

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about this Notice, please contact Aaron Morris, Assistant Deputy Administrator, USDA Rural Development, Energy Programs, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 3225, Room 6901, Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 720-1501. Email: aaron.morris@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the **Federal Register** on August 3, 2018 (83 FR 38119), make the following amendment:

In the third column on page 38120, under Section III Eligibility Information, subsection C. Eligible Projects, add the following:

In addition, the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill), amends the definition of ‘eligible technology’ to allow applicants to submit for funding projects for the development, construction and retrofitting of commercial-scale biorefineries using technologies that produce any 1 or more, or a combination, of an advanced biofuel, renewable chemical, or biobased product.

Bette B. Brand,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 2019-08118 Filed 4-22-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

**Information Collection Activity;
Comment Request**

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 24, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas P. Dickson, Rural Development Innovation Center—Regulatory Team 2, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 1522, Room 5164, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-4492. Email Thomas.dickson@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB)

regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for extension.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Thomas P. Dickson, Rural Development Innovation Center—Regulatory Team 2, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 1522, Room 5164, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-4492. Email Thomas.dickson@usda.gov.

Title: Guaranteed Loanmaking and Servicing Regulations.

OMB Number: 0570-0069.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Program is authorized under Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926) to banks and other approved lenders to finance private businesses located in rural areas. The guaranteed loan program encourages lender participation and provides specific guidance in the processing and servicing of guaranteed loans. The regulations governing the Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Program are codified at 7 CFR 4279. The required information, in the form of written documentation and Agency approved forms, is collected from applicants/ borrowers, their lenders, and consultants. The collected information will be used to determine applicant/ borrower eligibility, project feasibility, and to ensure borrowers operate on a sound basis and use loan funds for authorized purposes. Failure to collect proper information could result in

improper determinations of eligibility, improper use of funds, and/or unsound loans.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 13 hours per response.

Respondents: Business or other for profit; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 38,359 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Thomas P. Dickson, Rural Development Innovation Center—Regulatory Team 2, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 1522, Room 5164, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-4492. Email Thomas.dickson@usda.gov. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Bette B. Brand,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 2019-08168 Filed 4-22-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

**Notice of Request for Extension of a
Currently Approved Information
Collection**

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service (RHS), and Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice of collection and comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the above-named Agencies to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of debt settlement of Community Facilities and Direct Business Program Loans and Grants.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 24, 2019 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas P. Dickson, Rural Development Innovation Center—Regulatory Team, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 1522,

Washington, DC 20250, Telephone: 202-690-4492, email: thomas.dickson@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that Rural Development is submitting to OMB for extension.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to: Thomas P. Dickson, Rural Development Innovation Center—Regulatory, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 1522, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-4492. Email Thomas.dickson@usda.gov.

Title: Debt Settlement-Community and Business Programs.

OMB Number: 0575-0124.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The following Community and Direct Business Programs loans and grants are debt settled by this currently approved docket (0575-0124). The Community Facilities loan and grant program is authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to make loans to public entities, nonprofit corporations, and Indian tribes through the Community Facilities program for the development of essential community facilities primarily serving rural residents.

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, Title 3, authorizes Economic Opportunity Cooperative loans to assist incorporated and unincorporated associations to provide low-income rural families essential processing,

purchasing, or marketing services, supplies, or facilities.

The Food Security Act of 1985, Section 1323, authorizes loan guarantees and grants to Nonprofit National Corporations to provide technical and financial assistance to for-profit or nonprofit local businesses in rural areas.

The Business and Industry program is authorized by Section 310 B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities, including pollution abatement control.

The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Section 310 B(c), authorizes Rural Business Enterprise Grants to public bodies and nonprofit corporations to facilitate the development of private businesses in rural areas.

The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Section 310 B(f)(i), authorized Rural Cooperative Development Grants to nonprofit institutions for the purpose of enabling such institutions to establish and operate centers for rural cooperative development.

The purpose of the debt settlement function for the above programs is to provide the delinquent client with an equitable tool for the compromise, adjustment, cancellation, or charge-off of a debt owed to the Agency.

The information collected is similar to that required by a commercial lender in similar circumstances.

Information will be collected by the field offices from applicants, borrowers, consultants, lenders, and attorneys.

Failure to collect information could result in improper servicing of these loans.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 6.2 hours per response.

Respondents: Public bodies and nonprofit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 23.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 7.1.

Estimated Number of Responses: 163.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,005 hours.

Copies of this information collections can be obtained from Diane M. Berger, Rural Development Innovation Center—

Regulatory Team; phone—(715) 619-3124; or email diane.berger@usda.gov.

Richard A. Davis,

Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 2019-08142 Filed 4-22-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Broadband Pilot Program—ReConnect Program

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice; announcement of opening date for Rural e-Connectivity Pilot Program application windows.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announced its general policy and application procedures for funding under the eConnectivity Pilot Program (ReConnect Program) in a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and solicitation of applications on December 14, 2018 in the **Federal Register** and amended the application window closing dates in a notice published on February 25, 2019 in the **Federal Register**. The Reconnect Program will provide loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. This Notice announces the opening date for the ReConnect Program application windows.

DATES: The Agency will begin accepting applications through <https://reconnect.usda.gov> for all three ReConnect Program funding categories on April 23, 2019. Please note that each funding category has a different application deadline (as referenced in Section II of Supplementary Information). Please refer to the specific funding category for the appropriate application dates.

ADDRESSES: *Application Submission:* The application system for electronic submissions is available at <https://reconnect.usda.gov>.

Electronic submissions: Electronic submissions of applications will allow for the expeditious review of an Applicant's proposal. As a result, all Applicants must file their application electronically.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general inquiries regarding the ReConnect Program, contact Chad Parker, Assistant Administrator Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), email: chad.parker@wdc.usda.gov, telephone