

2018 President's Budget  
Office of the Secretary  
Office of Advocacy and Outreach

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Purpose Statement

The Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO) was established as an office under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Section 14013, P.L. 110-246 in October 2009. Section 12201 of the FY 2014 Farm Bill added new language to the Outreach and assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers program to include veteran farmers and ranchers. The funds will be transferred from the Commodity Credit Corporation to OAO. OAO's purpose is to improve access to USDA programs and enhance the viability and profitability of small farms and ranches, beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers. Through these actions, OAO will support the Department's commitment to ensuring that all USDA constituents, including historically underserved groups and veteran farmers and ranchers, have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the programs offered by the Department. OAO serves 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.

As of September 30, 2016, there were 41 permanent full-time OAO employees including 19 employees in Washington, DC, and 22 located in the field.

OIG Reports - Closed

91099-0002-21 2014 Strike Force Initiative audit - 13 of the 13 OAO recommendations were closed.  
50601-0002-31 2015 Beginning Farmers and Ranchers - 4 of the 4 OAO recommendations were closed.

OAO did not have any Open Office of Inspector General or Government Accountability Office evaluation reports during the past year.

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Available Funds and Staff Years (SYs)  
(Dollars in thousands)

Item	2018 President's							
	2015 Actual		2016 Actual		2017 Estimate		Budget	
	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs
<b>Salaries and Expenses:</b>								
Discretionary Appropriations.....	\$1,209	4	\$1,209	4	\$1,207	4	\$1,171	4
Mandatory Appropriations.....	10,000	4	10,000	3	10,000	4	10,000	4
Sequestration.....	-730	-	-680	-	-690	-	-	-
Total Available.....	10,479	8	10,529	7	10,517	8	11,171	8
Lapsing Balances.....	-95	-	-183	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Obligations, OAO.....	10,384	8	10,346	7	10,517	8	11,171	8
<b>Obligations under other USDA appropriations:</b>								
1890 Initiatives.....	2,668	17	3,000	18	3,582	21	3,582	21
1994 Program.....	699	4	653	4	743	4	743	4
Hispanic Serving Institutions.....	1,781	10	1,669	8	1,890	10	1,890	10
Office of Small Farms Coordination.....	-	-	-	-	185	1	185	1
Beginning Farmers and Ranchers- Advisory Committee.....	79	-	70	-	80	-	80	-
Other OAO Reimbursable.....	1,899	-	2,583	-	2,600	1	2,600	1
Total, Other USDA.....	7,126	31	7,975	30	9,080	37	9,080	37
Total, OAO.....	17,510	39	18,321	37	19,597	45	20,251	45

Permanent Positions by Grade and Staff Year Summary

Item	2018 President's											
	2015 Actual			2016 Actual			2017 Estimate			Budget		
	Wash.			Wash.			Wash.			Wash.		
	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total
SES.....	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-15.....	4	-	4	4	-	4	5	-	5	5	-	5
GS-14.....	3	-	3	2	-	2	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-13.....	3	22	25	5	22	27	10	15	25	10	15	25
GS-12.....	1	5	6	5	5	10	5	5	10	5	5	10
GS-11.....	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-9.....	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-7.....	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-4.....	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Perm. Pos.....	15	27	42	20	27	47	25	20	45	25	20	45
Unfilled, EOY.....	-	3	3	1	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Perm. Full-Time Employment EOY.....	15	24	39	19	22	41	25	20	45	25	20	45
Staff Year Est.....	15	24	39	19	18	37	25	20	45	25	20	45

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The estimates include appropriation language for this item as follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

Salaries and Expenses:

Office of the Secretary

- 1 and 2 For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, [~~\$45,555,000~~] \$42,064,000, of which not to exceed [~~\$5,051,000~~] \$4,859,000 shall be available for the [immediate] Immediate Office of the Secretary [, of which not to exceed \$250,000 shall be available for the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison;]; not to exceed [~~\$502,000~~] \$501,000 shall be available for the Office of Tribal Relations; not to exceed [~~\$1,496,000~~] \$1,448,000 shall be available for the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Coordination; not to exceed [~~\$1,209,000~~] \$1,171,000 shall be available for the Office of Advocacy and Outreach; not to exceed [~~\$25,928,000~~] \$23,303,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of which [~~\$25,124,000~~] \$22,501,000 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; not to exceed [~~\$3,869,000~~] \$3,521,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations to carry out the programs funded by this Act, including programs involving intergovernmental affairs and liaison within the executive branch; and not to exceed [~~\$7,500,000~~] \$7,261,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications: *Provided*, 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 \$11,000 of the amount made available under this
- 3 paragraph for the [immediate] 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 5 U.S.C. 551-558: *Provided further*, that funds made available under this heading for the Office of the
- 4 Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be transferred to agencies of the Department of Agriculture funded by this Act to 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 of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency: *Provided further*, That within 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress the report required in section 7 U.S.C. 6935(b)(3)].

The first change is to correct grammar within the language.

The second change is to delete specific language for the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison. Funds are available within the Immediate Office.

The third change is to correct grammar within the language.

The fourth change in language is for the purpose of deleting restrictive language that requires Congressional notification prior to funds being obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment.

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Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Budget Estimate, 2018.....	\$1,171,000
2017 Annualized Continuing Resolution.....	1,207,000
Change in Appropriation.....	<u><u>-36,000</u></u>

Summary of Increases and Decreases

(Dollars in thousands)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018
	Actual	Change	Change	Change	President's
					Budget
Discretionary Appropriations:					
Office of Advocacy and Outreach.....	\$1,209	-	-\$2	-\$36	\$1,171

Project Statement

Adjusted Appropriations Detail and Staff Years (SYs)

(Dollars in thousands)

Program	<u>2015 Actual</u>		<u>2016 Actual</u>		<u>2017 Estimate</u>		<u>Inc. or Dec.</u>		<u>2018 President's</u>	
	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs
Discretionary Appropriations:										
Office of Advocacy and Outreach.....	\$1,209	4	\$1,209	4	\$1,207	4	-\$36 (1)	-	\$1,171	4
Mandatory Appropriations:										
Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers-										
and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers.....	10,000	4	10,000	3	10,000	4	-	-	10,000	4
Total Appropriation.....	11,209	8	11,209	7	11,207	8	-36	-	11,171	8
Sequestration.....	-730	-	-680	-	-690	-	+690	-	-	-
Total Available.....	10,479	8	10,529	7	10,517	8	+654	-	11,171	8
Lapsing Balances.....	-95	-	-183	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations.....	<u>10,384</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10,346</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10,517</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>+654</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,171</u>	<u>8</u>

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Project Statement  
Obligations Detail and Staff Years (SYs)  
(Dollars in thousands)

Program	2015 Actual		2016 Actual		2017 Estimate		Inc. or Dec.		2018 President's Budget	
	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs
Discretionary Obligations:										
Office of Advocacy and Outreach.....	\$1,125	4	\$1,042	4	\$1,207	4	-\$36 (1)	-	\$1,171	4
Mandatory Obligations:										
Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers- and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers .....	9,259	4	9,304	3	9,310	4	+\$690	-	10,000	4
Total Obligations.....	10,384	8	10,346	7	10,517	8	+654	-	11,171	8
Lapsing Balances.....	95	-	183	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available.....	10,479	8	10,529	7	10,517	8	+654	-	11,171	8
Sequestration.....	730	-	680	-	690	-	-690	-	-	-
Total Appropriation.....	11,209	8	11,209	7	11,207	8	-36	-	11,171	8

Justification of Increases and Decreases

Base funds will continue to support the mission of OAO to improve access to USDA programs and enhance the viability and profitability of small farms and ranches, beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and veteran farmers and ranchers. In addition to Departmental Administration funding used for human resources operational services, current year and budget year base funds will also be used to support expedited and enhanced classification, staffing and processing efforts.

- (1) A decrease of \$36,000 for the Office of Advocacy and Outreach (\$1,207,000 and 4 staff years available in 2017).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- a) An increase of \$15,000 for pay costs (\$4,000 for annualization of the 2017 pay increase and \$11,000 for the 2018 pay cost increase).

This increase is needed to maintain the current level of staffing and support the Beginning Farmers and Rancher and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Programs.

- b) A decrease of \$51,000 in contractual services.

This decrease will be achieved by reducing smart pay purchase cards, client technology services and financial management service support.

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Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years  
(Dollars in thousands and Staff Years (SYs))

State/Territory	2015 Actual		2016 Actual		2017 Estimate		2018 President's Budget	
	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs
District of Columbia.....	\$1,125	4	\$1,042	4	\$1,207	4	\$1,171	4
Lapsing Balances.....	84	-	167	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available.....	1,209	4	1,209	4	1,207	4	1,171	4

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Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers - 2501 Program

Geographic Breakdown of Obligations

(Dollars in thousands)

State/Territory	2015 Actual		2016 Actual		2017 Estimate		2018 President's Budget	
	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs
	Alabama.....	\$695	-	\$695	-	\$683	-	\$737
Alaska.....	161	-	161	-	158	-	170	-
Arkansas.....	200	-	200	-	196	-	211	-
Arizona.....	199	-	199	-	165	-	180	-
California.....	106	-	106	-	104	-	112	-
Colorado.....	286	-	286	-	281	-	303	-
Delaware.....	376	-	376	-	369	-	398	-
Florida.....	316	-	316	-	310	-	334	-
Georgia.....	292	-	292	-	287	-	310	-
Hawaii.....	171	-	171	-	168	-	181	-
Idaho.....	94	-	94	-	92	-	99	-
Kentucky.....	200	-	200	-	196	-	211	-
Louisiana.....	200	-	200	-	196	-	211	-
Maryland.....	182	-	182	-	179	-	193	-
Michigan.....	101	-	101	-	99	-	107	-
Minnesota.....	396	-	396	-	389	-	420	-
Mississippi.....	901	-	901	-	885	-	955	-
Missouri.....	200	-	200	-	196	-	211	-
Montana.....	231	-	231	-	227	-	245	-
New Mexico.....	200	-	200	-	196	-	211	-
New York.....	200	-	200	-	196	-	211	-
North Carolina.....	198	-	198	-	195	-	208	-
Ohio.....	200	-	200	-	196	-	211	-
Oklahoma.....	133	-	133	-	131	-	141	-
Oregon.....	63	-	63	-	62	-	70	-
Pennsylvania.....	200	-	200	-	196	-	211	-
Rhode Island.....	115	-	115	-	113	-	122	-
South Carolina.....	148	-	148	-	145	-	156	-
South Dakota.....	-	-	-	-	41	-	55	-
Tennessee.....	155	-	155	-	152	-	164	-
Texas.....	540	-	540	-	530	-	572	-
Vermont.....	42	-	42	-	41	-	45	-
Virginia.....	200	-	200	-	196	-	210	-
Washington.....	210	-	210	-	206	-	222	-
West Virginia.....	200	-	200	-	196	-	212	-
Wisconsin.....	486	-	490	-	477	-	515	-
Obligations.....	8,597	-	8,601	-	8,449	-	9,124	-
Administrative Cost.....	262	4	303	3	461	4	476	4
Policy Research Center.....	400	-	400	-	400	-	400	-
Lapsing Balances.....	11	-	16	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available.....	9,270	4	9,320	3	9,310	4	10,000	4

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Direct Appropriation  
Classification by Objects  
(Dollars in thousands)

		2015	2016	2017	2018
		Actual	Actual	Estimate	President's Budget
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	\$556	\$528	\$541	\$555
11	Total personnel compensation.....	556	528	541	555
12	Personal benefits.....	133	184	186	189
13	Benefits for former personnel.....	6	1	-	-
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	695	713	727	744
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	75	36	40	40
23.1	Rental payments to GSA.....	1	1	1	1
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	32	98	100	100
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	3	3	4	4
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	201	108	246	193
25.3	Other purchases of goods and services from Federal sources.....	77	57	60	60
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	21	18	20	20
31.0	Equipment.....	2	8	9	9
42.0	Insurance Claims.....	18	-	-	-
	Total, Other Objects.....	430	329	480	427
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	1,125	1,042	1,207	1,171
DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3).....		-	\$7	\$7	\$7
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), SES Position.....	\$175,200	\$182,000	\$187,000	\$187,000
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$103,000	\$104,000	\$107,000	\$111,000
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.6

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Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers - 2501 Program

Classification by Objects

(Dollars in thousands)

		2015	2016	2017	2018
		Actual	Actual	Estimate	President's Budget
<b>Personnel Compensation:</b>					
	Washington D.C.....	\$211	\$242	\$361	\$372
11	Total personnel compensation.....	211	242	361	372
12	Personal benefits.....	51	61	100	104
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	262	303	461	476
<b>Other Objects:</b>					
21	Travel and transportation of persons.....	3	3	4	4
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	24	14	26	26
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	9	8	10	10
25.3	Other purchases of goods and services				
	from Federal sources.....	133	115	155	140
21.0	Supplies and materials.....	1	1	2	2
41.0	Grants.....	8,827	8,860	8,652	9,342
	Total, Other Objects.....	8,997	9,001	8,849	9,524
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	9,259	9,304	9,310	10,000
<b>Position Data:</b>					
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$101,914	\$104,000	\$107,000	\$111,000
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.6

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Shared Funding Projects  
(Dollars in thousands)

	2015	2016	2017	2018
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>'s Budget</u>
<b>Working Capital Fund:</b>				
Administration:				
Beltsville Service Center.....	\$4	\$6	\$6	\$5
Mail and Reproduction Management.....	24	19	15	10
Procurement Operations.....	1	1	2	3
Financial Management Services.....	339	276	276	240
Integrated Procurement System.....	2	2	2	3
Subtotal.....	<u>370</u>	<u>304</u>	<u>301</u>	<u>261</u>
Finance and Management:				
NFC/USDA.....	12	12	11	10
Financial Systems.....	15	16	35	34
Subtotal.....	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>44</u>
Information Technology:				
NITC/USDA.....	50	51	42	84
Telecommunications Services.....	192	204	228	213
Subtotal.....	<u>242</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>297</u>
Correspondence Management.....	9	12	11	10
Total, Working Capital Fund.....	<u>648</u>	<u>599</u>	<u>628</u>	<u>612</u>
<b>Departmental Shared Cost Programs:</b>				
Advisory Committee Liason Services.....	4	4	4	4
E-GOV Initiatives HSPD-12.....	1	1	1	1
Medical Services.....	1	1	1	1
Pre-authorizing Funding.....	1	2	2	1
Total, Departmental Shared Cost Programs.....	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>
<b>E-Gov:</b>				
Grants.gov.....	-	5	12	11
E-Training.....	-	1	-	-
Total, E-Gov.....	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>
Agency Total.....	<u>655</u>	<u>613</u>	<u>648</u>	<u>630</u>

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Status of Programs

The Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO) was established by Section 14013 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill), P.L. 110-246.

The OAO supports and advances U. S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) commitments to "cultural transformation" and ensures that all USDA constituents, including historically underserved groups, have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the programs offered by USDA. It serves as an advocate for historically underserved groups, providing an avenue for them to have input into and participate in USDA programs and policy; and it provides outreach on behalf of USDA to engage historically underserved groups.

The Agricultural Act of **2014 (P.L. 113-79)** broadened the OAO's responsibilities to include advocacy and outreach for veteran farmers and ranchers.

As in previous years, in fiscal year (FY) 2016, the OAO engaged in myriad activities which directly and indirectly assisted rural communities to create prosperity so that they are self-sustaining, repopulating, and economically thriving by improving outreach and increasing the awareness and accessibility of USDA programs and services. In FY 2016, the OAO focused on extending its reach and its effectiveness. Toward that end, the OAO's priorities over the course of the year were coordination, collaboration, cultivated many new relationships, and maximized use of limited resources.

**Current Activities:**

The OAO is responsible for five USDA programs:

1. Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program;
2. Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program;
3. Farm Worker Coordination Program;
4. Higher Education Institutions Program (including programs for 1890 Land-Grant institutions, 1994 Land-Grant institutions, and Hispanic-Serving institutions); and
5. The Community Engagement Program.

The OAO provides management, direction, guidance, and supervision to each of these programs. It conducts strategic planning; coordinates, and implements outreach and other activities; and measures program performance. Additionally, the OAO promotes and keeps the public informed about these programs.

The OAO administers and manages grants under the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (Section 2501, Public Law 101-624, 7 U.S.C 2279). The Grant program is funded through the 2014 Farm Bill for fiscal years 2014-2018.

The OAO administers, manages and supports the following Federal Advisory Committees:

1. The Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers; and
2. The Minority Farmer Advisory Committee

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress:**

The Minority Farmers Advisory Committee submitted a number of recommendations in FY 2016.

Recommendations included:

- Resolution of the unresolved discrimination litigation and settlements against USDA, including funds yet to be distributed; and

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- Reconsideration of denied claims to provide a detailed explanation for denial and pay claims of denials made in error.

**Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program:**

- Closed the audit of FYs 2010 and 2011 Grants Management process through successful remediation of all open recommendations;
- Implemented and led internal and external teleconferences to ensure stakeholders received the most updated programmatic and funding opportunity information;
- The FY 2016 Grant Cycle funded 45 projects across 25 States for a total of \$8.4 million and provided an additional \$400,000 to the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Center;
- Hosted its second Annual 2501 Partners Symposium in Cleveland, Ohio. The Symposium was represented by a cross-section of USDA stakeholders, customers, and USDA personnel consisted of representatives from current and past 2501 grantees, non-profit and agricultural organizations, educational institutions, congressional officials, veteran farmers, and small farmers and ranchers;
- Held two capacity-building trainings for the FY 2016 grant applicants in July and August. The purpose of the sessions was to address questions and provide clarifying information;
- Managed and maintained the Minority Farm Register, a database of minority farmers used to disseminate information about current USDA activities and funding opportunities;
- Worked with USDA field service agencies to implement the Receipt for Service Departmental Regulation and publish the required poster in English and Spanish for display in all USDA Service Centers informing the public of the new requirement; and
- Provided USDA field agencies with access to the Minority Farm Register of approximately 5,000 minority farmers.

**Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program:**

- Collaborated with USDA agencies to establish a survey to evaluate the Beginning Farmers program effectiveness; and
- Renewed the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. The committee met publicly in Cleveland, Ohio, on September 29-30, 2016, to consider issues involving access to land, farm business transition, veteran farmer's access to USDA programs and services, and land tenure. The committee is working on a set of recommendations for the Secretary and expects to deliberate publicly on the final draft in the spring of 2017 with a final set of recommendations to be submitted to the Secretary in the summer of 2017.

**Farm Worker Coordinator:**

- Coordinated a campaign to prevent heat illness in outdoor workers using Department of Labor and Center for Disease Control and Prevention information and guidelines;
- Identified and developed partnership opportunities with other Federal agencies to better serve Farm Workers; and
- Provided information to internal and external stakeholders regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's Agricultural Worker Protection Standard Revision Final rule. USDA actively participated in the rulemaking process, which includes open dialogue with stakeholders.

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**USDA/1890 Land Grant Institutions National Program:**

- Coordinated and assisted with three on-site USDA pathways recruitment events;
- Increased the number of overall Thurgood Marshall College Fund interns across the United States and Puerto Rico in 2016 (117) compared to 2015 (84) numbers;
- Worked with the Texas Future Farmers of America Association Board of Directors resulting in 1,388 High School Students and 139 Ag Teachers participating in the Regional Leadership Development Event and Career Development Event;
- Provide briefings and expert technical assistance to Community-Based Organizations, University Campuses and more than 69,962 Small and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, Veteran Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, Limited Resource Farmers Tribal Community to gain access to USDA programs and services;
- Secured more than \$771,500 in additional scholarships for 1890 students donated by USDA to keep youth in school;
- Secured more than \$37,000 worth of excess property for use by the University of Maryland at Eastern Shore;
- Served as the chair of the Ag Outlook Forum Student Diversity Program and secured \$38,000, an increase of \$16,000 in sponsorships to fund the program and support the 30 students selected to participate;
- Worked with USDA agencies and the 1890 University Extension staff, providing technical expert assistance resulting in more the \$6.2 million in USDA Grants and Cooperative Agreements;
- Conducted more than 1,500 presentations to community-based organizations, university staff and faculty, local middle and high schools, churches and parent groups. The presentations covered the gamut of scholarships, internships, pathways opportunity, and career options, as well as programmatic and funding information;
- Managed and coordinated the selection of 43 Scholars and 117 Thurgood Marshall College Fund interns; and
- Worked collaboratively to stage 13 small farms conferences across the United States. More than 4,500 small farmers and extension agents attended the conferences.

**USDA/1994 Land Grant Institutions National Program:**

- Collaborated with USDA Agencies for the American University Washington Internship for Native Students. Placing 11 students from Indian Country in internships at USDA;
- Coordinated the the USDA and American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Leadership Group meeting on February 11, 2016 in Washington, DC.;
- Collaborated with the Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment to develop a USDA Tribal Youth Strategy. The strategy catalogues existing USDA programs accessible to tribes; and
- Worked with the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) to offer of internship opportunities to the 1994 land-grant institutions. The program selected 13 students to serve within USDA. The WTCAC summer internship opportunities provided Native American students pursuing degrees in Natural Resources, Biological Sciences, Arboricultural, Horticultural, Agroforestry, Agriculture, Engineering, or Agricultural Business training and work experiences at USDA Project sites and/or nearby Tribal Nations project sites.

**Hispanic Serving Institutions National Program:**

- Managed the USDA Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) National Internship Program leading to 225 student interns during the FY 2016 representing an increase from FY 2015 totals. In FY 2016,

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40 students were placed in 4 agencies for the spring session; 125 students in 15 agencies and 2 staff offices for the summer session; and 60 students in 10 agencies and 2 staff offices for the fall session;

- Executed the 2016 E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship Program, which consisted of 12 fellows, 10 education and 2 science. These fellows represented 4 states and 12 different institutions and were selected from 41 applicants representing 33 different HSIs from six States;
- Recognized by Bakersfield College with the “Partner of the Year Award” for providing quality STEM internships to students and the “Outstanding Individual Award” for outstanding contribution and invaluable service to promote student success in the Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement Program;
- Partnered with the Jordan College of Agriculture, Agriculture Business Department, Agriculture Education Program, and Office of the Vice Provost at Fresno State to host and organize the “Harvesting the Leaders of Tomorrow Career Fair.” More than 23 industry, Federal, and non-profit partners, including 11 USDA Agencies participated. There were more than 375 participants from eight regional HSIs in attendance;
- Partnered with the Yolo County Office of Education and Sacramento City College to co-host a “Kinders go to College” event. The event encouraged kindergarten students to pursue higher education and introduce them to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/architecture/agriculture, and Math (STEAM) fields. Approximately 200 students attended the event;
- Collaborated with Reedley College Upward Bound to launch the Agricultural Ambassadors Program, which is designed to expand students’ knowledge about the importance of public service, provide educational and professional internship experience, and increase students’ awareness of career opportunities in the USDA. Three high school students participated in a summer internship with ARS, sponsored by the program;
- Organized and partnered with Avenal High School and ARS’ Western Regional Research Center to host a Young Scientist Program. More than 54 students and three teachers participated;
- Awarded the “2015-2016 Certificate of Appreciation” by SDSU-Imperial Valley Campus’ Associated Students during Public Service Recognition Week for efforts in fostering student success and educational learning experiences both on-Campus and within the community;
- Conducted with the San Diego Mesa College's STEM Engagement for the Enrichment of Diverse Students Scholars Program the 2016 Working for the Great Outdoors Educational Excursion. The program exposed 35 students to career pathways at the U.S. Forest Service;
- Led USDA’s participation at the Hispanic Engineering, Science, and Technology (HESTEC) Week held at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. USDA participated in HESTEC Educator Day, Student Leadership Day, and Latina Day. Two hundred and fifty students, teachers, and parents participated in the activities; and
- Represented USDA on Federal Careers Panel at the 2015 Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Annual Conference in Miami, Florida. Spoke to over 350 students about USDA and the different types of internship and career opportunities with the Department.

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Summary of Budget and Performance

The Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO) was established as an office under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Section 14013, P.L. 110-246. The Director of OAO reports to the Assistant Secretary for Administration. 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.

The Department will be revising the USDA Strategic Plan later in the spring and expects to release it with the FY 2019 President’s Budget.

Key Performance Measures:

Increase the number of minority, underserved, socially disadvantaged persons served by key programs							
	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 Target
Percent	10	1	3	3	3	3	3
Cost*	\$21,174	\$1,277	\$11,148	\$10,384	\$10,346	\$10,517	\$11,171

\*Amounts in thousands

Select Past Accomplishments Toward Achievement of the Key Outcome:

- Hosted its second Annual 2501 Partners Symposium in Cleveland, Ohio. The Symposium was represented by a cross-section of USDA stakeholders, customers, and USDA personnel consisted of representatives from current and past 2501 grantees, non-profit and agricultural organizations, educational institutions, congressional officials, veteran farmers, and small farmers and ranchers;
- Managed and maintained the Minority Farm Register, a database of minority farmers used to disseminate information about current USDA activities and funding opportunities;
- Worked with USDA field service agencies to implement the Receipt for Service Departmental Regulation and publish the required poster in English and Spanish for display in all USDA Service Centers informing the public of the new requirement;
- Provided USDA field agencies with access to the Minority Farm Register of approximately 5,000 minority farmers;
- Identified and developed partnership opportunities with other Federal agencies to better serve Farm Workers;
- Provided information to internal and external stakeholders regarding the Environmental Protection Agency’s Agricultural Worker Protection Standard Revision Final rule. USDA actively participated in the rulemaking process, which includes open dialogue with stakeholders;
- Provide briefings and expert technical assistance to Community–Based Organizations, University Campuses and more than 69,962 Small and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, Veteran Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, Limited Resource Farmers Tribal Community to gain access to USDA programs and services; and
- Worked collaboratively to stage 13 small farms conferences across the United States. More than 4,500 small farmers and extension agents attended the conferences.

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Selected Accomplishments Expected at the 2018 Proposed Resource Level:

- Work with outreach partners to ensure maximum participation in all USDA programs;
- Work with community-based organizations to provide training to small and beginning farmers and ranchers, and veteran farmers and ranchers on sustainability, business farming;
- Administer the grants for the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers by:
  - Reaching out to current and prospective socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers and veteran farmers or ranchers in an appropriate manner;
  - Improving the participation of disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers in USDA's programs; and
  - Collaborate on strategies to increase the awareness of and participation in USDA's programs and services in minority communities.
- Meet with farm workers and women farmers to provide a forum for discussing increased opportunities to participate in USDA programs and exploring other opportunities across the federal government;
- Increase OAO's outreach and assistance to the underserved sector of the agricultural economy; and
- Increase subscription of applicants.