



Strategic Economic and Community Development

2014 Farm Bill - Section 6025

Section 6025 of the 2014 Farm Bill, “Strategic Economic and Community Development,” (SECD) reserves selected USDA Rural Development funds to implement regionally based, “multi-jurisdictional” strategic economic development plans. The SECD requirement expands the mission area’s authority to collaborate across agencies; enables the participating programs to prioritize projects supporting regional strategic and long-range plans; and gives rural communities additional incentives to strengthen their regional capacity.

Purpose

To prioritize and fund eligible projects which support the implementation of a qualified multi-jurisdictional plan. The multi-jurisdictional plan must include:

- An in-depth analysis of the economic and community strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for the region. The analysis must consider aspects such as environmental and social conditions;
- A strategy for implementation that builds upon the region’s strengths and opportunities to resolve weaknesses and threats facing the area;
- Performance measures to evaluate successful implementation of the plan’s objectives; and
- Support of key community stakeholders. Funds may only be used to implement plans, not to help community planners develop them.

Participating USDA Rural Development Programs

Qualified applicants under four programs may request consideration for SECD funding to implement multi-jurisdictional plans:

- **Community Facilities Programs**
- **Water and Waste Disposal Programs**
- **Business and Industry Loan Guarantees**
- **Rural Business Development Grants**

Up to 10 percent of these programs’ annual appropriations may be set-aside for the 2014 Farm Bill SECD provision. Set-asides must be fully obligated no later than June 30th of each fiscal year.

Eligibility

To be eligible to compete for the SECD set-aside, a project must be:

- Eligible for the underlying participating program;
- Located solely in a rural area; and
- Support a qualified multi-jurisdictional plan.

Next, applicants that meet these criteria must:

- Submit Form 1980-88
- Meet all other required supporting documentation as detailed in the annual SECD *Federal Register* notice.

Consideration is based on:

1. How well the project supports a qualified multi-jurisdictional plan; and
2. How well the plan addresses collaboration, regionalism, and investments from other Federal Agencies and philanthropic organizations.

More Information

- **Strategic Economic and Community Development webpage**
- 2014 Farm Bill Section 6025, Public Law 113-79
- 7 CFR Subpart K Strategic Economic and Community Development
- Contact the SECD Team at: RDCEd@wdc.USDA.gov