Affordable Rural Cooperative (ARC) Program

Fiscal Year 2026

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Funding Opportunity Number: RUS-ARC-2026

Publication Date: September 14, 2026

Letter of Interest Opens: 11:59 a.m. ET on October 19, 2026
Letter of Interest Due Date: 11:59 a.m. ET on November 20, 2026

KARL
ELMSHAEUSER

Digitally signed by KARL
ELMSHAEUSER
Date: 2026.08.27
11:25:50 -04'00'

Karl Elmshaeuser

Administrator

Rural Utilities Service

PROGRAM SOLICITATION INFORMATION

Funding Opportunity Title: Affordable Rural Cooperative Program

Funding Opportunity Number: RUS-ARC-2026

Announcement Type: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Assistance Listing Number: 10.758

Dates: Letters of Interest can be submitted beginning at 11:59 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) on October 19, 2026, and until 11:59 a.m. ET on November 20, 2026. Letters of Interest will not be accepted after 11:59 a.m. ET on November 20, 2026.

Executive Summary: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS or the Agency), a Rural Development (RD) agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is soliciting Letters of Interest (LOI) for applications under the Affordable Rural Cooperative (ARC) Program. In addition, the Agency is announcing the eligibility requirements, application process and deadlines, and the criteria that will be used by RUS to assess ARC Applications. The ARC Program is making approximately $175 million in appropriated budget authority for the cost of loan and grant funds available under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022. In keeping with the statutory authority for the program, RUS will utilize the ARC funds to assist Eligible Entities to achieve future net reductions consistent with Section 22004 of the IRA through the deployment of advanced, efficient transmission infrastructure and nuclear power supply. Available funds will be allocated for each purpose while advancing the long-term resiliency, reliability, and affordability of rural electric systems. All Eligible Entities are responsible for any expenses incurred in developing their LOIs and ARC Applications.

TIPS FOR APPLICANTS

- To do business with the Federal Government and to submit your application electronically using the Grant Application Portal, you must—
  - Have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN);
  - Be registered in SAM.gov (System for Award Management), the Government's primary registrant database;
  - Provide your UEI number and TIN on your application; and
  - Maintain an active SAM registration with current information throughout the application review period and, if you are awarded a grant, during the project period.
- Register and submit applications early. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DAY OF THE APPLICATION DEADLINE**.
- Thoroughly read this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and follow all the instructions.
- Thoroughly review the guidelines and policies as outlined in this notice to ensure the application is received and eligible for consideration, and to understand allowable and unallowable costs.
- Apply for the correct grant program
  - Assistance Listing number “**10.758**” and Funding Opportunity Number “RUS-ARC-2026”

- When uploading attachments, click the “Upload Documents” button in the Grant Application Portal (do NOT use the “paperclip” icon in Adobe Reader). Acceptable file types include .doc, .docx, .pdf, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .gif, .xls, .xlsx, .txt, .ppt, and .pptx
- Do not password-protect your documents and make sure all tracked-changes are “accepted”.
- Avoid Special Characters in File Names (e.g., $, %, &, *, Spanish "ñ", etc.).
- Input the correct UEI number on the Grant Application Portal.

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1.0 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1.1 Purpose of the Program

For nearly a century, rural electric cooperatives have been the backbone of power delivery for rural America, building the infrastructure necessary for economic development and a high quality of life. Owned by their members, cooperatives are a fundamental part of rural communities, employing residents, pushing progress, and providing leadership.

This funding notice advances the statutory purpose of achieving the greatest reductions as provided in Section 22004 of the IRA associated with rural electric systems by increasing the amount of emission-free nuclear power and increasing the efficiency of the transmission grid within such systems. These new sources of cooperative power supply and enhanced transmission efficiency will result in reduced future demand for other sources of power.

By promoting activities that may increase baseload and transmission efficiency, the Affordable Rural Cooperative (ARC) Program provides financial assistance to Eligible Entities, as described in Section 3.1 of this Notice, to leverage affordable, clean power through the cooperatives' voluntary efforts in a way that further promotes the statutory purposes of resiliency and reliability of rural electric systems and affordability for their members.

1.2 Statutory and Regulatory Authority

The ARC Program is authorized under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Public Law No. 117-169, "IRA"), Subtitle C, Section 22004, and will be administered by RUS. Section 22004 amends 7 U.S.C. 8103 by adding subsection (j) to that section. Other regulations that apply to this Notice are provided in Section 6.1(a)(2)(i).

1.3 Definitions

The definitions applicable to this Notice are as follows:

Administrator. The Administrator of the RUS, an agency under the RD mission area of the USDA.

ARC Application. An application containing all information required by RUS as identified in the Invitation to Proceed. The ARC application must be materially complete in form and substance satisfactory to RUS within the specified time as defined in Section 4.2(b) of this NOFO.

Agency. The Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

Applicant. An Eligible Entity that has received an Invitation to Proceed to submit an ARC Application.

Award. The financial assistance, in the form of loans and/or grants, offered to an Applicant under this Notice.

Award Agreement. The agreement between RUS and the Applicant describing the terms and conditions of the Award.

Award Documents. All agreements and documentation to support and evidence the financial assistance and obligations of the Awardee, including the Award Agreement, loan or grant agreements, promissory notes, mortgages, deeds of trust, indentures, and other security agreements executed in connection with the Award.

Awardee. An entity that has been awarded funding under the ARC.

Capital Improvements or Acquisitions Grant. Grants made for Eligible Activities used for investment in physical infrastructure, including investments made to extend the useful life or improve the efficiency of existing assets, or used to purchase an ownership interest in whole or in part in eligible physical plant. The grant may be secured as a Project Award, System Award, or the federal interest in the property will remain protected as provided in the property standards found within 2 CFR part 200 subpart D, as determined by the Administrator. Although the grant may be secured as a Project Award or System Award, nothing in this Notice shall be construed to cause the amount of such grant to exceed 25 percent of Eligible Award Costs.

Commercially Available Technology. Equipment, devices, applications, or systems that have a proven, reliable performance and replicable operating history specific to the proposed application. The equipment, device, application, or system is based on established patent design or has been certified by an industry-recognized organization and subject to installation, operating, and maintenance procedures generally accepted by industry practices and standards. Service and replacement parts for the equipment, device, application, or system must be readily available in the marketplace with established warranty applicable to parts, labor, and performance. The technology must be designed and meant for the proposed use.

Commitment Letter. The notification issued by the Administrator to an Applicant containing the total Award, the acceptable security arrangement, and such controls and conditions on the Awardees' financial, investment, operational and managerial activities deemed necessary by the Administrator to adequately secure the Government's interest. This notification will also describe the accounting standards and audit requirements applicable to the Award.

Eligible Activity(ies). The purchase of Eligible Energy, eligible nuclear energy systems (or a share of such systems), the deployment of such systems, system improvements that result in the extension of the plant's useful life or expansion of its power output, or the implementation of advanced energy efficiency improvements to transmission systems of an Eligible Entity occurring after the publication date of this Notice, provided such activities can be accomplished within a timeframe that facilitates the disbursement of funds by September 30, 2031.To be an Eligible Activity, the Project should be designed, constructed and operated based on proven Commercially Available Technology, and commercial operation should be achieved and subsequent successful testing should be conducted to the satisfaction of RUS before September 30, 2031. Eligible Activities do not include research and development, feasibility studies, or other activities that do not result in the production or purchase of power supply or the enhancement of transmission grid efficiency.

Eligible Award Costs are defined in Section 3.3(a).

Eligible Energy. The term "Eligible Energy" means energy derived from Nuclear Power.

Eligible Entity(ies). An electric cooperative described in section 501(c)(12) or 1381(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is or has been a RUS or Rural Electrification Administration (REA) electric loan borrower pursuant to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (RE Act) or is serving a predominantly Rural Area (or a wholly or jointly owned subsidiary of any the preceding listed such electric cooperatives).

Eligible Service Area. An area as described in Section 3.1(c) of this Notice.

Energy Storage System(s). A facility capable of accepting energy, storing the energy for a period of time and then later releasing the stored energy.

Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C 4321, et seq), implemented by USDA at 7 CFR 1b, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (50 CFR part 402), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)(54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.)(36 CFR Part 800).

Financial Feasibility. An Eligible Entity's ability, as determined by the Administrator, to generate sufficient revenues to cover its expenses, sufficient cash flow to service its debts and obligations as they come due, and meet the financial ratios set forth in the applicable Award Documents.

Indian Tribe. The term "Indian Tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 5304 of title 25.

Invitation to Proceed. A written notification issued by RUS to the Eligible Entity acknowledging that the LOI was received, reviewed, and inviting the Eligible Entity to submit an ARC Application. The notification provides the Applicant instructions on how to submit the application package and details of the next steps in the application process.

Letter of Interest (LOI). A signed letter issued by an Eligible Entity notifying RUS of its intent to apply for an Award and addressing all the elements identified for a complete LOI in Section 4.2(c) of this NOFO.

New Clean Power Tool. A simple Excel spreadsheet tool developed by RUS to rank Projects in the context of affordability. RUS will provide the New Clean Power Tool to the Applicant to input data related to its Portfolio of Actions and estimate the future reduction as provided in Section 22004 of the IRA through the addition of new nuclear power and/or transmission grid efficiency, including through the reduction in line-loss or increases in throughput, from the Portfolio of Actions.

Nuclear Power. Shall mean a source of electricity derived from a nuclear fission reaction produced with and using Commercially Available Technology.

Off-taker. Shall mean: (1) The customers or members of the Applicant that purchase and receive electrical power and energy from the Applicant; or (2) the entity that has or will execute a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Applicant to purchase and receive electrical capacity and associated energy produced by the Project. The Off-taker may also be referred to in the PPA as the "Buyer", "Customer", "Purchaser", or another name that describes the entity purchasing the power.

Portfolio of Actions. The combination of the Applicant's proposed actions related to Nuclear Power generation, PPAB (as defined below) and transmission investments eligible under this NOFO that support actions consistent with long-term resiliency, reliability, and affordability of rural electric systems.

Power Purchase Agreement—Buyer (PPAB). Shall mean any binding agreement approved by RUS and included in the Project and executed between the Applicant and a seller under which the Applicant agrees to purchase and receive from the seller over the term of such agreement the electrical capacity and associated energy as approved under the Project. A PPAB may include other transactions such as the selling and purchasing of Environmental Attributes or ancillary services (e.g., voltage regulation and synchronization, contingency reserves).

Power Purchase Agreement--Seller (PPAS). For a power seller, a binding agreement executed between the Applicant and an Off-taker under which the Off-taker agrees to purchase and receive from the Applicant the electrical capacity and associated energy produced by the Project at a pre-determined price and term. The PPAS may include other transactions such as the selling and purchasing of environmental attributes or ancillary services such as voltage regulation and synchronization, and contingency reserves. Environmental attributes include all financial attributes that are created or otherwise arise from the Project's generation of electricity that include, but are not limited to, any environmental air quality credits, green credits, renewable energy credits (RECs), carbon credits, emissions reduction credits, emission rate credits, certificates, tags, offsets, allowances, etc.

Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Awards. PPA Awards are grant or loan financed purchases of a quantity of Eligible Energy over a period of time as provided in a PPAB. A PPA Award may be a PPA Loan Award or PPA Grant Award.

Project. Any Eligible Activity, including new facilities, newly-acquired facilities or a PPAB that provide or purchase Eligible Energy, or Transmission Energy Efficiency Improvements that demonstrably improve transmission efficiency, that when scored using the criteria provided in Sections 2.0, 3.1, and 5.2 of this Notice are eligible to be financed with ARC Program loan and/or grant funds, consistent with Section 22004 of the IRA, provided each component Eligible Activity is compliant with all other applicable requirements of this Notice.

Project Award. The term "Project Award" means an Award which is secured by a security interest in the assets and revenues of the Project and supporting credit enhancements, including parent or other guarantees when required by the Administrator, relating to the Project rather than by a security interest in all of the assets of the Applicant's electric system. Project Awards are only available to current operating utilities or affiliated entities.

Rural Area. A Rural Area shall mean one or more of the following: (1) Any area of the United States, its territories, and insular possessions (including any area within the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau) other than a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants, adjusted to exclude individuals incarcerated on a long-term or regional basis or the first 1,500 individuals who reside in housing located on a military base, or (2) Communities where non-rural service is necessary and incidental to providing intended benefits to Rural Areas described above.

Secretary. The Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Section 22004 Reduction. Reductions to achieve the greatest reduction in carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide emissions of the type and kind as provided for in 7 U.S.C. 8103(j)(1).

Substantially Underserved Trust Area (SUTA). An area defined under Section 306F of the Rural Electrification Act (https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/utprea36.pdf).

System Awards. Awards where the Awardee will provide or has already provided RUS with a perfected senior lien in substantially all its assets, both real and personal property, including intangible personal property and any property acquired after the date of the loan. Awards must be secured by all, or substantially all, of the system assets, including the Project to be financed with a System Award. System Awards are only available to operating electric cooperative utilities.

Transmission Energy Efficiency Improvements. Transmission Energy Efficiency Improvements to an Applicant's transmission system shall include measures that result in the demonstrable efficiencies and Section 22004 Reductions through, including but not limited to: (1) Reduction in transmission energy line losses; (2) Investments that alleviate transmission congestion as it relates to the delivery of power generated from Renewable Energy Systems or Zero-Emission Systems; (3) Investments in technologies that increase the capacity and efficiency of existing transmission facilities or increase transmission capacity within existing rights-of-way, such as investments in advanced high-capacity conductor technologies or Grid-Enhancing Technologies; and (4) Construction of new transmission lines for the transmission of power generated from Zero-Emission Systems.

Zero-Emission System. Any system that does not produce any emissions of gases described in Section 22004 when it is operated.

1.4 Application of Awards

All LOIs must be submitted to RUS electronically through Grants.gov. Letters of Interest can be submitted beginning at 11:59 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) on October 19, 2026, and until 11:59 a.m. ET on November 20, 2026. Letters of Interest will not be accepted after 11:59 a.m. ET on November 20, 2026. LOI submissions will be made through Grants.gov. The Agency will review and evaluate the LOIs pursuant to the criteria described in Sections 3.1, 4.2, and 5. LOI submitters with high-ranking scores will receive an invitation to proceed and the agency will provide information about the method of application submission at that time Letters of Interest must include data as calculated in the New Clean Power Tool or comparable information as determined by the Administrator for their proposed Project(s) when compared to a future state without such investments.

At the LOI stage, applicants will submit a New Clean Power tool calculation. The Eligible Entity may also provide the data that is required within the New Clean Power Tool by another method. The Eligible Entity's use of other methods, however, may impact the Agency's timeline for review of the LOI. An Eligible Entity that elects to use methods other than the New Clean Power Tool must demonstrate that its chosen method provides comparable information as the New Clean Power Tool as determined by the Administrator that will allow the Agency to score the Portfolio of Actions under the criteria listed in Sections 2.0(g), 3.1, and 5.2 of this Notice.

Upon review of the LOIs, RUS may issue an Invitation to Proceed to submit an ARC Application to those Eligible Entities whose LOIs contain proposed Projects that the Agency determines are sufficiently strong in any of the criteria listed in Sections 2.0, 3.1, and 5.2 and advance the goals underlying the ARC Program as described in this Notice.

The Agency will review and evaluate all ARC Applications based on the information contained in the application and will utilize the same criteria that it utilized in evaluating the LOIs. The Applicant may utilize the same data it provided to the Agency with respect to the estimated Section 22004 Reduction stemming from the Portfolio of Actions that it provided in the LOI, if it certifies in the ARC Application that the data is still accurate. The Agency advises all interested parties that the Eligible Entity bears the full burden and cost of preparing and submitting an LOI and, if invited, an ARC Application in response to this Notice. RUS reserves the right to ask Applicants for clarifying information on, or additional information related to, the ARC Application. The Agency reserves the right to offer an Applicant a financial package different than requested. The Agency also reserves the right to add funds to this competition should they become available.

2.0 FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Types of Awards: Loans, Loan/Grant Combination and Grants

Fiscal Year Funds: Congress appropriated the IRA funds in FY 2023 and Section 22004 requires all IRA funds to be disbursed before September 30, 2031.

Available Funds: The amount of funding made available under the Notice will be approximately $175 million. The Agency reserves the right to increase that amount should funds become available or decrease the amount should applications not provide sufficient program benefits. RUS may, at its discretion, increase the total level of funding available in this Notice or in any category in this funding round from any available source, provided funded projects meet the requirements of the statute that made the funding available to the Agency.

A loan made pursuant to this Notice may not result in a disbursement of funds after September 30, 2031. A grant made pursuant to this Notice may not result in an outlay after September 30, 2031. Applicants are advised that the final advance date applied to individual Projects will be well in advance of September 30, 2031.

Award Amounts: As provided in Section 22004 of IRA, no one Applicant may receive an amount equal to more than 10 percent of the total $9.7 billion of budget authority appropriated under Section 22004, which equals $970 million in budget authority. The Applicant's Portfolio of Actions may cost more than $970 million so long as the funded application uses less than $970 million in budget authority. This limitation includes prior awards made under Section 22004 of the IRA in the New ERA competition. The section further limits the amount of a grant to no more than 25 percent of the total Eligible Award Costs of the Applicant in carrying out a Project utilizing a grant. Funds made available under this NOFO will be initially divided on a roughly equal basis between Transmission Energy Efficiency Improvement awards and Eligible Energy awards. No awardee will receive more than $20 million in budget authority under this NOFO. The Administrator may adjust the distribution of award funds based on the overall quality and benefits of applications received. Prior New ERA awards may be considered in making award decisions.

System Awards, Project Awards, PPA Awards, Capital Improvements or Acquisitions Grant Awards and Financial Assistance: The following types of Awards and financial assistance are available to eligible operating utilities to fund Eligible Activities under the ARC Program:

(a) System Awards and Project Awards: System Awards and Project Awards will be offered to Eligible Entities under the ARC Program to finance Projects in accordance with Section 3.2(a) of this Notice.

  (1) Except for Capital Improvements or Acquisitions Grants secured as System Awards, System Awards may, at the discretion of the Administrator, finance an ARC Award up to 100 percent of the Eligible Award Costs included in the application based on the risk profile of the Applicant and the proposed Project. At the discretion of the Administrator, RUS may release proceeds from a System Award to finance Projects for costs incurred during the construction of the facilities. System Awards are only available to operating electric cooperative utilities.

  (2) Project Awards are generally secured by a senior security interest in the Project assets and the revenues generated from the Project, although the Agency may require additional collateral for a Project Award based on the risk profile of the ARC Application and/or the Project. Project Awards will require additional cash reserves. Further, to the extent that a PPA is in place between the Awardee and an Off-taker, the Awardee must collaterally assign the PPA to RUS as security and the Off-taker must consent to such assignment. Except for Capital Improvements or Acquisition Grants secured as Project Awards, RUS will finance up to 75 percent of the total capitalized cost of the Project in the loan component of a Project Award. The Awardee will be required to initially provide and maintain for the term of the Project Award at least 25 percent of the Project's total capitalized cost in the form of cash or an equity investment that does not include debt from any source. RUS may, at the Administrator's discretion, consider allowing Awardees to utilize the grant component of the Award for the required equity where RUS determines it to be financially feasible. Further, RUS may, at the Administrators discretion, consider financing up to 100 percent of the capitalized cost of a Project if the Project benefits a SUTA eligible territory as provided in Section 306F of the RE Act. The Agency may consider allowing the Applicant to utilize, as the required equity component, any investment tax credits or elective payments in lieu of investment tax credits that the Awardee is entitled to receive under the Internal Revenue Code, if permitted under applicable authorities. The Agency may also consider allowing the Applicant to utilize as the required equity component any grant, including the grant component of the ARC Award or a grant from any other source, if permitted under applicable authorities. The Agency may require the Awardee to provide additional credit support pending the Awardee's receipt of the Investment Tax Credit or Direct Payment in lieu of the Investment Tax Credit.

  (3) PPA Loan Awards may either be Project Awards or System Awards at the discretion of the Administrator.

  (4) PPA Grant Awards will be funded on a reimbursement basis to fund Eligible Award Costs as described in Section 3.3(a) and will be secured by such additional collateral as the Administrator may require. The Agency reserves the right to structure reimbursements for PPA Grant Awards

in a manner that is consistent with the program's statutory requirements and prudent risk management, including disbursing funds into a restricted depository account.

(5) Capital Improvements or Acquisitions Grant Award will be secured as determined necessary by the Administrator as a Project Award, System Award, or the federal interest in the property will remain protected as provided in the property standards found within 2 CFR part 200 subpart D.

(6) RUS will only advance Award proceeds after commercial operation is achieved and subsequent successful testing is conducted to the satisfaction of RUS, but in no case will funds be advanced after September 30, 2031.

Types of Financial Assistance: Applicants are invited to propose assistance from any single financial assistance product or a combination of such products, described below. The Agency reserves the right to offer an Applicant a financial package different than requested. The most competitive and affordable applications will receive the best financial offerings as outlined below.

(a) Loan Only. An Applicant may request an Award to finance any Project or combination of Projects in its application with a loan only award. The interest rate for a loan only award will be the Treasury rate minus one-eighth of one percent. Principal will be deferred for a period of two years from the date of the promissory note. The amortization period will be based on the term of the Award as defined in Section (b) below.

(b) Loan and Grant Combinations and Grant only Awards.

  (1) Loan and Grant Combination. An Applicant may request to finance any Project or Projects in its application with a grant or grant/loan combination where the grant amount equals no more than 25 percent of the Eligible Award Costs. The interest rate and amortization for the loan component of the Award will be set as described in Section 2.0 above. Applicants may propose substituting cash for the loan component, or any portion of the loan component, at the time of application.

  (2) Grant only Awards. An Applicant may request an Award to finance any Project or combination of Projects in its application with a 100 percent grant. A 100 percent grant Award may finance no more than 25 percent of the total Eligible Award Costs. Grants, both as a part of a loan and grant combination Award or as a 100 percent grant Award, will be considered based on the estimated score and rank of the application stemming from the Applicant's proposed Portfolio of Actions as measured by the criteria outlined in Section 5.1 of this Notice. The grant portion of an Award will be subject to terms and conditions necessary to protect the Government's interest while also ensuring accomplishment of the grant purposes, all as determined by the RUS Administrator.

All Awards. The amount of appropriated funds consumed by any individual funded ARC Application will depend on the amount of grant used, which scores on a dollar-for-dollar basis, and the amount of loans, which scores at a subsidy rate related to the difference between the interest rate offered on the loan and prevailing treasury rates, portfolio risk, and other factors at the time of obligation. RUS will make this calculation before making an Award to ensure compliance with the statutory limitations described in Section 2.0. The Agency further reserves the right to take into account when making Awards the cost effectiveness of the proposed Projects relative to the appropriated funds consumed and/or benefits to consumers in Rural Areas.

Anticipated Award Date: Summer/Fall 2027.

Performance Period: Four (4) years from the date of environmental clearance, but no later than September 30, 2031.

Use of other governmental funds: The Agency will generally allow the Awardee to combine the incentives contained in this Notice with other governmental benefits, provided such combinations are otherwise permitted by law or regulation.

Renewal or Supplemental Awards: None.

Type of Assistance Instrument: Loan and Grant Agreements.

Depository Account: The agency reserves the right to disburse funds into a restricted depository account to ensure statutory compliance and mitigate taxpayer risk.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

3.1 Eligibility Information

The applicant and its principals must not be debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from participation in USDA programs, in accordance with 2 CFR Parts 180 and 417. The applicant must not be delinquent on any federal debt, nor have any outstanding judgment obtained by the U.S. in a Federal court. Upon receipt of application, prior to award, and prior to disbursement of federal funds, the agency will screen the applicant and its principals through the Do Not Pay System, as required by 31 U.S.C. 3354, to verify eligibility with respect to debarment, suspension, and any unresolved federal debts. Applicants are responsible for resolving any issues identified in the Do Not Pay System; if such issues are not resolved by the deadlines specified in this notice, the agency may proceed to award funds to other eligible applicants. Applicants are responsible for compliance with all applicable regulations, including 2 CFR Parts 180 and 417.

Eligible Entities, Projects, Service Areas and other Eligibility Factors.

(a) Eligible Entities are:
   (1) Operating Electric cooperatives described in section 501(c)(12) or 1381(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 who are currently or have been in the past a RUS electric loan borrower pursuant to the RE Act;
   (2) Electric cooperatives serving predominantly Rural Areas; or
   (3) Wholly or jointly owned subsidiaries of such electric cooperatives listed in (1) and (2).

   For the purposes of this program, the term “predominantly rural” as used in (2) in this paragraph shall mean a service territory that must include at least 50 percent Rural Areas.

(b) An eligible Project includes a Portfolio of Actions that will result in Section 22004 Reductions and be consistent with long-term resiliency, reliability, and affordability of rural electric systems. Such actions include, but are not limited to the purchase, acquisition, partial ownership, or construction of:

(1) Eligible Energy or systems generating Eligible Energy, or

(2) Transmission Energy Efficiency Improvements.

(c) Eligible Service Areas:

(1) Electricity generated from or transmitted by facilities financed with ARC funds shall be for the benefit of consumers located in Eligible Service Areas as defined in this Section.

(2) The facilities to be financed with an Award to an Applicant that is not a current or former RUS/REA borrower must provide electric service to consumers located in those areas that are considered “predominantly rural.” RUS, in making a determination of whether a service area is predominantly rural will:

(i) Identify the service territory where electricity from the facilities to be financed by the proposed Award will be delivered and consumed; and

(ii) Further identify those areas within the service territory that are in Rural Areas in comparison to those that are in non-rural areas. The ratio of the population located in the Rural Areas versus the population of the entire service territory is referred to as the “rural percentage” of the service territory. Meters served in lieu of population may be used as a proxy to determine rural percentage of the service territory. For purposes of this NOFO, a service territory that is determined to have a rural percentage equal to or greater than 50 percent is considered predominantly rural and is an Eligible Service Area. RUS will make the rurality determination by examining the shapefile the Eligible Entity submits with its LOI as provided in Section 4.2(c)(1)(vii). of this Notice.

(d) Other Eligibility Factors: Program Factors. In addition to the above eligibility factors, the Agency may consider the following in determining which LOIs to select to provide an Invitation to Proceed, and then in evaluating the full ARC Application.

(1) Reliability and Resiliency:

(i) All proposals must promote the reliability and resiliency of rural electric systems; and

(ii) Plans may include transmission improvements to measurably reduce congestion, and improve system efficiency.

(2) Affordability:

(i) All proposals must be affordable to the consumers in the Eligible Service Area who will be served by the Project in question.

(ii) The Administrator reserves the discretion to take consumer impact and the efficient use of program funds into account when ranking projects at the LOI and Award stages.

(iii) Applicants must demonstrate the Award will produce member rate benefits.

(3) Construction awards must be for projects that have or will commence construction after the date of the publication of this NOFO. Power purchase awards must be for new power purchases that commence after the date of the publication of this NOFO.

(4) Geographic Diversity: In making selections for full applications, the Administrator may take the geographic distribution of proposed Projects into account.

(5) Resources: In making selections for full applications, the Administrator may take the ARC funding requested for the proposed Eligible Award Costs into account relative to the total

budgetary resources available to the ARC Program. The Administrator reserves the right to reduce the dollar amount offered based on this consideration.

(6) SUTA Considerations: For the purposes of this funding notice, SUTA provisions will be available to the Administrator as it would be in the existing RUS Electric Infrastructure Loan Program under the RE Act; and

(7) Financial Feasibility: The Financial Feasibility of the requested financial assistance by evaluating the cost of the Project relative to the Applicant's ability to repay the loan component of the Award or perform the applicant's obligations under a grant agreement.

3.2 Matching Funds

Cost Sharing or Matching. For Project and System loans, RUS will finance up to 75 percent of the total capitalized cost of the Project in the loan component of a Project and/or System Award. The Awardee will be required to initially provide and maintain for the term of the Project and/or System Award at least 25 percent of the Project's total capitalized cost in the form of cash or an equity investment.

As noted in Section 2.0 above, the Agency may where Financially Feasible allow an Awardee to utilize the grant component of the Award and/or any applicable tax credit that it expects to receive (including credit amounts expected to be received through Elective Pay elections under section 6417 of the Internal Revenue Code) toward the 25 percent equity requirement for a Project Award. Such financial equity may not come from the proceeds of any loan from any creditor, including insiders of the Awardee.

3.3 Other Requirements

Eligible and Ineligible Costs. Award funds must be used to pay only allowable, necessary, and eligible costs incurred post Award, except for approved pre-application expenses that are listed below. Eligible costs must be consistent with the cost principles identified in 2 CFR part 200, Subpart E. Any request for an advance of funds under the Award that includes any ineligible costs will be rejected.

(a) *Eligible Award Costs.* Award funds under this NOFO may be used to pay for the following costs:

(1) To fund the construction or improvement or purchase of facilities, including buildings and land required to construct the facilities being financed with the Award and other allowable costs and expenses listed in 2 CFR part 200, Subpart E. Award funds may also be utilized for the construction of new linear facilities or the upgrade of existing linear facilities that are necessary to operate any new eligible generation facility or receive new power supply including, but not limited to, transmission or distribution facilities that are needed to export the power;

(2) To fund reasonable pre-award expenses as provided in 2 CFR part 200, Subpart E. Pre-award expenses must be included in the first request for advance of Award funds.

(3) To fund interest incurred during construction pursuant to 7 CFR 1710.106(a)(4); and

(4) To purchase all or a share of a new, operating, or re-energized Nuclear Power facility or to cover the proportional share of the costs related to life extending or repowering investments in an owned share of a Nuclear Power facility; and

(5) To purchase or reimburse for expenses consisting only of Eligible Energy received and purchased by the Applicant under any PPA under which the Applicant purchases power as being eligible for funding on a reimbursement basis. This may include the purchase of Eligible Energy from an

energy storage system only if the source of energy used to charge the system is generated from one hundred percent (100%) Eligible Energy. This does not include the purchase of energy from any facility where the facility itself (rather than the purchase of power by the Applicant under a PPA) is funded in whole or in part under the New ERA program, the ARC program, or the Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Program established under Section 22001 of the IRA.

(b) *Ineligible Award Costs*. Award funds under this part may not be used for any of the following purposes:
   (1) Except as provided in Section 3.3(a)(5) herein, to fund operating expenses of the Awardee unless specifically outlined in the Applicant's Award Agreement;
   (2) To fund costs incurred prior to the date on which the application was submitted other than the eligible pre-award expenses under 2 CFR part 200, Subpart E;
   (3) To fund an acquisition of an affiliate, or the purchase or acquisition of any facilities or equipment of an affiliate. Note that if affiliated transactions are contemplated in the application, approval of the application does not constitute approval to enter into affiliated transactions or acceptance of the affiliated arrangements that conflict with the obligations under the Award Documents; and
   (4) Any other expense that is not allowed pursuant to 2 CFR part 200, Subpart E.
   RUS will not approve funding under this Notice that violates the terms of an Applicant's existing wholesale power contract.

4.0 APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

4.1 Access to the Application Portal

After receiving an invitation to proceed, the Agency will provide information about the method of application submission. All Applications must be completed and submitted by an authorized representative of the Applicant and in the manner provided by the Agency. Applicants may work with a collaborator (grant writer, technical assistance provider, or similar) or other representatives. However, the Applicant will be:

(a) Responsible for the completion of the application;
(b) Responsible for edits made to the application by collaborators or representatives, and;
(c) Required to certify to the trueness, accuracy, and completion of the application content.

4.2 Content and Form of Application

(a) *Address to Request Application Package.* Application information and samples concerning the ARC Program are available at https://www.rd.usda.gov/. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact 711 Relay Service.
(b) Content and Form of Application Submission. The Agency will provide information on how to complete and submit an application with or following receipt of an Invitation to Proceed. The application process for the ARC Program will be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 will be submission of an LOI that includes sufficient information to determine a pool of prospective

Applicants which advance the goals of the statute, achieve policy objectives, meet minimum requirements, and are within the funds allocated to the program. Those LOIs that meet the criteria will be issued an Invitation to Proceed to submit a full, completed ARC Application (Phase 2).

(c) **Phase 1 - LOI Submission. The LOI must include the following:**

(1) *Eligible Entity's Profile and Point of Contact Information*:

(i) Legal name of the Eligible Entity and applicable organizational information. If the Eligible Entity is a subsidiary of one or more Eligible Entities the Eligible Entity must list its owners in the LOI.

(ii) Eligible Entity's address, principal place of business, and website.

(iii) Eligible Entity's tax identification number and its Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number from the System for Award Management (SAM) registry.

(iv) Specify if the Eligible Entity (a) is an existing RUS borrower; (b) is a former RUS or REA borrower; or (c) has never been a RUS or REA borrower.

(v) Name and title of Eligible Entity's manager and/or point of contact, including first name, last name, title/position, phone, email, and other relevant contact information.

(vi) A Project name.

(vii) Location of the Project and the applicable service area using a digital shapefile. If the application asserts that the Project or the applicable service area is within a SUTA eligible area, it must describe how such location, or such applicable service area, is a SUTA covered area as provided in 7 CFR 1700.105.

(viii) A statement as to whether the applicant seeks a System Award, Project Award, PPA Award, Capital Improvements or Acquisitions Grant Award, or combination thereof.

(ix) Identify the value of its net assets and specify if the Eligible Entity has ever been placed in receivership, court mandated liquidation, under a workout agreement, or has declared bankruptcy or has had a decree or order issued for relief in any bankruptcy, insolvency, or other similar action.

(A) If the Eligible Entity is a current RUS borrower, the Eligible Entity must not be in default and must be current on any of its obligations to RUS.

(B) The Eligible Entity must submit a copy of its audited balance sheet and income statements for the last three years.

(C) If applicable, the Eligible Entity must provide balance sheet and income statements for the last three years of the entity or entities providing equity or security for the Award together with an explanation of the legal relationship among the legal entities.

(D) If the Eligible Entity is a wholly or jointly owned subsidiary of an electric cooperative, the Eligible Entity must provide a balance sheet and income statement of each of its members.

(2) Identify the type and amount of financial assistance described in Section 2.0 it will seek in its application if it receives an Invitation to Proceed. If the Eligible Entity intends to seek a combination of the types of financial assistance listed in Section 2.0, it must state the amount it intends to seek for each type of financial assistance.

(3) Disclose if any foreign entity or foreign person has an ownership interest, voting interest, management rights, or an equity interest in the Eligible Entity or any rights in the proposed project(s).
(4) Estimate the proposed Section 22004 Reduction from the Portfolio of Actions as provided in Section 1.4. of this Notice.
(5) Provide a technical description of the Project(s) it intends to finance if it receives an Award. The technical description must include the following:
    (i) A description of other actions related to the Projects that will allow the Eligible Entity to provide Section 22004 Reductions.
    (ii) The description of the Portfolio of Actions shall not exceed 1,500 words, and it must include a summary of the technical aspects of the various actions that will allow RUS to measure the Section 22004 Reductions resulting from the Portfolio of Actions.
    (iii) The Eligible Entity must provide calculations using the New Clean Power Tool or submission of comparable data. Use of other methods by Eligible Entities may impact the Agency's timeline for review of the application. Eligible Entities that choose to use other methods will need to demonstrate that their method provides comparable information for the Agency to adequately estimate Section 22004 Reductions stemming from its proposed Portfolio of Actions.
    (iv) The Eligible Entity must also provide sufficient detail for RUS to determine that the Portfolio of Actions uses Commercially Available Technology, satisfies the technical requirements for this program, and is consistent with industry standards and prudent utility practices.
    (v) An Eligible Energy award which includes lineal transmission elements will be scored on the basis of the combined impact of power supply and transmission investments.
    (vi) Fully integrated storage technologies may be included in eligible transmission projects provided they provide a measurable project or consumer benefit.

Note: RUS reserves the right to ask Eligible Entities to clarify information on, or additional information related to, the LOI.

(d) **Phase 2 – Application Submission.** Upon receiving an Invitation to Proceed, the Applicant must submit its application package within ninety (90) calendar days of receipt of such invitation. Regardless of the type of Award sought, the Applicant's application package must contain the applicable information and documents required in 7 CFR part 1710, Subpart D as well as the following information and documentation as applicable based upon the Portfolio of Actions and types of Award sought in the Application:
(1) *Cover Letter*. A signed cover letter from the Applicant's general manager or highest-ranking officer requesting an Award under this NOFO and including a brief executive summary.
(2) *Articles* of incorporation and bylaws or other applicable governing and organizational documents. The Applicant must provide its articles of incorporation or other applicable organizational documents currently in effect, as filed with the appropriate state office, setting forth its corporate purpose, and the bylaws or other governing documents currently in effect, as adopted by its governing body. Applicants that are active RUS borrowers may comply with this

requirement by notifying RUS, in writing, that there are no material changes to the documents already on file with RUS.

(3) *Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements*. If the Applicant has not received written notice from RUS that the Project environmental review process is concluded as provided in the Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements, it must submit documents that establish that a review is in progress and no ground disturbance activities have started prior to receiving notice that the Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements have been completed. This requirement requires the Applicant to include a certification that construction has not started and that it will not start prior to obtaining written notice from RUS. The Applicant must further state the type of environmental review document it believes needs to be prepared in accordance with Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements. The Applicant must provide a description of any potential environmental controversy or extraordinary circumstances, and the estimated timelines for completing the environmental process. Applicants are strongly advised that commencing construction prior to environmental or historic preservation clearance could make a Project ineligible for RUS financing.

(4) *Financial Forecast*. In order to demonstrate that the Award is feasible as required, or in the case of grants, consistent with 7 CFR 1710.112, the Applicant must submit a financial forecast for any award. For System Awards, the financial forecast must cover at least 10 years from the commercial operating date of the Project to be financed, and it must demonstrate that the Applicant's operation is economically viable and that the proposed loan is financially feasible. For Project Awards, the financial forecast must cover the length of the proposed term of the loan. For PPA Grant Awards, the financial forecast must cover at least 10 years. For Capital Improvements or Acquisitions Grant Awards the financial forecast must cover at least 10 years. When the Applicant is seeking a combination of awards the financial forecast must cover the longest length provided above for the applicable award types. RUS may request projections for a longer period of time or additional information if RUS deems it necessary based on the financial structure of the Applicant and necessary to make a determination with respect to Financial Feasibility.

RUS will provide the Applicant with the specific information and data that must be included in the financial forecast in the Invitation to Proceed.

(5) *Ratepayer Benefit*. The Award must provide demonstrable benefits to the Applicant's members located in the service area. The Agency may also request additional ratepayer information over the course of the program.

(6) *Net Present Value of Benefit*. If the Applicant seeks a PPA Award, a net present value calculation will be performed on each PPAB to estimate the value of the Award by analyzing the stream of payments to be made by reimbursing up to 25% of the PPAB payments in the case of a PPA Grant Award or 100% of the PPAB payments in the case of a PPA Loan Award made by the Applicant over the shorter of the life of the PPAB or twenty years. The Administrator uses the NPV, in part, to determine the size of the obligation, subject to the availability of funds, and the

Awardee's ranking and scoring. In no case will the NPV or other components of an award cause the award to exceed the value of the Award.

(7) *Power Purchase Agreement—Seller (PPA)*. If the Applicant proposes to sell the energy generated from the Project to an Off-taker, the Applicant must provide an executed copy of the PPAS with the Off-taker. If the Applicant is unable to execute a final PPAS with the Off-taker prior to submitting its application, it must submit a draft of the PPAS with its application and then submit the executed copy of the PPAS when it is executed. RUS will not approve an ARC Application that proposes to sell the energy to an Off-taker unless and until the Applicant submits an executed PPAS with the Off-taker and RUS approves such PPAS.

Further, if the Applicant proposes to sell power generated from the Project to an Off-taker under a PPAS, the Applicant must provide a draft copy of the PPAS with the Application, which must include two different rate schedules; one for the case without the provision of the Award and the other for the case with the provision of the Award. Because the PPAS is essentially the mechanism by which consumers will benefit from the ARC Program, all draft PPAS must be approved by RUS prior to being executed. RUS approval of the ARC Application is predicated upon an executed PPA that has been approved by the Agency.

(8) *Power Purchase Agreement—Buyer (PPAB)*. If the Applicant proposes to buy Eligible Energy, the Applicant must provide an executed copy of the PPAB with the Seller. If the Applicant is unable to execute a final PPAB for Eligible Energy with the Seller prior to submitting its application, it must submit a draft of the PPA with its application and then submit the executed copy of the PPA when it is executed. The Agency reserves the right to structure reimbursements for PPA Awards in a manner that is consistent with the program's statutory requirements and prudent risk management, including disbursing funds into a restricted depository account.

Because the PPA is essentially the mechanism by which consumers will benefit from the ARC Program, all draft PPAs must be approved by RUS prior to being executed. RUS approval of the ARC Application is predicated upon an executed PPA that has been approved by the Agency.

(9) *Power Resources Owned, Co-owned or Leased*. If applicable, provide a discussion or table of the existing power resources available to the Applicant that includes generation facilities owned, co-owned or leased. The information provided should include: name of plant and unit; ownership interest (%); type of unit and fuel used; net peak capacity; and in-service date.

(10) *Power Purchase Contracts*. If applicable, provide a discussion of the Applicant's power purchase contracts (with terms greater than two years) that describes the capacity and energy resources purchased. The information should include: type of contract (take-or pay, unit power purchase, parties to the contract, amount (capacity and energy); and term and expiration date.

(11) *Power Sales Contracts*. If applicable, a description of any existing power supply arrangements, such as wholesale power contracts, between an Off-taker and its members including the type of agreements (e.g., all or partial requirements), the initial execution dates, and the dates the agreements expire. The Applicant must provide copies of the agreements if requested by the Agency.

(12) *Engineering Report*. A signed, final engineering report or final engineering and power cost study must be provided with the ARC Application or soon thereafter. The report must describe as necessary the purpose, design, costs, construction, and operation of the Project(s). A draft

engineering report must be submitted for RUS approval prior to it being finalized and signed. RUS approval of the engineering report is required prior to the obligation of an Award; however, the Awardee may amend the engineering report with RUS' written approval after obligation. The finalized engineering report must be signed or approved by licensed professional engineer.

(13) *Project Contracting*. The Applicant must provide a list of all engineering, procurement, and construction contracts it intends to use on the Project(s), with a brief description and cost estimate of each contract. At the Agency's discretion, any contracts selected by the Agency for review and approval must be submitted within the period–of-time requested by the Agency. In no event will Award funds be obligated prior to RUS approval and any necessary applicable government approval of the selected Project contracts.

(14) *Interconnection Agreements*. Agreements required to interconnect must be included with the application. If the Applicant is unable to submit the necessary interconnection agreement prior to submitting its ARC Application, it must submit a draft of the interconnection agreement with its application and then submit the executed copy of the interconnection agreement when it is executed. RUS must approve any interconnection agreement before an Award is obligated.

(15) *System Impact Studies*. The status and summary of any related System Impact Studies, as they may relate to the interconnection of the Project with a distribution or transmission network, must be provided with the application. System Impact Studies must be conducted, as applicable, to include load flow studies, short circuit analysis, system stability analysis, and conclusions (e.g., identify voltage, overload, stability problems and proposed actions or contingencies; single contingency analysis of proposed facilities; transmission constraints; and system improvements needed). The nature of any required system upgrades and associated costs to be incurred by the Awardee, Off-taker or other entity must be identified. The Agency may request a copy of any System Impact Studies or links to review such studies. The Agency will not obligate an Award until the Applicant submits the System Impact Study.

(16) *Transmission Service Agreement*. Transmission Service Agreements required to export, transmit or deliver the power from the Project to the Off-taker must be included with the application. These agreements must receive Agency approval, and the Agency will not obligate an Award until it has approved all necessary Transmission Service Agreements.

(17) *Other Major Agreements*. The Applicant must provide a list and a brief description of all other major agreements that will need to be executed for the Project. Such agreements, if applicable, include, but are not limited to operations and maintenance arrangements, joint ownership arrangements, fuel management, and fuel supply and transportation. Agreements selected for approval by the Agency should be submitted within the period of time requested by the Agency. RUS will not approve the ARC Application until all agreements requested for review have been approved by the Agency.

(18) *Sources and Uses of Water*. The Applicant must identify the uses and source of water for the Project and provide evidence that the water supply will be adequate to meet both daily requirements and for the life of the Project. If requested by the Agency, (1) the Applicant must provide copies of any agreements or arrangements that would be used to purchase or receive water used and consumed by the Project; and/or (2) the applicable water balance diagram of the facilities must be provided.

(19) *Technical and Financial Description*. The technical and financial description of the Portfolio of Actions shall not exceed 1,500 words per Project proposed in the ARC Application and must include the following:

(i) Description of each Project being requested for financing, including Project name, location, type, size, Eligible Energy generated or energy saved.

(ii) For each Project, submit an updated or revised digital shapefile of the proposed service area if such service area has changed from that contained in the digital shapefile submitted with the LOI.

(iii) For each Project, indicate the estimated dates to start construction and to achieve commercial operation.

(iv) Verification that the Project(s) will be designed, constructed and operated based on proven Commercially Available Technology.

(v) The estimated total capital cost of each Project and the amount of Award funds being requested to finance each Project.

(20) *Real Estate Agreements*. If the Applicant is leasing the real estate upon which it will build and operate the Project, the Applicant must submit an executed copy of the lease agreement with the application. The lease agreement must have a provision that allows the Applicant to collaterally assign the lease to RUS as security for the loan. Further, to the extent that the lessor under any lease with the Applicant has executed a mortgage or deed of trust on the real estate in question, necessary parties, as determined by RUS, must execute attornment and non-disturbance agreements that will allow the Applicant to continue to lease the real property in question and operate the Project in the event of the lessor's default under the mortgage or deed of trust. RUS will not obligate an Award until the Applicant submits all applicable Real Estate Agreements.

(21) *Award Type*. The Applicant must specify what type of Award (loan only, grant only, and/or loan/grant combination) it is seeking. If the Applicant is seeking more than one type of Award, it must clearly state the type of Award it is seeking for each Project and the amount of each type of Award. Applicants may only have one application and must opt for (i) an Eligible Energy Award (which includes PPA Awards), or (ii) a Transmission Energy Efficiency Improvements Award. Transmission improvements which are an integral part of an Eligible Energy Award will be considered and scored as an Eligible Energy Award taking both components into account.

(22) *Non-RUS Fund*s. The Applicant must identify the source of any non-RUS funds that it intends to utilize to finance the cost of the proposed Project in its application.

(23) *Tribal Government Resolution of Consent*. For each Project that will be sited on Tribal Lands where a Federally Recognized Tribe has regulatory authority and for each Project whose service area includes Tribal Lands where a Federally Recognized Tribe has regulatory authority, certification from the appropriate Tribal official that it consents to or has no objection to the Project is required. The appropriate certification is a Tribal Government Resolution of Consent. The appropriate Tribal official is the Tribal Council of the Federally Recognized Tribe(s) with regulatory jurisdiction over the Tribal Lands at issue. Any Applicant that fails to provide a certification to provide service on the Tribal Lands identified in the application will not be

considered for funding with respect to the infrastructure proposed to be constructed on Tribal Lands.

(24) *Eligible Costs*. The Applicant must include in its ARC application a breakdown of the estimated eligible costs listed in Section 3.3(a) for which it intends to seek reimbursement.

(25) *Wage Rate Requirements*. As provided in 7 U.S.C. 8103(f), as a condition of receiving a, grant for construction or loan-grant combo for construction under the ARC program, an Eligible Entity shall ensure that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction work financed, in whole or in part, with the grant or loan-grant combo shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with 40 U.S.C. 3141 through 3144, 3146, and 3147.

(26) *Additional Information*. RUS reserves the right to require the Applicant to provide additional information or documentation in support of its application.

Note: Letters of Interest and ARC Applications must be submitted in accordance with the instructions provided in this NOFO.

4.3 Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

(a) At the time of application, each applicant must have an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting its application in accordance with 2 CFR part 25. In order to register in SAM, entities will be required to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Instructions for obtaining the UEI are available at https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration.

(b) Each applicant must maintain an active SAM registration, with current, accurate and complete information, at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

(c) Each applicant must ensure they complete the Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations in SAM.

(d) Each applicant must provide a valid UEI in its application, unless determined exempt under 2 CFR 25.110.

(e) The Agency will not make an award until the applicant has complied with all SAM requirements including providing the UEI. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the Agency is ready to make an award, the Agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

4.4 Submission Dates and Times

(a) Letters of Interest can be submitted beginning at 11:59 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) on October 19, 2026, and until 11:59 a.m. ET on November 20, 2026. Letters of Interest will not be accepted after 11:59 a.m. ET on November 20, 2026.

(b) Eligible Entities that receive a written invitation to submit a full ARC Application will have ninety calendar (90) days from the date RUS sends the invitation to submit such a full ARC Application. RUS reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to extend the ninety (90) day deadline upon the written request of the Applicant if the Applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Administrator that exceptional circumstances exist to warrant the extension.

(c) RUS also reserves the right to ask Applicants for clarifying information and additional verification of assertions in the LOI and ARC Application.

4.5 Intergovernmental Review

Executive Order (EO) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," is not required for this Program.

4.6 Funding Limitations

(a) Projects that already receive support from the PACE or New ERA Programs for construction will not be eligible for support for the direct purchase of power produced by that same supported Project.

(b) The Agency will only finance Commercially Available Technologies.

(c) RUS will not provide construction funding under this NOFO for any Project if construction of the Project commenced before the publication of this NOFO nor will RUS provide PPA Award for a PPA that is currently in effect at the time of publication. The agency will consider funding extensions of an existing PPA where an extension option has not already been exercised and can contribute to scoring.

(d) Funding limitations found in the program regulation at 7 CFR part 1710 will generally apply to all awards.

(e) Maximum Award Amounts are governed by Section 2.0 of this Notice.

4.7 Other Submission Requirements

The Administrator shall have the authority and sole discretion, to: shift funding between Category I and Category II Applicants, offer financing in different amounts or on different terms than what the Applicant proposes in its application, reject any application or any Project in an application regardless of RUS' evaluation of the Project that the Administrator determines is not eligible, feasible, securable, or executable within the timeframe of the Award, add additional funding to this competition if such funding becomes available, and make an offer that references funding from other RUS programs separate from an ARC Award.

(a) The Agency will accept LOIs through grants.gov as opened on October 19, 2026, unless otherwise indicated by the Agency.

(b) By submitting the LOI, the Eligible Entity certifies to RUS that it has the intent and ability to submit a complete ARC Application within ninety (90) calendar days of RUS emailing an Invitation to Proceed should RUS provide such Invitation to Proceed.

(c) An Applicant's receipt of an invitation to submit a full ARC Application is not a guaranty that the Applicant will receive an Award or that Awards will be offered on the same terms as the Applicant sought.

(d) The Agency will accept only one ARC Application per Applicant. The Agency will not accept consolidated LOIs and ARC applications from groups of Eligible Entities.

(e) For purposes of this NOFO, an electric cooperative and any subsidiary in which it holds a majority ownership or voting interest shall be considered one entity for purposes of determining the 25 percent limitation on the grant component of an ARC Award as provided in Section 22004 of the IRA. The Agency will only accept one LOI and ARC Application from one entity as described in this Section 4.7(e).

5.0 APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

5.1 Criteria

(a) *Letters of Interest*. Applicants must submit an LOI that contains the information required in Phase 1 of Section 4.2(c) of this Notice. The LOIs will be used to score projects and invite a pool of finalists to submit final applications that advance the purposes of the ARC Program.

RUS will review and evaluate the LOIs to determine if they are eligible, competitive and within the funding limits and policy objectives of the ARC Program. RUS will evaluate the LOIs based on the criteria listed in Section 3.1 and Phase 1 of Section 4.2(c). Thus, Eligible Entities are encouraged to consider the criteria in Sections 3.1, 4.2(d), and this Section 5.1 when preparing their LOI's. Letters of Interest in which the technical description of the Project(s) exceed 1,500 words may be disregarded.

Once RUS has reviewed and evaluated the LOIs, Eligible Entities will be informed if they are invited to submit an ARC Application. Eligible Entities that receive an Invitation to Proceed will have ninety (90) calendar days from when the date of the Invitation to Proceed is sent to submit an ARC Application to RUS. In the Invitation to Proceed, the Agency reserves the right to: (a) suggest modifications to the proposal outlined in the LOI; (b) negotiate a final package of assistance with each Eligible Entity; and (c) update an Applicant's evaluation based on the full application proposal submitted. Each Eligible Entity that receives an Invitation to Proceed will have a General Field Representative (GFR) assigned to it. An Invitation to Proceed does not constitute an offer by the Agency, nor does it constitute approval of the Applicant's ARC Application.

(b) *ARC Application*. RUS will review each ARC Application, regardless of whether the ARC Application is for a grant or loan, based upon: (i) RUS' general underwriting requirements contained in 7 CFR part 1710, Subpart D; and (ii) the Applicant's Portfolio of Actions using the selection criteria identified in Section 5.2. Each of the metrics in the criteria below will be generated by the New Clean Power Tool or other methods acceptable to RUS as described in Section 1.4 and Phase I of Section 4.2(c).

5.2 Scoring

Scoring and ranking of projects will be conducted as follows:

Category I: For Eligible Energy Awards, project ranking will be based on the estimated increase in MWh eligible nuclear power supply and the cost per MWh as well as the corresponding reduction as measured by the New Clean Power Tool. Both the estimated total cost of the project(s) and the anticipated cost to government will be evaluated and factored into the ranking. For power purchase arrangements or equivalent, the estimated cost of the project(s) will be based on the anticipated cost schedule for the term of the arrangement. For the construction of generation facilities and improvements to existing facilities, the estimated cost will be based on the estimated total capitalized cost. Cost estimates shall be inclusive of all expenses associated with the project(s) and modeled using assumptions and methods deemed acceptable by RUS.

Applicants must submit the anticipated annual MWh provided by the proposed project(s) through the anticipated life of the project(s). The average annual energy supplied by the project(s) and the anticipated lifetime energy supplied by the project(s) will be evaluated and factored into the ranking. The anticipated energy supplied by the project(s) must be modeled through means found acceptable by RUS. The Applicant will be expected to justify assumptions utilized in their projections and provide supporting documentation on any modeling software used when requested by RUS.

Category II: For Transmission Energy Efficiency Improvement Awards, project ranking will be based on the estimated system loss reduction and the cost per MWh of system loss reduction attributable to the project(s). The anticipated system loss reductions attributable to the project(s) must be modeled through means found acceptable by RUS. The Applicant will be expected to justify assumptions utilized in their projections and provide supporting documentation on any modeling software used when requested by RUS.

Scoring for Category I or Category II are based upon the total amounts of MWh generated or saved. In the case of Eligible Energy awards with transmission components, the total amounts of MWh generated and saved will be combined into a total score. Ranking will also take into account the statutory requirements of long-term affordability, reliability, and resiliency.

Applicants will submit estimates of the cost, energy supplied by the project(s), and system losses reductions attributable to the proposed project(s) through the New Clean Power Tool provided by RUS. Alternative projections and modeling methods may be considered and accepted at the discretion of RUS.

Review and Selection Process:
RUS will acknowledge the receipt of LOIs and ARC Applications via an email to the Applicant. After receipt of LOIs and ARC Applications, RUS will take the following actions:

(a) Incomplete LOIs and applications or ineligible applications as of the deadline for submission will not be considered further, and the Applicant will be notified in writing.

(b) Letters of Interest and ARC Applications will be reviewed for completeness and ranked based on the scoring criteria in this Section 5.2 above, Section 2.0, and the eligibility factors in Section 3.1 and can be completed within the Performance Period. In addition, Invitations to Proceed will only be sent to those LOI submitters who have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Administrator financial and technical feasibility and the ability to provide reasonably adequate security for the loan or grant Award

(c) Applicants with complete applications will be placed into one of two categories.

(1) Category I: Eligible Energy.

(2) Category II: Transmission Energy Efficiency Improvements.

(d) Applicants will then compete for Awards within their category and based on the scoring and ranking of their Portfolio of Actions as described above, Section 2.0, and the eligibility factors in Section 3.1.

RUS expects to utilize 50 percent of the funds made available under this Notice for Category I and 50 percent of the funds made available for Category II.

(e) RUS will not approve a specific request for financial assistance if RUS determines that the requested financial assistance imposes an undue risk to RUS' loan portfolio in general.

(f) For the purposes of this NOFO, the Agency will apply the SUTA provisions of Section 306F of the RE Act as it would to a program contained in Section 306F(a)(1).

6.0 FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

6.1 Federal Award Notices

(a) Applicants will be notified of their application status as follows:

(1) Applicants not selected for funding will be notified in writing.

(2) Successful Applicants will receive a Commitment Letter from the Administrator specifying: (i) The total amount of the Award approved by RUS; and (ii) Any additional controls on its financial, investment, operational and managerial activities; acceptable security arrangements; and such other conditions deemed necessary by the Administrator to adequately secure the Government's interest and ensure repayment. After receipt of the acceptance of the Award from the Awardee, when notified by RUS, the Awardee will prepare Award Documents that substantially conform with the Commitment Letter for execution, and the Administrator and Awardee may further negotiate the terms of such documents and such conformity. The Awardee will be expected to prepare the Award Documents using forms that substantially conform to template award documents that RUS will share with the Awardee.

(i) The Administrator anticipates that grant Awards may incorporate any applicable provisions of 2 CFR part 200, including 2 CFR part 200, subpart D Property Standards (§§ 200.310 – 200.316), subpart E, 2 CFR §§ 200.0 (as applicable), 200.1 (as applicable), 200.101(a)(2), 200.112, 200.113, 200.300, 200.301, 200.302, 200.303, 200.328, 200.329, 200.334, 200.335, 200.336, 200.337, 200.338, 200.339, 200.340, 200.341, 200.343, 200.344, 200.345, 200.346, 2 CFR part 400 (as applicable), and in the case of earned interest (to include any income on the Pledged New ERA Account), 2 CFR § 200.305(b)(12) (and no other parts of 2 CFR § 200.305) in addition to the provisions of 2 CFR part 200 that have been incorporated into this NOFO. All Award Agreements will also be subject to applicable provisions of 7 CFR parts 1700, 1710 through 1730, 1767, 1773, and 1787, 1789, 1792 (https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-XVII) , as such regulations exist at the date of this Agreement and as such regulations may be amended, supplemented, or replaced from time to time, and all rules and bulletins related to such regulations, as applicable and as published by RUS from time to time, as well as the rules and regulations of other federal entities which RUS is required by law to implement including, as applicable, 2 CFR parts 25, 170, 175, 180, 182, 415, 417, 418, 421, and 423, 3 CFR part 102, 7 CFR parts 1b, 15, and 15b, 36 CFR part 800, 43 CFR part 10, 45 CFR part 90, 48 CFR part 31, 49 CFR part 24, 50 CFR part 402, and the rules, regulations, and procedures authorized and governed by the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 and related Office of Management and Budget memoranda and circulars.

(ii) Receipt of a Commitment Letter from the Administrator does not authorize the Awardee to commence performance under the Award. All RUS requirements and Award conditions specified in the Commitment Letter must be met before loan or grant funds will be disbursed. Applicants may not commence construction on any Project until RUS provides the Applicant with written environmental clearance of the Projects as provided in the Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements). RUS will notify the Awardee when it is authorized to commence performance using ARC funds.

(b) Funding Disbursements and Restriction. The Agency will use all tools at its disposal to obligate funds in a timely manner. RUS will disburse funds to the Awardee in accordance with the terms of the executed Award Documents, this NOFO, and the applicable provisions of 7 CFR subtitle B chapter XVII described in Section 6.1(a)(2)(i).

(1) Award funds will generally be disbursed as a reimbursement for Eligible Award Costs. The Agency reserves the right to structure payments in a manner consistent with statutory and regulatory requirements and/or require the use of restricted depository accounts to meet statutory requirements and risk mitigation. The Agency reserves the right to claw back funds when award terms are not met or unused.

(2) The executed Award Agreement will contain a provision stating that no Award funds will be advanced after September 30, 2031. The Agency will set a last day for advance in the Award Agreements well in advance of this statutory limit. All undisbursed funds as of close of business on September 30, 2031, will automatically be rescinded. For PPA Awards, the Agency reserves the right to use restricted depository accounts to meet the September 30, 2031, disbursement deadline for funded projects.

(3) Unless stated otherwise in the NOFO or in the applicable Award Agreement, RUS will advance grant funds upon the Awardee's completion and testing of the Project to the satisfaction of RUS as provided in Section 2.0 of this NOFO and the reporting of such testing to RUS. For PPA Awards, the agency will initially advance funds upon the Awardees' submission of a reimbursement request and supporting documents for reimbursement of PPA installments made by the Awardee. The Agency anticipates disbursing funds to Awardees to deposit into a restricted depository account to pay for PPA installments occurring after September 30, 2031.

(4) The Administrator may condition any advance on the Awardee meeting specific requirements prior to making any advance on an Award.

(5) The Awardee is encouraged to display USDA standard infrastructure investment signage, available for download from the Agency, during construction of the Project. Expenditures for such signage shall be a permitted eligible cost of the Project.

(c) Award term.

(1) Awards other than PPA Awards will be for a term not to exceed the lesser of:

(i) The expected useful life of the Project;

(ii) The term of the PPAS (if required for execution between the Awardee and the Off-taker);

(iii) The term of the lease for the land that the Project will occupy (if such land is not owned by the Awardee);

(iv) The expiration dates of power supply arrangements where the Awardee is the seller between the Awardee and its members should the Awardee provide the power supply needs of the members under such power supply arrangements; or

(v) 35 years.

(2) PPA Loan Awards may have a maximum term of 35 years provided such arrangement is financially feasible.

(3) PPA Grant Awards will have a maximum term of 20 years.

(4) Capital Improvement or Acquisitions Grant Awards, if secured as a Project or System Award will be for a term described in Section 6.1(c)(1), or if based upon the property standards found within 2 CFR part 200 subpart D and subject to the Administrator's authority in 7 U.S.C. 1981(b)(4), will be for a term as provided for within the Award Documents.

(d) Interest rate. Loans made under the ARC Program will bear interest per annum at the percentages specified in Section 2.0 of this NOFO.

(e) Repayment. The repayment of each advance on a loan to the Awardee must be fully amortized over the remaining term of the loan as determined in Section 6.1(c). The amortization will be premised upon equal monthly debt service payments over the term of the loan portion of the Award. Further, unless otherwise provided in the NOFO, the provisions of 7 CFR parts 1710 and 1714 applicable to direct loans, shall apply to any Award.

(f) Prepayment. An Awardee may prepay the loan component of an Award, at par, at any time. All other terms under the Award Documents will continue for any remaining portion of the Award. If ARC awards are combined with Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) financing or other RUS financing, the prepayment rules for the RE Act or other RD funding shall control for that portion of the financing package.

(g) Financial ratios. The requirements for coverage ratios will be set forth in the Commitment Letter and the Awardee's Award Documents with RUS. The minimum coverage ratios required of the Awardee, whether applied on an annual or average basis, will be determined by the Administrator on a case-by-case basis based on the risk profile of the Awardee and specific loan features. Existing RUS borrowers will be subject to their current financial coverage ratios contained in the applicable loan agreements or indentures unless otherwise determined by the Administrator. When new Award Documents are executed, the Administrator may, on a case-by-case basis, increase the coverage ratio of the Awardee if the Administrator determines that higher ratios are required to ensure the repayment of a loan made by RUS. Also, the Administrator may, on a case-by-case basis, reduce the coverage ratios if the Administrator determines that the lower ratios are required to ensure the repayment of the loan made by RUS.

(h) Equity requirements. As noted in Section 2.0, RUS will require the Awardee to provide at least 25 percent equity in the Project for a Project Award. For System Awards, the Administrator may, in the Administrator's sole discretion, deem it acceptable to loan the full cost of the Project. The required equity position will be determined by the Administrator on a case-by-case basis and will be set forth in the Commitment Letter and the Award documents as a condition to the Award. As noted above, RUS may consider allowing the Awardee to meet the equity requirements by utilizing any grant component of the Award or any other grant, if permitted under applicable authorities. Further, RUS may consider allowing the Awardee to meet the equity requirement by utilizing any applicable investment tax credit or an elective direct payment in lieu of the investment tax credit relating to the Project as permitted in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and its implementing regulations. In each case, RUS must find that such uses of the tax benefits relating to the Project are financially feasible. If the Award is grant only because the Awardee is financing the portion of the cost of the Project not covered by the grant solely from a non-RUS source, the Administrator may consider waiving the equity requirement.

(i) Opinion of counsel. An opinion of counsel is required at closing and must be acceptable to the Administrator, opining that the Awardee is properly organized and has the required corporate authority to enter into the proposed transaction. It must also identify the proposed collateral to secure the Award and certify that such collateral is free of liens or identify any issues that may arise for the Government regarding the securing and perfecting of a first and prior lien on such property comprising the collateral.

(j) The Award Documents. After the Awardee has prepared the documents as described in Section 6.1(a)(2) and the Administrator has approved of the form and content of the Award Documents, the Award Documents will be executed in a manner consistent with instructions provided by the Agency.

(k) Award term and conditions. The Administrator will negotiate the terms and conditions of Award Documents with Awardees in a manner that is substantially consistent with the terms of this NOFO, the Commitment Letter, and in the best interests of the Government. Such negotiations will further focus upon the Administrator's determination that the loan component of any Award will be repaid in the designated time period, that any grant purposes will be met, that the award is adequately secured, and require such other assurances for performance that the Administrator determines necessary are reasonably adequate. Further, the Administrator may exercise the full scope of his or her statutory authority, including as provided in 7 U.S.C. 1981(b)(4), in the development, implementation, or servicing of any Award Document.

(l) Reporting and Monitoring. All Awards will have reporting and monitoring requirements as provided in Section 6.3.

6.2 Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The items listed in this Notice implement the appropriate administrative and national policy requirements, which include but are not limited to:

(a) Execution of an Award Agreement and related Award Documents;

(b) Compliance with applicable Federal statutes and regulations to include 7 U.S.C 8103 and the Federal statutes and regulations as provided in Section 6.1(a)(2)(i).

6.3 Reporting

(a) *Performance Reporting*. RUS will establish periodic reporting requirements. These will be enumerated in the Award Documents.

(b) *Accounting Requirements*. For all awards, RUS accounting requirements include compliance with Accounting Principles Generally Accepted in the United States (GAAP), as well as compliance with the requirements of the applicable regulations: 2 CFR part 200 subpart E, 48 CFR 31, and the system of accounting prescribed in 7 CFR part 1767. The Administrator may modify the accounting requirements if it is deemed necessary to satisfy the purpose of the statute.

(c) Audit Requirements. Awardees shall provide RUS with an audit within 120 days after the as of audit date in accordance with 7 CFR part 1773. Note that with respect to advances that contain loan funds, the audit is required after an advance has been made, and, thereafter, from the close of each subsequent fiscal year until the loan is repaid in full. With respect to advances that only contain grant funds, the audit is required after an advance has been made, and, thereafter, from the close of each subsequent fiscal year until all grant funds have been advanced or rescinded and all financial compliance requirements have been fully satisfied. While an audit is required, Awardees must also submit a report on compliance and internal controls over financial reporting, as well as a report on compliance with aspects of contractual agreements and regulatory requirements.

(d) Monitoring. Awardees must comply with all reasonable RUS requests to support ongoing monitoring efforts including monitoring an Awardee's construction progress and progress towards achieving project related metrics consistent with project scoring. The Awardee must afford RUS, through their representatives, a reasonable opportunity, at all times during business hours and upon prior notice, to have access to and the right to inspect any or all books, records, accounts, invoices, contracts, leases, payrolls, timesheets, cancelled checks, statements, and other documents, electronic or paper of every kind belonging to or in possession of the Awardee or in any way pertaining to its property or business, including its parents, affiliates, and subsidiaries, if any, and to make copies or extracts therefrom. Failure to comply with reasonable RUS requests could result in a termination of the Award Agreement.

7.0 FEDERAL AWARD AGENCY CONTACTS

Christopher McLean, Assistant Administrator, Electric Program, Rural Utilities Service, Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 1560, Washington, DC 20250-1560; Telephone: 202-690-4492. Email to: SM.RD.RUS.ARC-Questions@usda.gov.

8.0 OTHER INFORMATION

8.1 Buy America Requirements

All Awardees shall be governed by the Agency's Buy American requirement at 7 CFR part 1787. Any requests for waiver of these requirements must be submitted pursuant to those regulations.

8.2 Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the information collection requirements associated with the program, as covered in this notice, have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0572-0158.

8.3 National Environmental Policy Act

All recipients under this notice are subject to the requirements of 7 CFR 1b.

8.4 Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act

All Applicants, in accordance with 2 CFR part 25, must be registered in SAM and have a UEI number as stated in Section 4.3 of this notice. All recipients of Federal financial assistance are required to report information about first-tier sub-awards and executive total compensation in accordance with 2 CFR part 170.

8.5 Civil Rights Act

All loans and grants made under this Notice are subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as required by the USDA (7 CFR Part 15, Subpart A-- Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Agriculture - Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Title IX, and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974.

8.6 Equal Opportunity for Religious Organizations

(a) Faith-based organizations may apply for this award on the same basis as any other organization, as set forth at, and subject to the protections and requirements of, this part and any applicable constitutional and statutory requirements, including 42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq. USDA will not, in the selection of recipients, discriminate for or against an organization on the basis of the organization's religious character, motives, or affiliation, or lack thereof, or on the basis of conduct that would not be considered grounds to favor or disfavor a similarly situated secular organization.

(b) A faith-based organization that participates in this program will retain its independence from the Government and may continue to carry out its mission consistent with religious freedom and conscience protections in Federal law. Religious accommodations may also be sought under many of these religious freedom and conscience protection laws.

(c) A faith-based organization may not use direct Federal financial assistance from USDA to support or engage in any explicitly religious activities except when consistent with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and any other applicable requirements. An organization receiving Federal financial assistance also may not, in providing services funded by USDA, or in their outreach activities related to such services, discriminate against a program beneficiary or prospective program beneficiary on the basis of religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to attend or participate in a religious practice.

8.7 Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights laws and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Mission Areas, agencies, staff offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or 711 Relay Service (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-assistant-secretary-civil-rights/how-file-program-discrimination-complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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