Required Definitions for Broadband Program Regulation

The 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 NOSA, the Agency is revising the definitions of Broadband Service and Broadband Lending Speed.

Broadband Service is determined to exist if customers can access a minimum rate-of-data transmission of 25 megabits downstream and 3 megabits upstream for both mobile and fixed service. This rate is used to determine whether an area is eligible for funding.

Broadband Lending Speed is the minimum rate-of-data transmission that applicants must propose to offer the customer. The Broadband Lending Speed is 25 megabits downstream and 3 megabits upstream for both mobile and fixed service.

Priority for Approving Loan Applications

Applications for FY 2019 will be accepted from the publication date of this NOSA through September 30, 2019. Although review of applications will begin as they are submitted, all applications will be evaluated and ranked every 90 days based on the percentage of unserved households in the proposed funded service area. Subject to available funding, eligible applications that propose to serve a higher percentage of unserved households will receive funding offers before other eligible applications that propose to serve a lower percentage of unserved households. The amount available will be published on the Agency web page once all budgetary allocations have been completed.

Loan offers are limited to the funds available at the time of the Agency’s decision to approve an application. Applications will not be accepted after September 30, 2019, until a new application opportunity 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.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights laws and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339 (English) or (800) 845–6136 (Spanish).

Individuals who wish to file a Program Discrimination Complaint must complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF). To file a program discrimination complaint, you may obtain a complaint form by sending an email to Cr-info@ascr.usda.gov or calling (866) 632–9992 to request the form. A letter may also be written containing all of the information requested in the form.

Send the completed complaint form or letter by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–9410, or email at program.intake@usda.gov. Additional information can be found online at https://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Dated: October 24, 2018.

Christopher A. McLean,
Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Notice of Public Meeting of the Florida Advisory Committee

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act that the Federal Advisory Committee (Committee) will hold a meeting on Monday, December 3, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. (EST) for the purpose discussing civil rights concerns in the state.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, December 3, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. (EST).


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Hinton, DFO, at jhinton@usccr.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Members of the public can listen to the discussion. This meeting is available to the public through the toll-free call-in number dial: 877–260–1479, Conference ID: 5812789. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make a statement as time allows. The conference call operator will ask callers to identify themselves, the organization they are affiliated with (if any), and an email address prior to placing callers into the conference room. Callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and conference ID number.

Written comments may be mailed to the Regional Program Unit Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 230 S Dearborn St., Suite 2120, Chicago, IL 60604. They may also be faxed to the Commission at (312) 353–8324 or may be emailed to the Regional Director, Jeff Hinton at jhinton@usccr.gov. Records of the meeting will be available via www.facadatabase.gov under the Commission on Civil Rights, Florida Advisory Committee link. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission’s website, http://www.usccr.gov, or may contact the Regional Program Unit at the above email or street address.

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions
Discussion: Civil Rights Issues in Florida
Public Comment
Adjournment
COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the North Dakota Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Announcement of meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that a planning meeting of the North Dakota Advisory Committee to the Commission will by videoconference at 12:00 p.m. (CST) on Wednesday, December 5, 2018. The purpose of the meeting is for project and briefing planning.

DATES: Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at 12:00 p.m. MDT.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Evelyn Bohor, at eborah@usccr.gov or by phone at 303–866–1040.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Interested members of the public may listen to the discussion by calling the following toll-free conference call-in number: 1–877–260–1479 and conference call 9602962. Please be advised that before placing them into the conference call, the conference call operator will ask callers to provide their names, their organizational affiliations (if any), and email addresses (so that callers may be notified of future meetings). Callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over landline connections to the toll-free conference call-in number.

Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the discussion by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339 and providing the operator with the toll-free conference call-in number: 1–877–260–1479 and conference call 9602962.

Members of the public are invited to make statements during the open comment period of the meeting or submit written comments. The comments must be received in the regional office approximately 30 days after each scheduled meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1961 Stout Street, Suite 13–201, Denver, CO 80224, faxed to (303) 866–1040, or emailed to Evelyn Bohor at eborah@usccr.gov. Persons who desire additional information may contact the Rocky Mountain Regional Office at (303) 866–1040.

Records and documents discussed during the meeting will be available for public viewing as they become available at https://gsageo.force.com/FACA/apex/FACAPublicCommittee?id=a1000000001 gzl9AAA; click the “Meeting Details” and “Documents” links. Records generated from this meeting may also be inspected and reproduced at the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Persons interested in the work of this advisory committee are advised to go to the Commission’s website, www.usccr.gov, or to contact the Rocky Mountain Regional Office at the above phone numbers, email or street address.

Agenda: Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 12:00 p.m. (CST).

• Rollcall and Welcome
• Project Planning
• Briefing Planning
• Open Comment
• Adjourn

Dated: November 9, 2018.

David Mussatt,
Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.

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: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Title: National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) Information Collection System.

OMB Control Number: 0693–0003.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular submission (revision and extension of a currently approved information collection).

Number of Respondents: 750.

Average Hours per Response: 3 hours.

Burden Hours: 2,250.

Needs and Uses: This information is collected from all testing and calibration laboratories that apply for National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) accreditation. It is used by NVLAP to assess laboratory conformance with applicable criteria as defined in 15 CFR part 285, Section 285.14. The information provides a service to customers in business and industry, including regulatory agencies and purchasing authorities that are seeking competent laboratories to perform testing and calibration services. An accredited laboratory’s contact information and scope of accreditation are provided on NVLAP’s website (http://www.nist.gov/nvlap).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, not-for-profit institutions, and Federal, State or Local government.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent’s Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

This information collection request may be viewed at reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to OIRA Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax to (202) 395–5806.

Sheleen Dumas,
Departmental Lead PRA Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.