. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Enacted	FTE	Budget	FTE
Discretionary Appropriations:								
Office of Partnership and Public Engagement.....	\$4,209	6	\$5,709	8	\$6,002	8	\$13,294	43
Office of Tribal Relations.....	502	-	502	-	1,000	-	-	-
Mandatory Appropriations:								
Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.....	15,000	3	15,000	4	17,500	4	20,000	4
General Provision:								
Farming Opportunities and Training Outreach.....	-	-	2,500	-	2,500	-	2,500	-
Total Appropriation.....	19,711	9	23,711	12	27,002	12	35,794	47
Sequestration.....	-930	-	-885	-	-998	-	-	-
Total Available.....	18,781	9	22,826	12	26,004	12	35,794	47
Lapsing Balances.....	-75	-	-3,084	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations.....	18,706	9	19,742	12	26,004	12	35,794	47
Other Funding:								
Agency Partnership Outreach.....	7,058	39	7,240	38	7,240	35	-	-
Intertribal Technical Assistance Network.....	1,833	1	1,833	2	1,833	2	-	-
Advisory Committee.....	-	-	112	-	112	-	-	-
Hispanic Assoc. of College & Universities.....	571	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thurgood Marshall College Fund.....	456	-	600	-	750	-	750	-
Other OPPE Reimbursables.....	536	-	500	-	500	-	500	-
Total, Other USDA.....	10,454	40	10,285	40	10,435	37	1,250	-
Total Available, OPPE.....	29,160	49	30,027	52	36,439	49	37,044	47

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTE'S

Table OPPE-2. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs

Item	2019			2020			2021			2022		
	Actual			Actual			Enacted			Budget		
	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total
SES.....	3	-	3	2	-	2	3	-	3	2	-	2
GS-15.....	6	-	6	6	-	6	7	-	7	7	-	7
GS-14.....	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
GS-13.....	8	21	29	6	17	23	7	19	26	6	19	25
GS-12.....	4	1	5	4	1	5	4	1	5	4	1	5
GS-11.....	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	2
GS-9.....	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-7.....	1	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	2	2	-	2
GS-5.....	1	-	1	2	-	2	2	-	2	1	-	1
Total Permanent.....	26	23	49	24	19	43	28	21	49	26	21	47
Total Perm. FT EOY....	26	23	49	24	19	43	28	21	49	26	21	47
FTE.....	26	23	49	29	23	52	28	21	49	26	21	47

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS**Table OPPE-3. Shared Funding Projects (dollars in thousands)**

Item	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022 Budget
Working Capital Fund:				
Administrative Services:				
Material Management Service.....	\$2	\$4	\$4	-
Mail and Reproduction Services.....	1	2	16	\$6
Integrated Procurement Systems.....	2	2	1	2
Procurement Operations Services.....	3	4	3	3
Human Resources Enterprise Management Systems.....	-	1	1	1
Subtotal.....	8	13	25	12
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center.....	-	-	91	65
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center.....	10	14	15	15
Financial Shared Services.....	157	192	139	127
Internal Control Support Services.....	-	-	-	-
Financial Management Support Services.....	307	421	421	421
Subtotal.....	474	627	575	563
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center.....	208	294	330	270
Department Administration Information Technology Office.....	-	-	21	21
Digital Infrastructure Services Center.....	158	211	575	588
Enterprise Network Services.....	4	7	44	45
Subtotal.....	370	512	970	924
Correspondence Management Services.....	11	-	-	-
Office of the Executive Secretariat.....	-	4	3	3
Total, Working Capital Fund.....	863	1,156	1,664	1,567
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services.....	6	8	4	4
Agency Partnership Outreach.....	1	1	1	-
Intertribal Technical Assistance Network.....	1	-	-	-
Medical Services.....	1	-	3	3
Office of Customer Experience.....	-	-	1	1
Physical Security.....	-	1	-	-
Security Detail.....	1	-	1	1
Security Operations Program.....	2	-	1	-
USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services.....	-	1	1	-
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs.....	12	11	12	9
E-Gov:				
Grants.gov.....	11	11	11	11
Total, E-Gov.....	11	11	11	11
Agency Total.....	886	1,178	1,687	1,587

OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIP AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT I: SALARIES AND EXPENSES

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table OPPE-4. Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2021 Enacted.....	\$7,002,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+ 6,292,000
Budget Estimate, 2022.....	<u>13,294,000</u>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets): Office of the Secretary

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, [~~\$46,998,000~~] \$86,773,000 of which not to exceed
 1 [~~\$5,101,000~~]\$14,801,000 shall be available for the Immediate Office of the Secretary, of which \$9,098,000 remain
available until expended for activities relating to climate change, including coordinating such activities across the
Department; not to exceed [~~\$1,324,000~~]\$13,429,000 shall be available for the Office of Homeland Security; not to
 2 exceed [~~\$7,002,000~~] \$13,294,000 shall be available for the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement; [of which
 3 \$1,500,000 shall be for 7 U.S.C. 2279(c)(5)]; not to exceed \$2,860,000 shall be available for the Office of Tribal
Relations; not to exceed [~~\$22,321,000~~]\$27,400,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for
 Administration, of which [~~\$21,440,000~~]\$26,001,000 shall be available for Departmental Administration to provide
 for necessary expenses for management support services to offices of the Department and for general administration,
 security, repairs and alterations, and other miscellaneous supplies and expenses not otherwise provided for and
 necessary for the practical and efficient work of the Department; *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to
 an agency in the Administration mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative
 support staff for the Office; not to exceed [~~\$3,908,000~~]\$4,480,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant
 Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs to carry out the programs funded by this Act,
 including programs involving intergovernmental affairs and liaison within the executive branch; and not to exceed
 [~~\$7,342,000~~]\$10,509,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications: *Provided further*, That the Secretary
 of Agriculture is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other
 office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or
 decreased by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$22,000 of the amount made available under
 this paragraph for the immediate Office of the Secretary shall be available for official reception and representation
 expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the amount made
 available under this heading for Departmental Administration shall be reimbursed from applicable appropriations in
 this Act for travel expenses incident to the holding of hearings as required by U.S.C. 551-558: *Provided further*,
 That funds made available under this heading for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations
 and Intergovernmental Affairs may be transferred to agencies of the Department of Agriculture funded by this Act to
 4 maintain personnel at the agency level [*Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading for the
 Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment
 of this Act, unless the Secretary has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses and Congress on the
 allocation of these funds by USDA agency: *Provided further*, That during any 30 day notification period referenced
 in section 716 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall take no action to begin implementation of the action that
 is subject to section 716 of this Act or make any public announcement of such action in any form.]

The first change eliminates language that puts undo restrictions on the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement.

The second change adds language that moves the Office of Tribal Relations that was previously funded under the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement.

The third change eliminates language that puts undo restrictions on the Secretary of Agriculture.

The fourth change eliminates language that puts undo restrictions on the Secretary of Agriculture.

PROJECT STATEMENT**Table OPPE-5. Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)**

Item	2019		2020		2021		Chg			2022 Budget	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Enacted	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	Key	FTE	Budget	FTE
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Office of Partnership and Public Engagement	\$4,209	6	\$5,709	8	\$6,002	8	+\$7,292	(1)	+35	\$13,294	43
Office of Tribal Relations	502	-	502	-	1,000	-	-1,000	(2)	-	-	-
Subtotal	4,711	6	6,211	8	7,002	8	+6,292		+35	13,294	43
Mandatory Appropriations:											
Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Farmers and Ranchers Program	15,000	3	15,000	4	17,500	4	+2,500	(3)	-	20,000	4
General Provisions:											
Farming and Opportunities and Training Outreach	-	-	2,500	-	2,500	-	-		-	2,500	-
Total Appropriation	19,711	9	23,711	12	27,002	12	8,792	3	35	35,794	47
Sequestration	-930	-	-885	-	-998	-	+998		-	-	-
Total Available	18,781	9	22,826	12	26,004	12	9,790	3	35	35,794	47
Lapsing Balances	-75	-	-3,084	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
Total Obligations	18,706	9	19,742	12	26,004	12	9,790	3	35	35,794	47

PROJECT STATEMENT**Table OPPE-6. Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)**

Item	2019		2020		2021		Inc. or Dec.			2022 Budget	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Enacted	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE	Budget	FTE	
Discretionary Obligations:											
Office of Partnership and Public Engagement	\$4,186	6	\$2,630	8	\$6,002	8	\$7,292	+35	\$13,294	43	
Office of Tribal Relations	450	-	497	-	1,000	-	-1,000	-	-	-	
Subtotal Disc Obligations	4,636	6	3,127	8	7,002	8	+6,292	+35	13,294	43	
Mandatory Obligations:											
Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program	14,070	3	14,115	4	16,502	4	+3,498	-	20,000	4	
General Provisions:											
Farming Opportunities and Training Outreach	-	-	2,500	-	2,500	-	-	-	2,500	-	
Subtotal Supp Oblig	-	-	2,500	-	2,500	-	-	-	2,500	-	
Total Obligations	18,706	9	19,742	12	26,004	12	9,790	35	35,794	47	
Lapsing Balances	75	-	3,084	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Bal. Available, EOY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Available	18,781	9	22,826	12	26,004	12	9,790	35	35,794	47	
Less:											
Sequestration	930	-	885	-	998	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Appropriation	19,711	9	23,711	12	27,002	12	9,790	35	35,794	47	

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES**(1) Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement: An increase of \$6,292,000 and an increase of 35 FTEs (\$7,002,000 and 12 FTEs available in 2021).**

- A) An increase of \$35,000 for pay costs, which includes \$24,000 for pay inflation and \$11,000 for FERS.
This increase will support a 2.7 percent cost of living pay increases for civilian employees, and a 1.1 percent increase to cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS.
- B) An increase of \$7,250,000 and 5 FTEs.
An increase of \$7,250,000 is to facilitate the realignment of programs contained within the Shared Costs Programs to direct appropriations. After careful analysis, USDA determined that the realignment of resources associated with the Agency Partnership Outreach program to the servicing organizations would better serve and meet the needs of the Department by improving oversight, transparency, and accountability, in addition to a realization in management efficiencies by reducing workload and administrative expenses. The Agency Partnership Outreach program will continue the mission and meet Statutory Requirements (7 U.S.C. 6934). Over the next 5 years, OPPE plans to establish 25-30 Centers of Community Prosperity which will increase to 200 plus, by December 2021, Communities of Faith and Opportunity to focus on sustainable, bottom up locally driven solutions to challenges facing rural and underserved communities to foster hope and opportunity, wealth creation, and asset building.
- C) A decrease of \$993,000 for the transfer of appropriated funding to the Office of Tribal Relations.

For FY 2022, the Office of Tribal Relations is requesting specific funding under the Office of the Secretary. OTR was previously funded \$993,000 under the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement in FY 2021.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTEs

Table OPPE-6. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Discretionary

State/Territory/Country	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Enacted	FTE	Budget	FTE
Alabama.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$500	2
Alaska.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	-
Arizona.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	-
Arkansas.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	1
California.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	216	2
Colorado.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	-
Delaware.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	1
District of Columbia.....	\$4,636	6	\$3,127	8	\$7,002	8	4,454	18
Florida.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	620	2
Georgia.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	1
Idaho.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	1
Illinois.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-
Kentucky.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	1
Louisiana.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	2
Maryland.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	1
Michigan.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-
Minnesota.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	-
Mississippi.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	900	-
Missouri.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	1
Montana.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	240	-
New Mexico.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	-
New York.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	-
North Carolina.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	1
North Dakota.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	1
Ohio.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	1
Oklahoma.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	1
Oregon.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-
Pennsylvania.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	194	-
Rhode Island.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-
South Carolina.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	1
Tennessee.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	160	1
Texas.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	540	2
Vermont.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-
Virginia.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	1
Washington.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	1
West Virginia.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	-
Wisconsin.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	-
Obligations.....	4,636	6	3,127	8	7,002	8	13,294	43
Lapsing Balances	75	-	3,084	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available.....	4,711	6	6,211	8	7,002	8	13,294	43

Mandatory

State/Territory/Country	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Enacted	FTE	Budget	FTE
Alabama.....	\$500	-	\$471	-	\$472	-	\$500	-
Alaska.....	150	-	141	-	122	-	150	-
Arizona.....	150	-	141	-	122	-	150	-
Arkansas.....	200	-	188	-	172	-	200	-
California.....	216	-	203	-	188	-	216	-
Colorado.....	250	-	235	-	222	-	250	-
Delaware.....	300	-	282	-	272	-	300	-
District of Columbia.....	5,430	3	5,987	4	8,859	4	11,360	4
Florida.....	620	-	583	-	592	-	620	-
Georgia.....	250	-	235	-	222	-	250	-
Idaho.....	150	-	141	-	122	-	150	-
Illinois.....	100	-	94	-	72	-	100	-
Kentucky.....	200	-	188	-	172	-	200	-
Louisiana.....	200	-	188	-	172	-	200	-
Maryland.....	200	-	188	-	172	-	200	-
Michigan.....	100	-	94	-	72	-	100	-
Minnesota.....	400	-	376	-	372	-	400	-
Mississippi.....	900	-	847	-	872	-	900	-
Missouri.....	200	-	188	-	172	-	200	-
Montana.....	240	-	226	-	212	-	240	-
New Mexico.....	200	-	188	-	172	-	200	-
New York.....	200	-	188	-	172	-	200	-
North Carolina.....	200	-	188	-	172	-	200	-
Ohio.....	200	-	188	-	172	-	200	-
Oklahoma.....	140	-	132	-	166	-	194	-
Oregon.....	100	-	94	-	72	-	100	-
Pennsylvania.....	194	-	183	-	112	-	140	-
Rhode Island.....	100	-	94	-	72	-	100	-
South Carolina.....	140	-	132	-	112	-	140	-
Tennessee.....	160	-	151	-	132	-	160	-
Texas.....	540	-	508	-	512	-	540	-
Vermont.....	40	-	38	-	12	-	40	-
Virginia.....	200	-	188	-	172	-	200	-
Washington.....	200	-	188	-	172	-	200	-
West Virginia.....	200	-	188	-	172	-	200	-
Wisconsin.....	500	-	471	-	472	-	500	-
Total, Available.....	14,070	3	14,115	4	16,502	4	20,000	4

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Table OPPE-7. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)***Discretionary**

Item No.	Item	2021			2022 Budget
		2019 Actual	2020 Actual	Enacted	
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	\$380	\$564	\$635	\$2,968
	Personnel Compensation, Field.....	301	446	486	1,921
11	Total personnel compensation.....	681	1,010	1,121	4,889
12	Personal benefits.....	232	323	366	1,643
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	-	-	-	-
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	913	1,333	1,487	6,532
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	124	35	100	100
23.1	Rental payments to GSA.....	2	1	1	1
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	87	56	56	55
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	13	2	10	10
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	40	11	1,561	2,245
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	586	408	1,262	1,826
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	20	6	20	20
31.0	Equipment.....	1	2	5	5
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	2,850	1,273	2,500	2,500
	Total, Other Objects.....	3,723	1,794	5,515	6,762
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	4,636	3,127	7,002	13,294
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3).....	\$17	\$11	\$11	\$11
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$165,000	\$168,135	\$170,657	\$173,217
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$122,500	\$123,700	\$124,200	\$126,063
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	13.9	13.8	13.9	13.9

Mandatory

Item	2019	2020	2021	2022
	Actual	Actual	Enacted	Budget
Personnel Compensation:				
Total personnel compensation.....	320	322	435	437
Personal benefits.....	82	83	145	146
Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	402	405	580	583
Other Objects:				
Travel and transportation of persons.....	3	3	3	3
Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	4	4	4	4
Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	63	70	75	75
Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	13,598	13,633	15,840	19,335
Insurance Claims and Indemnities	-	-	-	-
Interest and Dividends				
Total, Other Objects.....	13,668	13,710	15,922	19,417
Total, new obligations.....	14,070	14,115	16,502	20,000
Position Data:				
Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$100,500	\$101,250	\$145,000	\$145,750
Average Grade, GS Position.....	12.8	12.9	14.6	14.6

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) created the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) to improve customer engagement, maximize efficiency, and improve agency collaboration. Section 12406 of the 2018 Farm Bill changed the name of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO) to OPPE, and the duties previously delegated to OAO, including minority serving higher education initiatives and the 2501 Program, are now delegated to OPPE. Additionally, section 12305 of the 2018 Farm Bill established the position of

Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator to promote the role of youth-serving organizations and school-based agricultural education. The coordinator position has been delegated to OPPE.

In addition to the requirements of the 2018 Farm Bill, OPPE will continue the oversight of:

- The Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison, established under section 12304 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, requiring the Department to help connect returning veterans with beginning farmer training and agricultural vocational rehabilitation programs at USDA and to advocate on behalf of veterans in their interactions with USDA.
- The Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, established pursuant to Executive Order 13280 issued on December 12, 2002, and meant to appoint a Director in consultation with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.
- The Women in Agriculture Initiative.
- Administrative and operational functions for the Office of Tribal Relations.

1. Current Activities

OPPE develops and maintains partnerships focused on solutions to challenges facing rural and underserved communities in the United States, and connect those communities to the education, tools, and resources available to them through USDA programs and initiatives. OPPE facilitates partnerships and offers education and resources to foster hope and opportunity, wealth creation, and asset building in rural and underserved communities.

The core mission of this office is to advocate, facilitate and establish partnerships that deliver a holistic USDA, other Federal, public and private opportunities to customers, partners and stakeholders to address the challenges and needs that face our Nation. We partially accomplish this through partnerships with our Centers of Community Prosperity (CCP).

Centers of Community Prosperity represent the partnerships between USDA and USDA stakeholders including USDA agencies, cooperative extension, other federal departments, and private sector partners, such as, non-governmental and philanthropic organizations, community development financial institutions, and others. Through partnership with our Minority Serving Institution, OPPE established 24 CCP.

Through these partnerships, OPPE established a sustainable development process focusing on locally driven, bottom-up solutions to address challenges in rural and underserved communities. This process will create a “Climate of Success” that fosters hope and opportunity, wealth creation, and asset building, for our families, farmers and ranchers, and businesses. These communities will be safe, healthy, educated, and growing.

In addition, OPPE renewed the charter and facilitated the selection of new members for the Minority Farmers Advisory Committee. OPPE is reviewing policy to continue the Minority Farm Register of minority farmer subscribers to stay abreast of USDA activities and funding opportunities. Although now obsolete, the register provided USDA agencies and stakeholders access to over 5,200 minority farmers.

2. Selected Examples of Recent OPPE Progress

2501 Program:

OPPE continued the implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill provisions for the 2501 Program, including the new requirement for a peer-review grant panel, an increase in maximum grant amounts, longer periods of performance, and priority for nonprofit organizations/applicants. Accomplishments in FY 2020 included:

- 37 grants new 2501 projects and 12 CCP grants to persistent poverty communities for \$17.6 million in 28 states;
- Assisted with the implementation and funding of the CCP Initiative in the amount of \$2.5 million through the 2501 Program to assist persistent poverty counties with establishing local prosperity councils and providing outreach, technical assistance and education to socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers. Led the internal and external informational teleconferences and outreach efforts throughout the year to ensure USDA stakeholders had access to the most updated programmatic and funding opportunity information. Administered the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center grant where an additional \$1.5 million was awarded through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 to continue research on policies affecting socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers at Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi. Assisted in providing three capacity building training sessions (two for the 2501 Program and one in connection with the CCP funding initiative) for all potential public grantees during the open period of both Funding Opportunity Announcements to address any clarifying questions prospective applicants might have. The 2501 team continued to provide data testing and user acceptance to assist with necessary enhancements to its grants management system (ezFedGrants). The 2501 Program Staff was unable to host its Annual 2501 Symposium, due to COVID 19 and limited resource, which brings together the Department’s headquarters and field personnel, USDA stakeholders, 2501 outreach grantees, and external partners (nonprofits, for profits, and local officials).

- Assists the 2501 Staff with garnering required feedback from stakeholders as a new mandate in the 2018 Farm Bill. This feedback will be considered for future programmatic enhancements to improve delivery of the program.
- Assisted with the historical information on the Farm Bill Task Force for the Receipt for Service requirement. Oversight on the reporting was transferred to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights and OPPE played an important role on the transition team to implement this change effective FY2021.

3. *Examples of 2501 Success*

- Alabama A&M continues to hold unique workshops that draw interest from underserved community members and farmers serviced by their organization. In the most recent report, Alabama A&M held a workshop that included a demonstration on rabbits. This was a hands-on interaction whereby farmers interacted and trained with JC Holt (President of the Tri-State Rabbit Association). Discussions surrounded around the topic of rabbits and rabbit production as an alternative enterprise for limited resource farmers. Sheep and goats are also the subject of training demonstrations as alternative enterprises for limited resource farmers. The workshop was attended by 125 producers and attendance was second only to the Annual Community Outreach Workshop where 138 producers were in attendance. The overall goal of the workshop was to introduce innovative farming techniques, alternate sources of revenue during the farming seasons, and bring awareness to USDA’s programs and services.
- PA Veteran Farming Project had 54 farmer members of the veteran/military community who packed the PA Military Museum in a capacity crowd for the day-long conference. Our USDA partners from National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Rural Development (RD) each shared information on returning and new programs, such as the FSA Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP) for honey-bees program. Beekeeping and honey production are of great interest in Pennsylvania, so this resonated with the group. They also featured speakers from the local SBDC at Penn State, the Veterans Outreach office of SBA on a business planning session, and an insurance professional on Risk Management in Agritourism. Complementing the presentations, they allowed time for structured networking. They have been hearing about all the beneficial connections their attendees made, such as a beef farmer who just began selling feed at his Adams County farm, and who now has new customers as a result of connecting with his fellow veterans at the Summit.

Farmworker Coordinator:

Farmworker outreach efforts to the community continue during times of declared emergencies. USDA food assistance outreach included non-profit and faith-based organizations that aided farmworkers. Additionally, OPPE encourages farmworker participation in the 2501 Program and the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers grant program to assist farmworkers to become agricultural producers or landowners. Farmworker organizations also participated in the more than 40 USDA community prosperity training summits.

Higher Education Institutions Programs - 1890 Land-Grant Institutions National Program:

The 1890 National Program was established to ensure the Department was implementing provisions of the 1890 “Morrill Act” mirroring the 1862 Morrill Act. The 1890 Program does this by equipping 1890 colleges and universities to educate and prepare citizens to benefit American agriculture, rural economies, and more. The Program works collaboratively with local USDA agencies, 1890 Land-Grant Universities and the private sector (business, education, political, community-based, non-profit and faith-based leaders and organizations) to assist local communities in acquiring wealth, prosperity and asset creation. The 1890 Program staff provide support to the Secretary of Agriculture with the following:

1. Management and supervisory oversight to the Program and a field staff of nineteen 1890 liaisons (USDA Liaisons) (including two vacancies) stationed across the United States southeastern corridor and parts of the mid-west;
2. Coordinated Departmental efforts concerning the White House Historically Black College and Universities Initiative, and submission of the 2019 and 2020 Departmental update to the annual WH HBCUI Report;
3. Retention and recruitment of talent pipeline of future USDA employees, increasing the diversity of the workforce, including the selection of 51 National 1890 Scholars and 26 Thurgood Marshall College Fund interns in 2020, alone. Since 2018, USDA provided opportunities for nearly 150 1890 Scholars. The 2018 Farm Bill (Section 12519) provides conversion authority for the 1890 National Scholars Program. This will allow USDA to maximize its investment in 1890 National Scholars. Reestablishment of the USDA 1890 Taskforce partnership with the 1890 Council of Presidents. The Task Force serves as a principal working group for the Secretary and his or her designees to explore mutual beneficial and short- and long-term goals.

4. Launched the 1890 Scholars SharePoint Site which enable USDA agencies to identify and select students as 1890 Scholars in a more efficient and cohesive manner. Agencies are now able to sort and identify scholars by University, major, minor, etc.
5. Outreach was conducted by the USDA Liaison for the newly created National 1890 Scholarship Program, delegated to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and designed to pay for student tuition, books, and additional collegiate costs;
6. Celebration of Departmental successes, including the ceremony for the National 1890 Scholarship Program where the nineteen 1890 HBCU Presidents and Chancellors convened as well as the 2019 National HBCU Week Conference where Secretary Perdue participated.
7. Partnered with higher education institutions to host over 14 summer ag recruitment programs; Processed, reviewed and ranked over 2,500 USDA/1890 National scholarship applications; executed 45 USDA/1890 National scholarships; visited 475 schools virtually/physically; secured 142 internships-64 full time employment opportunities-40 graduate school placements.
8. Assisted local communities in establishing Local Prosperity Councils and performing resources assessments to identify federal/state resources that would address local challenges. Assisted local communities with submitting resource assessments to the USDA OPPE Director, along with a list of local leaders committed to resolving the challenges and receiving a Community of Faith and Opportunity designation, accepting the charge to assist neighboring communities with the CFO process. Currently more than 34 communities have received this designation, with more than 15 additional communities completing the process to receive approval.
9. Facilitated 9 MOUs; 34 Cooperative Agreements; creation of 511 USA jobs accounts; created 741 federal resumes; wrote 374 student letters of recommendation.
10. Hosted 37 CCP summits communicating federal and state programs and services to 2,432 participants; 142 workshops (CCP, resume writing, 2501 programs) with 2,300 participants; assisted 31 Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher Grantee recipients (2,501 grantees) in carrying out outreach; participated in Quarterly SFAC meetings and collaborated throughout the year on outreach activities within assigned territory; Hosted/Partnered on 30 field tours; Partnered in hosting 45 Farmers to Families Food Box Distributions.

Higher Education Institutions Programs - 1994 Tribal Land-Grant Colleges and Universities Program:

The 1994 National Program was established to ensure the Department fulfills the requirements of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 and Section 882 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996. These Acts established tribally controlled colleges and universities as land-grant institutions and required that the Department develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with 1994 Institutions and establish programs to ensure these school and the Native American communities they serve have equitable access to the Department's employment, programs, services, and resources. There are currently 35 land-grant institutions.

The 1994 Program does this by equipping tribal schools' capacities to benefit American agriculture, rural Tribal economies, and to strengthen the United States' food security. To help USDA fulfill its mandated responsibilities, the 1994 Program staff provide critical assistance to the Secretary of Agriculture with the following:

1. Establishment and maintenance of formal memorandum of agreements with 1994 Institutions;
2. Development of Departmental Regulations, policy, guidance and procedures;
3. Re-establishment of the USDA and 1994 Institutions Leadership group including hosting the 1994 Institutions on March 11, 2020. Ensured Tribal participation in the FY 2020 USDA Communities of Prosperity;
4. Re-establish the USDA 1994 Institutions Leadership Group. This leadership group has historically been the collaborative, face-to-face mechanism between USDA and the schools.
5. Promoting internships and scholarships to 1994 Institution students and Fellowship opportunities to 1994 Institution faculty and staff.
6. Developed a USDA accessible 1994 Tribal Scholars SharePoint site. This SharePoint site will enable Agencies to identify and select students for the 1994 Tribal Scholarship. The SharePoint site includes all applicant data. Once a student is selected, that applicant's information is not available for review.
7. Increased access to USDA employment, programs, and services. These include the 1994 Tribal Scholars Program for students and the Terra Preta do Indio Tribal Fellowship for 1994 faculty and staff.

Higher Education Institutions Programs - Hispanic Serving Institutions National Program:

The Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) National Program seeks to represent colleges and universities with enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 25% Hispanic. The HSI Program staff provide support to the Secretary of Agriculture with the following:

1. Establishment and maintenance of a formal memorandum of understanding between USDA and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU);
2. Hosting of the Kika De La Garza Fellowship, most recently including 29 applicants in 2020, spanning six states, Puerto Rico, and 23 separate HSIs (selections not made in 2020 due to COVID-19);
3. Coordination with ARS for the management of the USDA HACU National Internship Program;
4. Coordination with OPPE Outreach Division Liaisons for partnerships at Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), including event participations such as AgDiscovery Programs, AgScience Summer Programs, and other programs encouraging careers in agriculture, food, and natural resources; and
5. Increased access to USDA employment, programs, and services. These include the E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship for faculty/staff, USDA-HACU Leadership Group for institutional and department leadership, and coordination of USDA participation in the annual HACU conference for students.

Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison (MVAL):

The Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison works to connect veterans to agriculture, agricultural opportunities, and employment opportunities at USDA. As such, the MVAL worked with FSA, RD, NRCS, and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to increase assistance and leadership to beginning veteran ranchers by appointing a beginning ranching and farming coordination for every state to provide assistance to veterans that are beginning ranching or farming; participated in numerous local prosperity summits across the country to ensure veterans are aware and are participating in local prosperity initiatives; participated in numerous panel conversations and events as a guest speaker, including the Urban Agriculture in the District of Columbia discussion at University of the District of Columbia (once), the U.S. Air National Guard Post Deployment Yellow Ribbon event in Florida (quarterly), Hiring Our Heroes (quarterly), Farmer Veteran Coalition (quarterly), Military Spouse Employment Program (monthly), Dairy Grazers (semi-annual), Veterans' Franchise (semi-annual), Department of Defense (monthly), Veterans Administration (monthly), Department of Labor (monthly), and more

USDA maintained a memorandum of understanding with the VA's Vocational Readiness and Employment Program that provides USDA's agencies with veterans that participate in non-paid work experience internships across the country for veterans enrolled in the VA's Vocational Readiness Program; met with various major veterans' groups (American Legion, Veterans' of Foreign Wars, Wounded Warriors, etc.) to discuss farming and employment opportunities available as well as the impact of the Faith and Opportunities Summits on the veteran's community; collaborated with the Veterans Administration, and USDA Food Nutrition Service to create an opportunity to provide veterans with information on food insecurity and enrollment information for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as part of their primary care visits with the VA; collaborated with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to fill vacancies in the Food Inspection and Warehouse Examiner, Agricultural Commodity Food Graders, and Wild Land Firefighter positions using non-competitive hiring authorities for Veterans; and worked with FSIS, AMS, and USFS to maximize the standing and newly created Apprenticeship Programs. Additionally, the USDA signed a memorandum of understanding regarding military spouse employment and worked to expand its outreach efforts to military veterans' spouses. The USDA also signed a new memorandum of understanding with the Department of Defense (DoD) to participate in the DoD Skill Bridge Program to open USDA opportunities for over 200,000 transitioning service members annually.

Consistent follow up resulted in the hiring of 1,517 in 2018; 1,944 in 2019; and 2,284 in 2020.

Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations:

The Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations team supports local community-based organizations (CBO), both faith-based and secular, to strengthen community resilience, nourish youth, and support community prosperity. The team helped host over 20 *Community Prosperity Training Summits* convening over 1,000 community partners to learn more about USDA programs on topics such as e-connectivity, economic development, innovation and technology, workforce development, and quality of life. The team remains engaged in supportive capacity building activities as a part of the *Centers of Community Prosperity* initiative through building strategic partnerships with organizations like Catholic Charities, Islamic Relief USA, and Convoy of Hope. This consists of ad hoc technical assistance through outreach webinars or meetings, providing program recommendations, and liaising interested partners with appropriate field staff for program delivery. These partnerships are tremendously powerful conduits for getting the word out about our program, as their networks consists of hundreds and thousands of faith-based partners. In September 2019, USDA hosted the inaugural *Faith and Opportunity Fellowship*, a training that brought together more than 40 faith-based community based organizations to Washington D.C. to dive deeper into skill development around issues related to community economic development, and for awareness and knowledge building of USDA and its Federal partners. A follow up event was hosted in December 2020, bringing together over 130 houses of worship across the country to discuss the critical issue of food insecurity post Covid-19 and how USDA programs can assist. The team has expanded its work with Federal partners to align activities and maximize our outreach efforts. USDA has continued its collaboration with the Department of Housing and Urban

Development (HUD) to conduct outreach on USDA urban agriculture resources available throughout across the country. Six briefings have been hosted where USDA OPPE and NRCS staff have provided additional detail around their programs and services to HUD regional staff, as well as to EnVision Center and Housing Authority partners. A new partnership has also been established with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct outreach and capacity building on USDA programs that support disaster response and supply chain resilience. Three meetings have been hosted in partnership with various states to conduct outreach on programs and develop future programming on topics such as urban agriculture, local and regional food systems, and farm succession, together convening over 150 farmers and emergency managers. The team has provided direct assistance to communities regarding the Farmers to Families food box program, connecting them with local partners and USDA staff to assist them in accessing USDA programs and resources in the hop

The Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator was es of addressing the root causes of hunger in their community.

Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator:

Established in the 2018 Farm Bill. The position is housed within OPPE and works to promote the role of school-based agricultural education and youth-serving agricultural organizations in motivating and preparing young people to pursue careers in the agriculture, food, and natural resources systems. The coordinator conducts outreach to programs and agencies within the Department to work with schools and youth-serving organizations to develop joint programs and initiatives between stakeholders. The coordinator also provides resources and input on best practices in motivating and preparing students to pursue careers in the agriculture, food, and natural resources systems. The program is charged with raising awareness among youth about the importance of agriculture in a diversity of fields and disciplines, as well as providing information to persons involved in youth, food, and agriculture organizations about the availability of and eligibility requirements for agricultural programs. Since inception, the program has focused on creating and leading Department-wide functions and activities to support an inclusive, prosperous, intergenerational agricultural workforce. The purpose of these efforts is to ensure meaningful engagement with young people from early childhood to early adulthood. These efforts are accomplished through education, internship opportunities, volunteer experiences and other activities which prepare them for quality employment opportunities in food, agriculture, and natural resources.

The Faces of Agriculture and USDA speaker series was launched in Spring 2021 to inspire the next generation of the USDA workforce. The series is offered to high school and college level students across the country. Each month USDA researchers, scientists, technicians, engineers, foresters, and other STEM professionals participate in the virtual speaking presentations to share their story. The idea behind this speakers series is to provide a platform for students who are currently at home and learning remotely due to the pandemic, to be able to engage with USDA Professionals to learn about their background, how they got started at USDA, and hear about exciting projects speakers might be working on that can get these students excited about a career in “Agriculture.” In 2020, over 500 students participated in the sessions. Majority of these students attend Minority-Serving Institutions and school districts come from low- income, underserved communities and may have never been exposed to the exciting work that USDA carries out nationally and internationally. Past sessions are posted on YouTube and shared with educators to share with students.

The coordinator organizes student workshops on financial literacy, power of storytelling, federal careers, careers in agriculture, resume building and USA Jobs. Coordinator also works with school districts to provide information on USDA grants and programs. The coordinator assists in identifying opportunities for student organizations, school districts and higher education institutions to partner with USDA.

White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI)

The Department strategically partnered with the newly restructured WHIAAPI to broaden engagement and participation of Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in USDA programs, initiatives and employment opportunities. In 2020, the USDA participated in the WHIAAPI outreach on access to economic resources and opportunities to empower AAPIs to improve the quality of their lives, raise the standard of living of their families and communities, and more fully participate in our economy. USDA focused outreach on the 2020 Census and assistance included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. USDA agencies continue their efforts to expand participation of AAPIs in U.S. farming and ranching by providing equal access for customers with limited English proficiency (LEP) in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language. The Farm Production and Conservation mission area established new language translation services that will assist both customers and staff with overcoming language barriers. USDA will continue evaluating the 2017 U.S. Census of Agriculture data to improve understanding of the participation of Asian American farmers in the U.S. which grew 5 percent between 2012 and 2017. A higher proportion of Asian producers than U.S. producers overall are female (45 percent of Asian producers, 36 percent of U.S. producers, in 2017). Asian producers were younger on average (54.9 years compared with 57.5), and more likely to be a beginning farmer. Forty percent had farmed 10 years or fewer, compared with 27 percent of U.S. producers overall.

Women in Agriculture

OPPE continues its efforts to support Women in Agriculture initiatives. OPPE will continue promoting ways to include women in USDA outreach efforts focusing on broadening participation, in USDA Advisory Committees and USDA programs and opportunities in helping build leadership and advancement opportunities in agriculture and agribusiness by working with State Departments' of Agriculture and organizations servicing women farmers. From 2012 to 2017, the number of female producers increased by nearly 27 percent to 1.23 million. (What type of producers? Small farm, commodity crops, specialty?)