

Amendment offered by Ms. McClain Delaney

Brief description

This amendment directs the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a new program to provide rural communities technical assistance in recovering from major disasters.

AMENDMENT
OFFERED BY MRS. MCCLAIN DELANEY OF
MARYLAND

At the end of subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . RURAL DEVELOPMENT DISASTER RECOVERY**
2 **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

4 (1) **DISASTER.**—The term “disaster” means a
5 major disaster declared by the President under the
6 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
7 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

8 (2) **ELIGIBLE RURAL COMMUNITY.**—The term
9 “eligible rural community” means each rural com-
10 munity all or part of which is within an area covered
11 by a disaster.

12 (3) **PROGRAM.**—The term “program” means
13 the program established under subsection (b).

14 (4) **RURAL COMMUNITY.**—

15 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subpara-
16 graph (B), the term “rural community” means
17 any census designated place with a population
18 of less than 20,000.

1 (B) MODIFICATION; WAIVER.—The Sec-
2 retary may, as the Secretary determines to be
3 necessary—

4 (i) modify the definition of “rural
5 community” under subparagraph (A); or

6 (ii) waive the applicability of the defi-
7 nition of “rural community” under this
8 paragraph to a particular area.

9 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
10 within the rural development mission area a program to
11 provide technical assistance for eligible rural communities.

12 (c) PROVIDERS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Technical assistance under
14 the program shall be provided by—

15 (A) a State office of the rural development
16 mission area;

17 (B) an entity described in paragraph (2)
18 that enters into a contract with a State office
19 of the rural development mission area; or

20 (C) both entities described in subpara-
21 graphs (A) and (B).

22 (2) ELIGIBILITY OF CONTRACTORS.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—An entity eligible to
24 enter into a contract under paragraph (1)(B) of
25 this subsection is a public body or private non-

1 profit corporation described in section
2 306(a)(26)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and
3 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
4 1926(a)(26)(A)).

5 (B) PRIORITY.—In entering into contracts
6 under paragraph (1)(B) of this subsection, the
7 Secretary shall give priority to entities de-
8 scribed in section 306(a)(26)(B) of the Consoli-
9 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
10 U.S.C. 1926(a)(26)(B)).

11 (3) COORDINATION.—A provider of technical
12 assistance under the program shall, to the extent
13 practicable, coordinate with State governments and
14 local stakeholders to ensure the equitable distribu-
15 tion of outreach to eligible rural communities.

16 (d) REQUIREMENTS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—
17 A provider of technical assistance under the program shall
18 provide technical assistance to eligible rural communities
19 relating to disaster recovery—

20 (1) including assistance in—

21 (A) planning, and identifying issues, poten-
22 tial solutions, and sources of funding, with re-
23 spect to disaster recovery;

24 (B) preparing and submitting applications
25 with respect to assistance for disaster recovery

1 to Federal agencies, such as the Economic De-
2 velopment Administration, the Federal Emer-
3 gency Management Agency, and the rural devel-
4 opment mission area, and State agencies;

5 (C) addressing denials of applications de-
6 scribed in subparagraph (B); and

7 (D) implementing funding received for dis-
8 aster recovery from Federal agencies and State
9 agencies described in subparagraph (B); and

10 (2) which may involve—

11 (A) telecommunications;

12 (B) water infrastructure;

13 (C) housing;

14 (D) energy infrastructure;

15 (E) community facilities;

16 (F) business infrastructure; and

17 (G) local government infrastructure.

18 (e) DURATION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible rural community
20 may receive technical assistance under the program
21 during the 3-year period beginning on the date on
22 which a disaster is declared for the area within
23 which all or part of the eligible rural community lies.

24 (2) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may extend
25 the period of eligibility described in paragraph (1)

1 for an additional 3-year period with respect to an el-
2 igible rural community on a case-by-case basis.

3 (f) MULTIPLE RECIPIENTS.—More than 1 eligible
4 rural community all or part of which are within an area
5 covered by a disaster may receive technical assistance
6 under the program.

7 (g) FUNDING.—

8 (1) PROVISION.—As soon as practicable after
9 the date on which a disaster is declared for the area
10 within which all or part of an eligible rural commu-
11 nity lies, the Secretary shall make available to the
12 applicable State office of the rural development mis-
13 sion area amounts available to carry out this section,
14 without any requirement for the submission of an
15 application by such State office.

16 (2) ALLOCATION.—The Secretary shall allocate
17 amounts made available to carry out this section for
18 each fiscal year to eligible rural communities in ac-
19 cordance with a formula established by the Secretary
20 that is based on the population of individuals af-
21 fected by a disaster, as determined using data from
22 the most recent decennial census.

1 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
3 out this section \$50,000,000 for each fiscal year.

