



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Broadband Pilot (ReConnect) Program

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice; amendment to Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and solicitation of applications for the second round of the ReConnect Program.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) published a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and solicitation of applications in the *Federal Register* on Thursday, December 12, 2019, announcing its general policy and application procedures for funding under the broadband pilot program (ReConnect) established pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (which became law on February 15, 2019) which provides loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of an extension of the application window until midnight, based on the time zone the applicant is located in, on March 31, 2020.

DATES: Actions described in this notice take effect **[INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.]**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general inquiries regarding the ReConnect Program, contact Laurel Leverrier, Acting Assistant Administrator Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), email: laurel.leverrier@wdc.usda.gov, telephone (202) 720-9554. For inquiries regarding eligible service areas, please contact ReConnect Program Staff at <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect/contact-us>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 12, 2019, RUS published a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and solicitation of applications in the *Federal Register* at 84 FR 67913. The FOA provided the policy and application procedures for the ReConnect Program. In support of the ReConnect Program, the agency identified the application closing date and funding amount for each category.

The action taken in this notice will extend the application window until midnight, based on the time zone the applicant is located in, on March 31, 2020. This action is being taken by the Agency to ensure a successful round of funding under the ReConnect Program.

Chad Rupe,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

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