

maximizing the participation of minority farmers and ranchers in the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and to plan mechanisms for best providing advice to the Secretary on the issues outlined above.

**DATES:** The public portion of the conference call will be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 3:00–3:45 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST).

#### Public Call-In Information

The conference begins at 1:00 p.m. Central Time on June 9, 2021; you may join the conference 10 minutes prior.

*Step 1:* Dial into the conference.

*Dial-in:* 888–251–2949 or 215–861–0694.

*Access Code:* 5416488#.

Need an international dial-in number?

*Step 2:* Join the conference on your computer.

*Entry Link:* <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/838969>.

When you access the entry link above, you will be provided a choice—to install the WebEx plug-in for your preferred browser or to join the web conference using a temporary path. Either option is acceptable.

Need technical assistance?

*Audio Connection:* 1–888–796–6118.

*WebEx Connection:* 1–888–793–6118.

*Public Comments:* Written comments for the Committee's consideration may be submitted to email: [ACMF@usda.gov](mailto:ACMF@usda.gov). Written comments must be received by June 8th, 2021.

*Availability of Materials for the Meeting:* General information about the ACMF as well as any updates concerning the meeting announced in this notice, may be found on the ACMF website at <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/advisory-committee-on-minority-farmers>.

*Accessibility:* USDA is committed to ensuring that all persons are included in our programs and events. If you are a person with a disability and require reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting Please contact Eston Williams at [Eston.Williams@usda.gov](mailto:Eston.Williams@usda.gov) or (202) 596–0226.

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.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

General information about the committee can also be found at <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/advisory-committee-on-minority-farmers>. Any member of the public wishing to obtain

information concerning this public meeting may contact Eston Williams, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), at [Eston.Williams@usda.gov](mailto:Eston.Williams@usda.gov) or at (202) 596–0226.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Background:* The Committee was established in the U.S. Department of Agriculture pursuant to section 14008 of the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110–246, 122 Stat. 1651, 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2279).

The Committee works in the interest of the public to ensure socially disadvantaged farmers have equal access to USDA programs. The Committee advises the Secretary on the implementation of section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990; methods of maximizing the participation of minority farmers and ranchers in U.S. Department of Agriculture programs; and civil rights activities within the Department, as such activities relate to participants in such programs.

Dated: May 25, 2021.

**Cikena Reid,**

*USDA Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2021–11595 Filed 6–1–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3412–88–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Risk Management Agency

#### Notice of Funding Availability; Pandemic Cover Crop Program

**AGENCY:** Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and Risk Management Agency, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notification of funding availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Risk Management Agency (RMA), on behalf of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), is announcing the availability of funding under the Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP) to help agricultural producers impacted by the effects of the COVID–19 outbreak. Given cover crop cultivation requires sustained, long-term investments to improve soil health and gain other agronomic benefits, the economic challenges due to the pandemic made maintaining cover cropping systems financially challenging for many producers. For the 2021 crop year, PCCP premium support is available to eligible producers for eligible insured acres on a spring crop insurance policy on which the producer planted a qualifying cover crop during the 2021 crop year.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Zanon, Senior Underwriter, [david.zanon@usda.gov](mailto:david.zanon@usda.gov), 816–926–6142.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

This notice of funding availability specifies the terms and conditions of PCCP. PCCP provides premium support to eligible producers who planted and reported to Farm Service Agency (FSA) a qualifying cover crop on acreage insured under a spring crop insurance policy during the 2021 crop year. Funds from Division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, (Pub. L. 116–260) will be used for this notice of funding availability.

##### Definitions

*Approved Insurance Provider (AIP)* means a legal entity that has entered into a reinsurance agreement with FCIC for the applicable reinsurance year and is authorized to sell and service policies or plans of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act.

*Crop insurance policy* means an insurance policy reinsured by FCIC under the provisions of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended. It does not include private plans of insurance.

*Crop year* means the period within which the insured crop is normally grown and is designated by the calendar year in which the insured crop is normally harvested.

*Eligible insured acres* means insured acres on which the producer planted a qualifying cover crop during the 2021 crop year, as reported on the CLU(s) to FSA via a completed and signed Form 578-Report of Acreage on or before June 15, 2021, which may be prior to FSA's acreage reporting date, and reported the same CLU(s) on their crop insurance acreage report by the applicable Federal crop insurance acreage reporting date for a 2021 crop year spring crop insurance policy.

*Eligible producer* means a producer meeting all of the eligibility requirements for PCCP.

*FCIC* means the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, a wholly owned Government Corporation of USDA that administers the Federal crop insurance program.

*FSA* means the Farm Service Agency, USDA.

*FSA Common Land Unit (CLU)* means the smallest unit of land that has a permanent, contiguous boundary, common land cover and land management, common owner, and common producer association.

*Insured crop* means a crop for which the participant has purchased a crop insurance policy from an AIP.

*Insured acres* means the participant's share of insurable acreage that is insured in accordance with a crop insurance policy purchased from an AIP.

*PCCP* means Pandemic Cover Crop Program.

*Person* means a person as defined in 7 CFR 457.8(1).

*Qualifying cover crop* means any of the four types of cover crops: (1) Cereals and other grasses; (2) legumes; (3) brassicas; and (4) other non-legume broadleaves, and mixtures of two or more cover crop species planted at the same time. For the purposes of PCCP, an insured crop is not considered a qualifying cover crop.

*RMA* means the Risk Management Agency, USDA.

*Spring crop* means insured crops reported for the 2021 crop year with a Federal crop insurance acreage reporting date of April 15, 2021, to August 15, 2021, in accordance with the crop insurance policy.

*USDA* means United States Department of Agriculture.

#### **Eligibility for PCCP**

For the 2021 crop year, to be eligible for premium support under PCCP, the participant must be a person who is eligible to receive Federal benefits and who has purchased a crop insurance policy for a spring crop from an AIP for insured acres on which the participant planted and reported a qualifying cover crop during the 2021 crop year. Cover crops must be specifically reported to FSA via the Form-578 with the corresponding crop code. Potential participants that are uncertain of whether their cover crop was reported to the FSA are encouraged to contact their local FSA county office ([farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator)). Only acreage reports that are filed or amended prior to June 15 will be considered for the program.

Participants who are in violation of Highly Erodible Land or Wetlands Conservation (16 U.S.C. 3811–12, and 3821) are not eligible for premium support under PCCP.

A person is not eligible to receive benefits under PCCP if at any time that person is determined to be ineligible for crop insurance.

Whole Farm Revenue Protection, Supplemental Coverage Option, Enhanced Coverage Option, and Hurricane Insurance Protection—Wind Index policies or endorsements are not eligible for PCCP. Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX) and Margin Protection (MP) policies are only eligible for PCCP when insured as a standalone policy. STAX and MP

endorsements to underlying policies are not eligible for PCCP.

#### **Calculating and Accounting PCCP Amounts**

For the 2021 crop year, for eligible insured acres covered under a spring crop insurance policy, the amount under PCCP for each insured acre will be \$5, calculated on a CLU basis, with a maximum equal to the amount of premium owed by the insured. Amounts under PCCP are limited to the full amount of premium owed by the insured for the eligible insured acres on a CLU basis. If the full amount under PCCP would result in a negative premium balance for the insured on a CLU basis, PCCP amounts will be limited to the full amount of premium owed on a CLU basis. If the eligible insured acres are amended for any reason, such as an overreporting of insured acres, the amount under PCCP will be based on the eligible insured acres after any such amendment.

Where state premium subsidy programs are also applicable, if the full amount of the premium support under the state premium subsidy program and PCCP would result in a negative premium balance for the insured on a CLU basis, state premium subsidy would be applied first toward premium owed. PCCP would be applied second, up to the full amount of producer premium owed on a CLU basis.

The amount under PCCP will not be paid directly to participants. FCIC and AIPs will account for the amount when calculating total producer premium due. AIPs will adjust participant bills accordingly. All bills still follow the same terms and conditions specified in the crop insurance policy, regardless of PCCP amounts. The payment limitations in 7 CFR 760.1507 are not applicable to PCCP.

PCCP premium support will be provided via premium billing adjustments by the applicable RMA premium billing date for the insured crop. RMA will obtain cover crop records from FSA and determine eligibility such that eligible producers do not need to take any additional specific action through their crop insurance agent to enroll in the PCCP. In the event that any PCCP amount is determined to be incorrect, the amount will be recalculated until the 2021 reinsurance year annual settlement date of October 7, 2022, unless otherwise specified by the Administrator. After that date, the amount will be final except in cases of misrepresentation, fraud, scheme, or device.

#### **Paperwork Reduction Act Requirements**

In accordance with the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35, subchapter I), the rule does not change the information collection approved by OMB under control numbers 0563–0053.

#### **Environmental Review**

In general, the environmental impacts of programs are to be considered in a manner consistent with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321–4347) and the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500–1508). FCIC conducts programs and activities that have been determined to have no individual or cumulative effect on the human environment. As specified in 7 CFR 1b.4, FCIC is categorically excluded from the preparation of an Environmental Analysis or Environmental Impact Statement unless the FCIC Manager (agency head) determines that an action may have a significant environmental effect. The FCIC Manager has determined this notice will not have a significant environmental effect. Therefore, FCIC will not prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement for this action and this notice serves as documentation of the programmatic environmental compliance decision.

#### **Federal Assistance Programs**

The title and number of the Federal assistance programs, as found in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, to which this document applies is 10.450—Crop Insurance.

#### **USDA Non-Discrimination Policy**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family or 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 (for example, braille, large print, audiotape, American

Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. 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/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all 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 mail to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or email: [OAC@usda.gov](mailto:OAC@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**Richard Flournoy,**

*Acting Administrator, Risk Management Agency.*

[FR Doc. 2021-11603 Filed 6-1-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-08-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

[Docket No. RHS-21-MFH-0008]

#### Notice of Solicitation of Applications for the Section 533 Housing Preservation Grants for Fiscal Year 2021

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Housing Service (RHS), a Rural Development agency (Agency) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), announces that it is soliciting competitive applications under its Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program. This action is taken to comply with Agency regulations which requires the Agency to announce the opening and closing dates for receipt of pre-applications for HPG funds from eligible applicants. The Agency will publish the amount of funding on its website at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/housing-preservation-grants>. Expenses incurred in developing pre-applications will be at the applicant's risk.

**DATES:** The closing deadline for receipt of all paper pre-applications in response to this Notice is 5:00 p.m., local time for each Rural Development State Office on July 7, 2021. If submitting the pre-application in electronic format, the closing deadline for receipt is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on July 19, 2021.

Rural Development State Office locations can be found at: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>. RHS will not consider any pre-application that is received after the closing deadline. Applicants intending to mail pre-applications must provide sufficient time to permit delivery on or before the closing deadline date and time. Acceptance by the United States Postal Service or private mailer does not constitute delivery. Facsimile (FAX) and postage due pre-applications will not be accepted.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information, applicants may contact Bonnie Edwards-Jackson, Finance and Loan Analyst, Multi-Family Housing Production and Preservation Division, telephone (202) 690-0759 (voice) (this is not a toll-free number) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD-Federal Information Relay Service) or via email at [bonnie.edwards@usda.gov](mailto:bonnie.edwards@usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Overview

*Federal Agency Name:* Rural Housing Service, USDA.

*Funding Opportunity Title:* Housing Preservation Grants.

*Announcement Type:* Notice.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic*

*Assistance Number:* 10.433.

##### A. Program Description

The HPG program is a grant program, authorized under 42 U.S.C. 1490m and implemented at 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N, which provides qualified public agencies, private non-profit organizations including, but not limited to, Faith-Based and neighborhood partnerships, and other eligible entities; grant funds to assist low- and very low-income homeowners in repairing and rehabilitating their homes in rural areas. In addition, the HPG program assists cooperative housing complexes and rental property owners in rural areas in repairing and rehabilitating their units if they agree to make such units available to very low- and low-income persons. Rental property owners can include Section 515 rental properties if the eligibility requirements for the HPG program are met. In accordance with 7 CFR 1944.663, rental property owners must agree to make the units repaired or rehabilitated available for occupancy to

very low- or low-income persons for a period of not less than five years. The minimum five-year restriction to rent the very low- and low-income tenants will only apply to the units that are repaired with the HPG funding. Any units within the property that were not repaired with HPG funding will not be subject to the five-year restriction.

##### B. Federal Award Information

The funding instrument for the HPG program will be a grant agreement. The term of the grant can vary from one to two years, depending on available funds and demand. No maximum or minimum grant levels have been established at the National level. In accordance with 7 CFR 1944.652, coordination and leveraging of funding for repair and rehabilitation activities with housing and community development organizations or activities operating in the same geographic area are expected, but not required. Applicants should contact the Rural Development State Office to determine the allocation for their state.

The amount of funding available for the HPG program may be found at the following link: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/housing-preservation-grants>. In addition, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. 116-260) established a set-aside for grants located in Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones (REAP Zones). The State Office will indicate on the list submitted to the National Office if the pre-application is eligible for the REAP Zones set-aside. The National Office will then compile a national list, rank the REAP Zones applicants based on the point allocations set forth in this **Federal Register** Notice, and distribute the HPG REAP Zones set-aside starting with the highest scoring eligible HPG REAP Zones applicants. Other funds will be distributed under a formula allocation to States pursuant to 7 CFR part 1940, subpart L, "Methodology and Formulas for Allocation of Loan and Grant Program Funds." Decisions on funding will be based on pre-application scores. Anyone interested in submitting a pre-application for funding under this program is encouraged to consult the Rural Development website, <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/housing-preservation-grants>, periodically for updated information regarding the status of funding authorized for this program.

The commitment of program dollars will be made to selected applicants that have fulfilled the necessary requirements for obligation.