

are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

**Estimate of burden:** The public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.813 hours per response.

**Respondents:** State animal health officials, accredited veterinarians, laboratories, and businesses managing farmed, captive, or wild cervid herds.

**Estimated annual number of respondents:** 4,532.

**Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:** 27.

**Estimated annual number of responses:** 123,397.

**Estimated total annual burden on respondents:** 347,163 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

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

Done in Washington, DC, on March 9, 2018.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2018-05263 Filed 3-14-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2018-0013]

#### Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza Program; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** We are notifying stakeholders and interested persons that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is hosting a public meeting to provide information on the Agency's current thinking regarding low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) indemnity, compensation, and controlled marketing. The meeting will include an overview of the concepts we are developing with respect to LPAI indemnity, compensation, and controlled marketing and provide an opportunity for attendees to discuss issues of interest.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on March 27, 2018, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held at the Atlanta Airport Marriott, 4711 Best Road, Atlanta, GA 30337.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Fidelis Hegngi, Avian Health Surveillance Staff, Preparedness, and Response Services, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 46, Suite 4B-02.27, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-3564.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) virus typically causes little to no clinical signs in infected poultry. It spreads primarily through direct contact between healthy and infected birds or through indirect contact with contaminated equipment and materials. To prevent cases of LPAI, poultry producers must use special preventative measures and precautions on the farm. When LPAI findings do occur, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and its State partners work to address them quickly and keep the disease from spreading to new flocks. Because LPAI does not typically kill poultry the way highly pathogenic avian influenza does, there may be additional control options beyond depopulation.

In order to provide a forum for the discussion of policy issues related to LPAI, APHIS is organizing a public meeting to provide information on our current thinking with respect to LPAI indemnity, compensation, and controlled marketing with poultry stakeholders and partners. This meeting will be held on March 27, 2018, and will begin at 8 a.m., and is scheduled to end at 4:30 p.m. Information regarding the meeting and registration instructions may be obtained from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

The meeting will open with remarks by Dr. Jack Shere, Deputy Administrator for APHIS' Veterinary Services. An overview of APHIS' current thinking on LPAI indemnity, compensation, and controlled marketing process will follow. APHIS will share the concepts we are developing on the process and take questions in a feedback session, where attendees can seek clarification about specific issues and state their opinions. The meeting will then break for lunch. After lunch, attendees will discuss the challenges of an LPAI incident or outbreak in the Table Egg and Upland Game Bird industries and offer possible solutions. The entire group will then reconvene to receive the highlights of each session, and the meeting will end after a discussion of next steps and closing remarks.

If you require special accommodations, such as a sign

language interpreter, please call or write the individual under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 12th day of March 2018.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2018-05270 Filed 3-14-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (Council) will meet via teleconference. The Council is authorized under Section 9 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (the Act), as amended, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Additional information concerning the Council, can be found by visiting the Council's website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac.shtml>.

**DATES:** The teleconference will be held on Tuesday March 20, 2018, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time (EST) or until Council business is completed. All meetings are subject to cancellation. For an updated status of the teleconference prior to attendance, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via teleconference. For anyone who would like to attend the teleconference, please visit the website listed in the "Summary" section or contact Nancy Stremple at [nstremple@fs.fed.us](mailto:nstremple@fs.fed.us) for further details. Written comments may be submitted as described under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at the USDA Forest Service, Sidney Yates Building., Room 3SC-01C, 201 14th Street SW, Washington DC 20024. Please call ahead at 202-309-7829 to facilitate entry into the building.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy Stremple, Executive Staff, National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, by cell phone at 202-309-9873, or by email at [nstremple@fs.fed.us](mailto:nstremple@fs.fed.us), or via facsimile at 202-690-5792. 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:** The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Report out from Committee work groups;
2. Provide updates on the 2018 grant proposal review and 2019 Call for Proposals;
3. Provide Forest Service updates on budget, projects, partnerships and nominations;
4. Listen to constituents with urban forestry concerns;
5. Perform administrative tasks;
6. Annual accomplishments/recommendations report to the Secretary—Status;
7. Next Meeting, Action items for the week of July 16, 2018.

The teleconference is open to the public. However, the public is strongly encouraged to RSVP prior to the teleconference to ensure all related documents are shared with public meeting participants. The agenda will include time for people to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should submit a request in writing by March 13, 2018, to be scheduled on the agenda. Council discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Council members, however anyone who would like to bring urban and community forestry matters to the attention of the Council may file written statements with the Council's staff before or after the meeting. Written comments and time requests for oral comments must be sent to Nancy Stemple, Executive Staff, National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, Sidney Yates Building, Room 3SC-01C, 201 14th Street SW, Washington, DC 20024, or by email at [nstemple@fs.fed.us](mailto:nstemple@fs.fed.us).

**Meeting Accommodations:** If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices or other reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings by contacting the person listed in the section titled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case by case basis.

Dated: February 14, 2018.

**Patti Hiram,**

*Associate Deputy Chief, State & Private Forestry.*

[FR Doc. 2018-05269 Filed 3-14-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3411-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Announcement of Grant Application Deadlines and Funding Levels

**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), herein referred to as RUS or the Agency, announces its Community Connect Grant Program application window for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. In addition, this NOSA announces the minimum and maximum Community Connect grant amounts, the funding priority, the application submission dates, the agency contact information, and the procedures for submission of paper and electronic applications.

This notice is being issued prior to passage of a final appropriations act to allow potential applicants time to submit proposals and give the Agency time to process applications within the current fiscal year. The Agency will publish the amount of funding received in any continuing resolution or the final appropriations act on its website at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/newsroom/notices-solicitation-applications-nosas>. Expenses incurred in developing applications will be at the applicant's risk.

**DATES:** Submit completed paper or electronic grant applications by the following deadlines:

- **Paper submissions:** Paper submissions must be postmarked and mailed, shipped, or sent overnight *no later* than May 14, 2018 to be eligible for FY 2018 grant funding. Late or incomplete applications will not be eligible for FY 2018 grant funding.
- **Electronic submissions:** Electronic submissions must be received no later than May 14, 2018 to be eligible for FY 2018 grant funding. Late or incomplete applications will not be eligible for FY 2018 grant funding.
- If the submission deadline falls on Saturday, Sunday, or a Federal holiday, the application is due the next business day.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the FY 2018 Application Guide and materials for the Community Connect Grant Program may be obtained through:

- (1) The Community Connect website at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants>; and
- (2) The RUS Office of Loan Origination and Approval at 202-720-0800.

Completed applications may be submitted the following ways:

(1) **Paper:** Mail paper applications to the Rural Utilities Service, Telecommunications Program, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Room 2844, STOP 1597, Washington, DC 20250-1597. Mark address with "Attention: Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Loan Origination and Approval, Rural Utilities Service."

(2) **Electronic:** Submit electronic applications through [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Prospective applicants can access information on submitting electronic applications at any time, regardless of registration status, through the [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) website at <http://www.grants.gov>. However, in order to use the electronic submission option, applicants must register with [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shawn Arner, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Loan Origination and Approval, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Telephone: (202) 720-0800.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Overview

**Federal Agency:** Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

**Funding Opportunity Title:** Community Connect Grant Program.  
**Announcement Type:** Initial announcement.

**Funding Opportunity Number:** RDRUS-CC-2018.

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:** 10.863.

**Dates:** Applicants must submit the paper or electronic grant applications by the deadlines found in this section and Section D(5).

##### A. Program Description

The purpose of the Community Connect Grant Program is to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible applicants that will provide service at the Broadband Grant Speed to all premises in currently unserved, lower-income, and extremely rural areas. RUS will give priority to rural areas that demonstrate the greatest need for broadband services, based on the criteria contained herein.

In addition to providing service to all premises, the program's "community-oriented connectivity" concept will stimulate practical, everyday uses and applications of broadband by cultivating the deployment of new broadband services that improve economic development and provide enhanced educational and health care opportunities in rural areas. Such an