

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****National Institute of Food and Agriculture****Notice of Intent To Request a New Information Collection**

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, this notice announces the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) intention to request approval for a new information collection titled *Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Funding Agreement Certifications*.

**DATES:** Written comments on this notice must be received by December 5, 2022 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

**Instructions:** All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Martin, 202-445-5388, [Robert.martin3@usda.gov](mailto:Robert.martin3@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Title of Collection:** Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Funding Agreement Certifications.

**Type of Request:** Notice of intent to request a new information collection.

NIFA is requesting approval for a new information collection entitled "Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Funding Agreement Certifications." This information collection includes two forms: a "Funding Agreement Certification" and a "Certification for SBIR Applicants that are Majority-Owned by Multiple Venture Capital Operating Companies, Hedge Fund or Private Equity Firms." NIFA asks all recipients of SBIR grants to submit a Funding Agreement Certification form after NIFA has provided the grantee notification of the award, as well as any other time set forth in the funding agreement. For example, the small business concern (SBC) may be required to update the form to assure continued eligibility and compliance, when changes in the SBC apply. NIFA also asks SBIR applicants that are majority-owned by multiple venture capital operating companies, hedge funds, or

private equity firms to submit an additional certification form prior to submitting an application. These certification statements are for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the small business concern for an SBIR award. NIFA is proposing implementation of these forms to match the guidance provided in the SBA SBIR/STTR Policy Directive effective October 1, 2020.

**Abstract:** The SBIR program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) makes competitively awarded grants to qualified small businesses to support high quality, advanced concepts research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefit if successful.

The objectives of the SBIR Program are to: stimulate technological innovations in the private sector; strengthen the role of small businesses in meeting Federal research and development needs; increase private sector commercialization of innovations derived from USDA-supported research and development efforts; and foster and encourage participation by women-owned and socially and economically disadvantaged small business firms in technological innovations. The USDA SBIR program is carried out in three separate phases:

1. Phase I awards to determine, insofar as possible, the scientific and technical merit and feasibility of ideas that appear to have commercial potential.

2. Phase II awards to further develop work from Phase I that meets particular program needs and exhibits potential for commercial application.

3. Phase III awards where commercial applications of SBIR-funded R(Research)/R&D (Research and Development) are funded by non-Federal sources of capital; or where products, services or further research intended for use by the Federal Government are funded by follow-on non-SBIR Federal Funding Agreements. The USDA SBIR Program is administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) of the USDA. NIFA exercises overall oversight for the policies and procedures governing SBIR grants awarded to the U.S. small business community, representing approximately 2.5% to 2.8% of the USDA extramural R/R&D budget. This represents approximately \$201M in Phase II grants awarded to the U.S. small business community from 1994 to 2014. In 1982, the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grants Program (Pub. L. 97-219, 96 stat. 217), 15 U.S.C. 638, was authorized, and

in 2016, The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Pub. L. 114-328), enacted on December 23, 2016, reauthorized the SBIR and STTR programs through September 30, 2022.

The Funding Agreement Certification form is used by USDA to ensure Small Business Concerns meet specific eligibility requirements for a Small Business Innovation and Research award. The form asks applicants to certify a series of ten statements in order to ensure the grantee is complying with specific program requirements during the life of the funding agreement. If the SBC is majority-owned by venture capital companies, hedge funds, or private equity firms they will be required to fill out an eight-question form in addition to the Funding Agreement Certification. The small business concern may be required to update the Funding Agreement Certification form to assure continued eligibility and compliance when changes in the SBC apply.

**Estimate of Burden:** The forms in this collection are required to be completed for Phase I and Phase II awardees and updated when there is a change in the business regarding the contents of the certification form.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 110.

**Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:** 1.

**Estimated Burden per Response:** 1 hour.

**Estimated Total Burden on Respondents:** 110 hours.

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

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request to OMB for approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

**Obtaining a Copy of the Information Collection:** A copy of the information collection and related instructions may be obtained free of charge by contacting Robert Martin as directed above.

Done at Washington, DC, this day of August 09, 2022.

**Dionne Toombs,**

*Acting Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture.*

[FR Doc. 2022–21558 Filed 10–4–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

[Docket No. RUS–22–Telecom–0010]

### Rural eConnectivity Program, Correction

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; correction.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (the Agency) published a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) in the *Federal Register* of August 4, 2022, entitled Rural eConnectivity Program (ReConnect Program) to announce that it was accepting a second round of applications for fiscal year 2022 (FY 22) utilizing funding provided under the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act. In addition, the FOA defined requirements that are determined at the time a funding announcement is published, as outlined in the regulation. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general inquiries regarding the ReConnect Program, contact Laurel Leverrier, Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), email [laurel.leverrier@usda.gov](mailto:laurel.leverrier@usda.gov), telephone: (202) 720–9554.

For inquiries regarding eligibility concerns, please contact the ReConnect Program Staff at <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect/contact-us>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Correction

In FR Doc. 2022–16694 of August 4, 2022, in FR Doc #2022–16694, (87 FR 47690), the Congressional Review Act section is being updated to amend the date by which application selections will not begin until the date is passed.

On page 47695, in column 3, under Section I.2. the Congressional Review Act section should read as follows:

2. *Congressional Review Act.* Pursuant to Subtitle E of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (also known as the Congressional Review Act or CRA), 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Management and Budget designated this action as a major rule as defined by 5

U.S.C. 804(2), because it is likely to result in an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more. Accordingly, there is a 60-day delay in the effective date of this action. Application selection will not begin until after October 9, 2022. Therefore, the 60-day delay required by the CRA is not expected to have a material impact upon the administration and/or implementation of the ReConnect Program.

**Christopher A. McLean,**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. 2022–21534 Filed 10–4–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–15–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Census Bureau

### Request for Nominations of Members To Serve on the National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations

**AGENCY:** Census Bureau, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The Director of the Census Bureau (Director) is seeking nominations for the National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations (NAC). The purpose of the NAC is to provide advice to the Director on the full range of economic, housing, demographic, socioeconomic, linguistic, technological, methodological, geographic, behavioral and operational variables affecting the cost, accuracy and implementation of Census Bureau programs and surveys, including the decennial census. The Director has determined that the work of the NAC is in the public interest and relevant to the duties of the Census Bureau. Therefore, the Director is seeking nominations to fill vacancies on the NAC. Additional information concerning the NAC can be found by visiting the NAC's website at: <https://www.census.gov/about/cac/sac.html>.

**DATES:** Nominations must be received on or before November 18, 2022. Nominations must contain a completed resume. The Census Bureau will retain nominations received after the deadline for consideration should additional vacancies occur.

**ADDRESSES:** Please submit nominations via email to the address listed below, [census.national.advisory.committee@census.gov](mailto:census.national.advisory.committee@census.gov) (subject line 2022 NAC Nominations”).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shana Banks, Chief, Advisory

Committee Brach, Office of Program, Performance and Stakeholder Integration (PPSI), Census Bureau, by telephone at 301–763–3815 or by email at [Shana.J.Banks@census.gov](mailto:Shana.J.Banks@census.gov). Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), Title 5, United States Code, Appendix 2, Section 10, the Director of the Census Bureau is seeking nominations for the National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations (NAC). The NAC will operate under the provisions of FACA and will report to the Secretary of the Department of Commerce through the Director of the Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau's National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations will advise the Director of the Census Bureau on the full range of Census Bureau programs and activities. The Advisory Committee will provide race, ethnic, and other population expertise from the following disciplines: economic, housing, demographic, socioeconomic, linguistic, technological, methodological, geographic, and behavioral and operational variables affecting the cost, accuracy, and implementation of Census Bureau programs and surveys, including the decennial census.

#### Objectives and Duties

1. The NAC advises the Director of the Census Bureau (the Director) on the full range of economic, housing, demographic, socioeconomic, linguistic, technological, methodological, geographic, behavioral, and operational variables affecting the cost, accuracy, and implementation of Census Bureau programs and surveys, including the decennial census.

2. The NAC advises the Census Bureau on the data needs of underserved communities and how census data products might address such needs.

3. The NAC provides guidance on census policies, research and methodology, tests, operations, communications/messaging, and other activities to ascertain needs and best practices to improve censuses, surveys, operations, and programs.

4. The NAC reviews and provides formal recommendations and feedback on working papers, reports, and other