

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

Designation of Fremont Grain Inspection Department, Inc. To provide Class X or Class Y Weighing Services

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA is announcing the designation of Fremont Grain Inspection Department, Inc. (Fremont) to provide Class X or Class Y weighing services under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA), as amended.

DATES: *Effective Date:* November 9, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Lathrop, 816-891-0415, or FGIS.QACD@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the August 24, 2016, **Federal Register** (81 FR 57884), GIPSA announced the designation of Fremont to provide official services under the USGSA, effective July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2021. Subsequently, Fremont asked GIPSA to amend their designation to include official weighing services. The USGSA authorizes the Secretary to designate authority to perform official weighing to an agency providing official inspection services within a specified geographic area, if such agency is qualified under 7 U.S.C. 79. Under 7 U.S.C. 79(a), GIPSA evaluated information regarding the designation criteria in section 7 U.S.C. 79 and determined that Fremont is qualified to provide official weighing services in their currently assigned geographic area.

Fremont's designation is amended to include Class X or Class Y weighing within their assigned geographic area, effective November 9, 2016, to June 30, 2021. Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Fremont at (402) 721-1270.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 71-87k.

Larry Mitchell,

Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

[FR Doc. 2017-00203 Filed 1-9-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in the Casa Grande, Arizona, Area; Request for Comments on the Official Agency Servicing This Area

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The designation of the official agency listed below will end on March 31, 2017. We are asking persons or governmental agencies interested in providing official services in the areas presently served by this agency to submit an application for designation. In addition, we are asking for comments on the quality of services provided by the following designated agency: Farwell Commodity Grain Services, Inc. (Farwell Southwest).

DATES: Applications and comments must be received by February 9, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Submit applications and comments concerning this Notice using any of the following methods:

- *Applying for Designation on the Internet:* Use FGISonline (https://fgis.gipsa.usda.gov/default_home_FGIS.aspx) and then click on the Delegations/Designations and Export Registrations (DDR) link. You will need to obtain an FGISonline customer number and USDA eAuthentication username and password prior to applying.

- *Submit Comments Using the Internet:* Go to [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (<http://www.regulations.gov>). Instructions for submitting and reading comments are detailed on the site.

- *Mail, Courier or Hand Delivery:* Jacob Thein, Compliance Officer, USDA, GIPSA, FGIS, QACD, 10383 North Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153

- *Fax:* Jacob Thein, 816-872-1257
- *Email:* FGIS.QACD@usda.gov

Read Applications and Comments: All applications and comments will be

available for public inspection at the office above during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(c)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jacob Thein, 816-866-2223 or FGIS.QACD@usda.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 79(f) of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) authorizes the Secretary to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that the applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services (7 U.S.C. 79(f)). Under section 79(g) of the USGSA, designations of official agencies are effective for no longer than five years, unless terminated by the Secretary, and may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in section 79(f) of the USGSA.

Areas Open for Designation

Farwell Southwest

Pursuant to Section 79(f)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act, the following geographic area in the States of Arizona and California is assigned to this official agency.

In Arizona

Maricopa, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yuma Counties.

In California

Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. Farwell Southwest's assigned geographic area does not include the export port locations inside Farwell Southwest's area which are serviced by GIPSA.

Opportunity for Designation

Interested persons or governmental agencies may apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic areas specified above under the provisions of section 79(f) of the USGSA and 7 CFR 800.196. Designation in the specified geographic areas in Arizona and California is for the period beginning April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2022. To apply for designation or to request more information, contact Jacob Thein at the address listed above.

Request for Comments

We are publishing this Notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to comment on the quality of services provided by the Farwell

Southwest official agency. In the designation process, we are particularly interested in receiving comments citing reasons and pertinent data supporting or objecting to the designation of the applicant. Submit all comments to Jacob Thein at the above address or at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

We consider applications, comments, and other available information when determining which applicants will be designated.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 71–87k.

Larry Mitchell,

Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

[FR Doc. 2017–00205 Filed 1–9–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-KD-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) 2017. 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.

RUS will publish the amount of funding received in the final appropriations act on its Web site at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/newsroom/notices-solicitation-applications-nosas>. Applicants can review the Community Connect Grant Program regulation at 7 CFR part 1739 (Subpart A).

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* March 13, 2017 to be eligible for FY 2017 grant funding. Late or incomplete applications will not be eligible for FY 2017 grant funding.
- **Electronic submissions:** Electronic submissions must be received no later than March 13, 2017 to be eligible for FY 2017 grant funding. Late or incomplete applications will not be eligible for FY 2017 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 2017 Application Guide and materials for the Community Connect Grant Program may be obtained through:

- (1) The Community Connect Web site at <http://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. Prospective applicants can access information on submitting electronic applications at any time, regardless of registration status, through the Grants.gov Web site at <http://www.grants.gov>. However, in order to use the electronic submission option, applicants must register with 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–2017.

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 approach will also give rural communities the opportunity to benefit from the advanced technologies that are necessary to achieve these goals. The regulation for the Community Connect Program can be found at 7 CFR part 1739.

As in years past, the FY 2017 Community Connect Grant Application Guide has been updated based on program experience. All applicants should carefully review and prepare their applications according to instructions in the FY 2017 Application Guide and sample materials. Expenses incurred in developing applications will be at the applicant’s own risk.

B. Federal Award Information

In accordance with 7 CFR 1739.2, the Administrator has established a minimum grant request amount of \$100,000 and a maximum grant request amount of \$3,000,000 per application for FY 2017.

The standard grant agreement, which specifies the term of each award, is available at http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/UTP_CommConnectGrantAgreement.pdf. The Agency will make awards, and successful applicants will be required to execute documents appropriate to the project before the Agency will advance funding.

While prior Community Connect grants cannot be renewed, existing Community Connect awardees may submit applications for new projects. The Agency will evaluate project proposals from existing awardees as new applications. All grant applications must be submitted during the application window.

C. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants (See 7 CFR 1739.10)

- a. Only entities legally organized as one of the following are eligible for Community Connect Grant Program financial assistance:
 - i. An incorporated organization.