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Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410.

Fax: (202) 690-7442.

Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Done at Washington, DC, on July 24, 2015.

Mary Frances Lowe,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 2015-18629 Filed 7-29-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees Program

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of solicitation of applications (NOSA).

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the United States

Department of Agriculture (USDA), announces that it is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2015 for the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee program (the Broadband Program). RUS has published on its Web site <http://www.rd.usda.gov/newsroom/notices-solicitation-applications-nosas> the amount of funding received through the final appropriations act.

In addition to announcing the application window, RUS announces the minimum and maximum amounts for broadband loans for FY 2015. Moreover, the Agency is concurrently publishing a proposed interim final rule that will revise the current Broadband Program regulations at 7 CFR part 1738, as necessitated by *Pubic Law 113-79*, the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill).

DATES: Applications under this NOSA will be accepted immediately, July 30, 2015 through September 30, 2015, subject to the requirements of the interim regulation published concurrently with this NOSA.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be submitted to the RUS General Field Representative or to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, Loan Originations and Approval Division, ATTN: Shawn Arner, STOP 1597, Room 2808-S, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-1597, as provided in the application guide found online at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/farm-bill-broadband-loans-loan-guarantees>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Shawn Arner, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Loan Originations and Approval Division, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1597, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-1597, Telephone (202) 720-0800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

General Information

The Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program (the Broadband Program) is authorized by the Rural Electrification Act (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*), as amended by the 2014 Farm Bill.

During FY 2015, loans will be made available for the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment to provide service at the broadband lending speed for eligible rural areas. Applications must be submitted in accordance with the interim final rule published concurrently with this NOSA.

To assist in the preparation of applications, the application guide is available online at: <http://>

www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/farm-bill-broadband-loans-loan-guarantees. Application guides may also be requested from RUS by contacting the agency contact.

Application requirements and Addresses: All requirements and addresses for submission of an application under the Broadband Program will be set forth in the interim regulation published concurrently with this NOSA.

Application Materials: Applications for the Broadband Program will be available at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/farm-bill-broadband-loans-loan-guarantees>.

Minimum and Maximum Loan Amounts

Loans under this authority will not be made for less than \$100,000. The maximum loan amount that will be considered for FY 2015 is \$20,000,000.

Required Definitions for Broadband Program Regulation

The interim regulation for the Broadband Program requires that certain definitions affecting eligibility be revised and published from time to time by the agency in the **Federal Register**. For the purposes of this interim regulation, the agency shall use the following definitions: Broadband Service and Broadband Lending Speed. Until otherwise revised in the **Federal Register**, for applications in FY 2015, to qualify as broadband service, the minimum rate-of-data transmission shall be four megabits downstream and one megabit upstream for both fixed and mobile broadband service and the broadband lending speed will be a minimum bandwidth of ten megabits downstream and one megabit upstream for both fixed and mobile service to the customer.

Priority for Approving Loan Applications

Applications for FY 2015 will be accepted from July 30, 2015 through September 30, 2015. Although review of applications will start when they are submitted, all applications submitted by September 30, 2015 will be evaluated and ranked on the basis of the number of unserved households in the proposed funded service area. Subject to available funding, eligible applications that propose to serve the most unserved households will receive funding offers before other eligible applications that have been submitted.

Applications will not be accepted after September 30, 2015, until a new funding window has been opened with

the publication of an additional NOSA in the **Federal Register**.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the information collection requirements associated with Broadband loans, as covered in this NOSA, have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0572-0130.

Dated: July 8, 2015.

Brandon McBride,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2015-18623 Filed 7-29-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: Annual Survey of

Entrepreneurs.

OMB Control Number: None.

Form Number(s): The online survey instrument does not have a form number.

Type of Request: New collection.

Number of Respondents: 290,000.

Average Hours per Response: 35 minutes.

Burden Hours: 169,167.

Needs and Uses: In an effort to improve the timely measurement of business dynamics in the United States, the U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct a new annual survey focused on employer businesses. The new survey will be known as the Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs (ASE) and will collect information on characteristics of businesses and business owners. The survey was going to be called the Annual Survey of Business Owners, but that name was changed to fit the survey's focus on assessing entrepreneurial business practices and demographics. The ASE will be a supplement to the Survey of Business Owners and Self-Employed Persons (SBO), which provides economic and demographic characteristics for businesses and business owners by gender, ethnicity, race, and veteran status every 5 years. The ASE is an intercensal program. The ASE will help assess the health of the economy and

provide detailed statistics on businesses and business owners more frequently. The ASE is a joint effort funded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), and the Census Bureau. On behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, pursuant to section 1(a)(3) of Executive Order 11625, the MBDA may enter into this agreement with the Census Bureau to establish a means for the development, collection, summation, and dissemination of information that will be helpful to persons and organizations throughout the nation in undertaking or promoting the establishment and successful operation of minority business enterprises. The Census Bureau will collaborate with the Kauffman Foundation, the MBDA, and other agencies to ensure the ASE is as robust and effective as possible.

The Census Bureau will collect data starting with the 2014 reference year, with corresponding estimates released in 2016. Estimates will include number of firms, sales/receipts, annual payroll, and employment by gender, ethnicity, race, and veteran status. The ASE includes questions from the 2012 SBO long form SBO-1 with additional questions to collect data on entrepreneurs' access to capital. The ASE will introduce a new module each year focusing on an important component related to business growth. Proposed module topics include innovation, research and development, technological advances, Internet usage, management and business practices, exporting practices, and globalization. The 2014 ASE module covers innovation and research and development. The survey will be a sample of 290,000 employer businesses stratified by metropolitan statistical area (MSA), state, frame, and age of business. By oversampling young businesses, this survey will help assess the impact young firms have on the growth of the economy. Additionally, the survey will implement a longitudinal component that will allow the growth of the firms in the sample to be tracked and analyzed over time.

This collection will allow the Census Bureau to collaborate on the implementation of a key National Academies recommendation for improving the measurement of business dynamics in the U.S. economy, which recommended:

"The Census Bureau Survey of Business Owners (SBO) should be conducted on an annual basis. The survey should include both a longitudinal component and a flexible, modular design that allows survey

content to change over time. In addition, the Census Bureau should explore the possibility of creating a public-use (anonymized) SBO or a restricted access version of the data file."

Lisa M. Lynch, John Haltiwanger, and Christopher Mackie, eds. *Understanding Business Dynamics: An Integrated Data System for America's Future*. National Academies Press, 2007.

The additional sources of capital and financing questions will provide information on the financial trends and financial challenges faced by entrepreneurs. Tabulation of the financing questions will offer insight into the type of funding acquired and used by women-, minority-, and veteran-owned businesses. The 2014 ASE module will allow for a better understanding of the innovation and research and development activities conducted by entrepreneurs. Additionally, it will allow for an assessment on the competitiveness of businesses by ownership characteristics. The longitudinal component will help track and assess the growth of firms in the sample over time. This will also allow for research into the changes to the characteristics of businesses over time.

Under Title 13, United States Code, Section 182, the Secretary of Commerce has deemed it necessary to conduct an annual survey on characteristics of businesses and business owners. The ASE augments the quinquennial SBO collected and disseminated under Title 13, United States Code, Section 131.

Government program officials, industry organization leaders, economic and social analysts and researchers, and business entrepreneurs are anticipated users of ASE statistics. Examples of data use include:

- The Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) to assess business assistance needs and allocate available program resources.

- Local government commissions on small and disadvantaged businesses to establish and evaluate contract procurement practices.

- Federal, state and local government agencies as a framework for planning, directing and assessing programs that promote the activities of disadvantaged groups.

- The National Women's Business Council to assess the state of women's business ownership for policymakers, researchers, and the public at large.

- Consultants and researchers to analyze long-term economic and demographic shifts, and differences in ownership and performance among geographic areas.