



2023-2024 LDD Community Support Pilot Program

Notice of Funding Availability

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

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2023-2024 LDD Community Support Pilot Program: Notice of Funding Availability

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) is publishing this notice of funding availability (NOFA) to provide an overview of the guidelines and requirements for the LDD Community Support Program.

- Proposals Due: May 11, 2023

Applications for this program are limited to the [45 LDDs](#) in DRA's service area.

Funding for this program has been made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, PL 117-58) signed by President Biden. For questions about the program, please email pilotprogram@dra.gov.



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I. DRA Overview

DRA was established by Congress in 2000 as a formal framework for joint Federal-State collaboration to serve the eight-state Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions. DRA promotes economic growth and opportunity by investing in human and critical infrastructure in economically distressed communities. DRA's investment priorities include transportation infrastructure, other basic public infrastructure like water and sewer, small business development with an emphasis on entrepreneurship, and job training. DRA invests in these areas through grant programs and strategic partnerships that are open to local units of government, tribal entities, non-profits, and public institutions of higher learning. DRA evaluates the impact of these investments by gauging four basic metrics:

- Jobs Created
- Jobs Retained
- Individuals Trained
- Families Affected

The eight states that comprise DRA's region include Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

II. Program Overview

The LDD Community Support Pilot Program will target capacity-building and community support resources to the 45 LDDs within DRA's service area. DRA recognizes the importance of LDDs and their connection to local communities across the region. The services LDDs provide from grant writing, planning, and project implementation are invaluable services that local communities with limited capacity often rely on. However, the recent increase in federal funds available to local communities means LDDs will face an increased workload to reach and assist as many communities as possible. The purpose of this program is to provide LDDs with additional resources to help the communities they serve develop, implement, and evaluate projects. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed economic development projects and exacerbated issues that many under-resourced communities faced, but federal funds that have been appropriated in its wake such as the CARES Act, American Rescue Plan, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, disaster supplemental appropriations, and annual appropriation laws have the potential to be



transformative for communities across the region by helping them address issues such as decaying infrastructure. This program will enhance the region's ability to compete for and leverage resources.

A. Program Objectives

The goal of the LDD Community Support Program is to foster an environment conducive to economic growth in one of the nation's most economically distressed regions by bolstering access to resources for local communities. This goal is specified more clearly by the following objectives that define DRA's strategic investment in the program:

- To provide LDDs with resources to fill capacity gaps and effectively undertake the additional workload associated with increased federal funding.
- To increase the number of applications submitted for federal, state, and/or DRA funding.
- To increase the number of applications submitted by economically distressed, isolated areas of distress, and persistent poverty counties and parishes.
- To increase the delivery and total dollar amount of DRA resources and other resources in the most economically distressed and underserved areas of the Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt Regions.
- To increase the total amount of matching funds leveraged within the DRA's service area.

B. Program Priorities

The following program priorities are in alignment with DRA's enabling statute, [Equity Action Plan](#), [Regional Development Plan IV](#), and initiatives implemented by the Biden-Harris Administration.

- Provide support to economically distressed, isolated areas of distress, and persistent poverty areas.
- Facilitate partnerships and provide support to underserved groups like, but not limited to, rural communities and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).
- Provide support to disadvantaged communities with longstanding critical and human infrastructure needs like water, sewer, and workforce development.



LDDs are encouraged to submit proposals that reflect these priorities. LDDs also have the autonomy to submit proposals that speak to unique challenges and needs in economically distressed, isolated areas of distress, or persistent poverty communities in their service area.

III. Eligibility Information

This program is only open to the 45 LDDs in DRA's service area.

A. Eligible Use

Funds from this program must be used for existing staff, contracting services, or new staff. Any costs associated with working directly on this program such as equipping existing or new staff, staff hours, travel expenses, and marketing expenses are an applicable use of the funds. Funds may be used for staffing and contracting costs associated with developing applications for federal grant programs, including but not limited to Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) grant programs. For a listing of BIL grant programs, please visit www.build.gov.

B. Ineligible Use

Funds cannot be used for anything outside the scope of the program. For example, the funds cannot be used to hire new staff or contractors that are working primarily on projects in non-distressed communities.

If you have questions about eligible or ineligible use, please email pilotprogram@dra.gov.

IV. Application Information

A. Application Format:

LDDs can find the application by visiting, [LDD Community Support Pilot Program - Delta Regional Authority \(dra.gov\)](https://www.dra.gov/LDD-Community-Support-Pilot-Program) . The following sections are included in the application:

1. Project Information: In this section, LDDs will be required to provide an overview of their capacity-building needs, project goals and objectives, and the project service area.



2. Work Plan: LDDs will be required to describe project activities, key personnel assigned to each task, and a timeline for the completion of activities.
3. Budget and Budget Narrative: LDDs will be required to list each budgetary item and provide justification for each item.
 - a. The Budget Narrative must provide a description of costs associated with each line item. The Budget Narrative should also include a section describing any leveraged resources provided (as applicable) to support grant activities. Leveraged resources are all resources, both cash and in-kind, in excess of this award. Valuation of leveraged resources follows the same requirements as match. Applicants are encouraged to leverage resources to increase stakeholder investment in the project and broaden the impact of the project itself.
 - b. Each category should include the total estimated cost for the period of performance. Use the following guidance for preparing the Budget Narrative.
 - c. Personnel: List all staff positions by title (both current and proposed) including the roles and responsibilities. For each position give the annual salary, the percentage of time devoted to the project, and the amount of each position's salary funded by the grant.
 - d. Fringe Benefits: Provide a breakdown of the amounts and percentages that comprise fringe benefit costs such as health insurance, FICA, retirement, etc.
 - e. Travel: For grantee staff only, specify the purpose, number of staff traveling, mileage, per diem, estimated number of in-state and out-of-state trips, and other estimated costs for each type of travel.
 - f. Equipment: Identify each item of equipment you expect to purchase that has an estimated acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit (or if your capitalization level is less than \$5,000, use your capitalization level) and a useful lifetime of more than one year (see 2 CFR 200.1 for the definition of Equipment). List the item, quantity, and the unit cost per item.
 - g. Items with a unit cost of less than \$5,000 are supplies, not "equipment." In general, we do not permit the purchase of equipment during the last funded year of the grant.
 - h. Supplies: Identify the cost of supplies (e.g., general office supplies, desk/chairs, laptops/printers, other specialty items) in the detailed budget per category. Except for general office supplies, list the item, quantity, and the unit cost per item. Supplies include all tangible personal property other than "equipment."
 - i. Contractual: Under the Contractual line item, delineate contracts and subawards separately. Contracts are defined according to 2 CFR 200.1 as a legal instrument by which a non-federal entity purchases property or services needed to carry out the project or program under a federal award. A subaward, defined by 2 CFR



200.1 means an award provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of a federal award received by the pass-through entity. It does not include payments to a contractor or payments to an individual that is a beneficiary of a federal program.

- j. For each proposed contract and subaward, specify the purpose and activities to be provided, and the estimated cost.
- k. Other: Provide clear and specific detail, including costs, for each item so that we can determine whether the costs are necessary, reasonable, and allocable. List items, such as stipends or incentives, not covered elsewhere.

B. Required Forms

LDDs will be required to sign a Memorandum of Agreement.

C. Review Process

Once DRA approves the scope of work and the budget, LDDs will be able to begin project activities.

V. Award Information

DRA is making approximately \$2.97 million available in FY23. These resources were appropriated in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, PL 117-58) signed by President Biden. LDDs will be awarded funds pro rata. DRA's funding methodology will calculate the number of economically distressed counties or parishes and isolated areas of distress each LDD represents within DRA's service area. The period of performance is up to 24 months.

VI. Cost-Sharing Information

There will be no match requirement to participate in this program.

VII. Reporting

LDDs will be required to submit an annual report that includes a financial review of the budget execution. LDDs that do not submit a report for work done in 2023 will not be eligible to receive an award for 2024. LDDs should submit reports that reflect DRA's



objectives and priorities for the program. Metrics for this program include the following:

1. Total number of applications and program investments directed to economically distressed, isolated areas of distress, and persistent poverty counties/parishes.
2. Total number of program investments directed to underserved communities. LDDs can also include partnerships in underserved communities that have emerged or strengthened through funding from this program.
3. Total number of program investments in economically distressed communities for critical and human infrastructure projects.

Reports should be emailed to pilotprogram@dra.gov.

A. 2023 Reporting Deadline

- Exactly 12 months after the date of the award

VIII. Administrative Program Requirements

All grantees will be subject to all applicable federal laws and regulations, including the OMB Uniform Guidance, and the terms and conditions of the award. The grant(s) awarded under this RFP will be subject to the following administrative standards and provisions.

- I. Non-Profit Organizations, Educational Institutions, For-profit entities and State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments—2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards)
- II. All recipients must comply with the applicable provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Public Law No. 113-328, 128 Stat. 1425 (codified as amended at 29 U.S.C. 3101 et. seq.) and the applicable provisions of the regulations at 20 CFR Part 675 et. seq. Note that 20 CFR Part 683 (Administrative Provisions) allows unsuccessful applicants to file administrative appeals.



- III. All entities must comply with 29 CFR Part 93 (New Restrictions on Lobbying), 29 CFR Part 94 (Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance)), 2 CFR Part 180 (OMB Guidance to Agencies on Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement)), and, where applicable, 2 CFR Part 200 (Audit Requirements).
- IV. All entities, as applicable, must comply with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Build America, Buy America Act (the Act), Pub. L. No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52, as well as the Executive Memorandum M-22-11, dated April 18, 2022, Initial Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure.

The LLD Community Support Pilot Program financial assistance awards are not required to adhere to Buy America, Build America preference requirements.

The Act requires the following Buy America preference:

1. All iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States. This means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States.
2. All manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States. This means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States, and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation.
3. All construction materials are manufactured in the United States. This means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States.

Pursuant to Section 70914(c) of the Act, DRA may waive the application of a Buy America preference under an infrastructure program in any case in which the FCC of DRA finds that—

1. applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest (a “public interest waiver”);



2. types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality (a “nonavailability waiver”); or
3. the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent (an “unreasonable cost waiver”).

Before applying a Buy America preference to a covered program that will affect Tribal Communities, DRA will follow the consultation policies established through Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, and consistent with policies set forth in the Presidential Memorandum of January 26, 2021, on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-Nation Relationships.

- I. Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance.
- II. Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Age in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance from the DRA pursuant to the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended. The Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of age by recipients of Federal financial assistance and in federally assisted programs or activities, but permits the use of certain age distinctions and factors other than age that meet the requirements of the Act and this part
- III. Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (except sections 904 and 906 of those Amendments) ([20 U.S.C. 1681](#), [1682](#), [1683](#), [1685](#), [1686](#), [1687](#), [1688](#)), which is designed to eliminate (with certain exceptions) discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance, whether or not such program or activity is offered or sponsored by an educational institution as defined in these Title IX regulations.
- IV. Implementation of the Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- V. Labor Standards for the Registration of Apprenticeship Programs, and Equal Employment Opportunity in Apprenticeship and Training, as applicable.
- VI. DRA will follow the procedures outlined in the agency’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) policy. If DRA receives a FOIA request for your application, the procedures in



DRA's FOIA policies for responding to requests for commercial/business information submitted to the government will be followed, as well as all FOIA exemptions and procedures. See generally 5 U.S.C. § 552

VII. DRA programs are covered programs under the Biden Administration's Justice40 Initiative. As part of Justice40, DRA will identify the benefits of covered programs, determine how covered programs distribute benefits, and calculate and report on reaching the 40-percent goal of the Initiative. Benefits include direct and indirect investments (and program outcomes) that positively impact disadvantaged communities. Therefore, all entities must comply with reporting, data collection, and evaluation involved with the Justice40 Initiative.

A. Other Legal Requirements

I. Religious Activities

DRA notes that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb, applies to all federal law and its implementation. If an applicant organization is a faith-based organization that makes hiring decisions on the basis of religious belief, it may be entitled to receive federal financial assistance under this grant solicitation and maintain that hiring practice. Religious organizations are eligible on the same basis as any other organization, to seek DRA support or participate in DRA programs for which they are otherwise eligible.

II. Lobbying

Lobbying or Fundraising the U.S. Government with Federal Funds In accordance with Section 18 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-65) (2 U.S.C. § 1611), non-profit entities incorporated under Internal Revenue Service Code section 501(c)(4) that engage in lobbying activities are not eligible to receive federal funds and grants. No activity, including awareness-raising and advocacy activities, may include fundraising for, or lobbying of, U.S. federal, state, or local governments (see 2 CFR 200.450 for more information).

III. Transparency Act Requirements

You must ensure that you have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Pub. Law 109-282, as amended by the Government Funding Transparency Act of 2008, Pub. Law 110-252, Title VI, Chap. 2, Sec. 6202), as follows.



1. Except for those excepted from the Transparency Act under sub-paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 below, you must ensure that you have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the subaward and executive total compensation reporting requirements of the Transparency Act, should you receive funding.
2. Upon award, you will receive detailed information on the reporting requirements of the Transparency Act, as described in 2 CFR Part 170, Appendix A, which can be found at <https://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-22705.pdf>.

The following types of awards are not subject to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act.

1. Federal awards to individuals who apply for or receive federal awards as natural persons (e.g., unrelated to any business or non-profit organization he or she may own or operate in his or her name);
2. Federal awards to entities that had a gross income, from all sources, of less than \$300,000 in the entities' previous tax year; and
3. Federal awards, if the required reporting would disclose classified information.

IV. Safeguarding Data Including Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

Applicants submitting applications in response to this RFP must recognize that confidentiality of PII and other sensitive data is of paramount importance to the Delta Regional Authority and must be observed except where disclosure is allowed by the prior written approval of the Grant Officer or by court order. By submitting an application, you are assuring that all data exchanges conducted through or during the course of performance of this grant will be conducted in a manner consistent with applicable federal law and TEGL 39-11 (issued June 28, 2012). All such activity conducted by recipient(s) will be performed in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

By submitting a grant application, you agree to take all necessary steps to protect such confidentiality by complying with the following provisions that are applicable in governing the handling of confidential information: You must ensure that PII and sensitive data developed, obtained, or otherwise associated with DRA funded grants is securely transmitted.

- I. To ensure that such PII is not transmitted to unauthorized users, all PII and other sensitive data transmitted via e-mail or stored on CDs, DVDs, thumb drives, etc., must be encrypted using a Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 140-2



compliant and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) validated cryptographic module. You must not e-mail unencrypted sensitive PII to any entity, including DRA or contractors.

- II. You must take the steps necessary to ensure the privacy of all PII obtained from participants and/or other individuals and to protect such information from unauthorized disclosure. You must maintain such PII in accordance with the DRA standards for information security and any updates to such standards we provide to you. Grantees who wish to obtain more information on data security should contact their Federal Project Officer.
- III. You must ensure that any PII used during the performance of your grant has been obtained in conformity with applicable federal and state laws governing the confidentiality of information.
- IV. You further acknowledge that all PII data obtained through your DRA grant must be stored in an area that is physically safe from access by unauthorized persons at all times and the data will be processed using recipient-issued equipment, managed information technology (IT) services, and designated locations approved by DRA. Accessing, processing, and storing of DRA grant PII data on personally owned equipment, at off-site locations, (e.g., employee's home), and non-recipient managed IT services, (e.g., Yahoo mail), is strictly prohibited unless approved by DRA.
- V. Your employees and other personnel who will have access to sensitive / confidential / Proprietary / private data must be advised of the confidential nature of the information, the safeguards required to protect the information, and that there are civil and criminal sanctions for noncompliance with such safeguards that are contained in federal and state laws.
- VI. You must have policies and procedures in place under which your employees and other personnel, before being granted access to PII, acknowledge their understanding of the confidential nature of the data and the safeguards with which they must comply with their handling of such data, as well as the fact that they may be liable to civil and criminal sanctions for improper disclosure.
- VII. You must not extract information from data supplied by DRA for any purpose not stated in the grant agreement.



- VIII. Access to any PII created by the DRA grant must be restricted to only those employees of the grant recipient who need it in their official capacity to perform duties in connection with the scope of work in the grant agreement.
- IX. All PII data must be processed in a manner that will protect the confidentiality of the records/ documents and is designed to prevent unauthorized persons from retrieving such records by computer, remote terminal, or any other means. Data may be downloaded to, or maintained on, mobile or portable devices only if the data are encrypted using NIST validated software products based on FIPS 140-2 encryption. In addition, wage data may be accessed only from secure locations.
- X. PII data obtained by the recipient through a request from DRA must not be disclosed to anyone but the individual requestor, except as permitted by the Grant Officer or by court order.
- VIII. You must permit DRA to make onsite inspections during regular business hours for the purpose of conducting audits and/or conducting other investigations to assure that you are complying with the confidentiality requirements described above. In accordance with this responsibility, you must make records applicable to this Agreement available to authorized persons for the purpose of inspection, review, and/or audit.
- IX. You must retain data received from DRA only for the period of time required to use it for assessment and other purposes, or to satisfy applicable federal records retention requirements, if any. Thereafter, you agree that all data will be destroyed, including the degaussing of magnetic tape files and deletion of electronic data.

- Record Retention

You must follow federal guidelines on record retention, which require that you maintain all records pertaining to grant activities for a period of at least three years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report. See 2 CFR 200.333-.337 for more specific information, including information about the start of the record retention period for awards that are renewed quarterly or annually, and when the records must be retained for more than three years.

- Use of Contracts and Subawards

You must abide by the following definitions of contract, contractor, subaward, and subrecipient.



Contract: Contract means a legal instrument by which a non-federal entity (defined as a state or local government, Indian tribe, institution of higher education (IHE), non-profit organization, for-profit entity, foreign public entity, or a foreign organization that carries out a federal award as a recipient or subrecipient) purchases property or services needed to carry out the project or program under a federal award. The term as used in this RFP does not include a legal instrument, even if the non-federal entity considers it a contract, when the substance of the transaction meets the definition of a federal award or subaward (see definition of Subaward below).

Contractor: Contractor means an entity that receives a contract as defined above in Contract.

Subaward: Subaward means an award provided by a pass-through entity (defined as a non-federal entity that provides a subaward to a subrecipient to carry out part of a federal program) to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of a federal award received by the pass-through entity. It does not include payments to a contractor or payments to an individual that is a beneficiary of a federal program. A subaward may be provided through any form of legal agreement, including an agreement that the pass-through entity considers a contract.

Subrecipient: Subrecipient means a non-federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a federal program, but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such program. A subrecipient may also be a recipient of other federal awards directly from a federal awarding agency.

You must follow the provisions at 2 CFR 200.330-.332 regarding subrecipient monitoring and management. Also see 2 CFR 200.308(c)(6) regarding prior approval requirements for subawards. When awarding subawards, you are required to comply with provisions on government-wide suspension and debarment found at 2 CFR Part 180 and codified at 2 CFR Part 2998.

- Closeout of Grant Award

Any entity that receives an award under this Announcement must close its grant with DRA at the end of the final year of the grant.

B. Other Administrative Standards and Provisions

Except as specifically provided in this RFP, our acceptance of an application and an award of federal funds to sponsor any programs(s) does not provide a waiver of any grant requirements and/or procedures. For example, the OMB Uniform Guidance



requires that an entity's procurement procedures ensure that all procurement transactions are conducted, as much as practical, to provide full and open competition. If an application identifies a specific entity to provide goods or services, the award does not provide the justification or basis to sole-source the procurement (i.e., avoid competition).

C. Special Program Requirements

DRA Evaluation

As a condition of grant award, grantees are required to participate in an evaluation, if undertaken by DRA. The evaluation may include an implementation assessment across grantees, an impact and/or outcomes analysis of all or selected sites within or across grantees, and a benefit/cost analysis or assessment of return on investment.

Conducting an impact analysis could involve random assignment (which involves random assignment of eligible participants into a treatment group that would receive program services or enhanced program services, or into control group(s) that would receive no program services or program services that are not enhanced). We may require applicants to collect data elements to aid the evaluation. As a part of the evaluation, as a condition of award, grantees must agree to:

- (1) make records available to the evaluation contractor on participants, employers, and funding;
- (2) provide access to program operating personnel, participants, and operational and financial records, and any other relevant documents to calculate program costs and benefits; and
- (3) in the case of an impact analysis, facilitate the assignment by lottery of participants to program services, including the possible increased recruitment of potential participants; and
- (4) follow evaluation procedures as specified by the evaluation contractor under the direction

of DRA.

Performance Goals

Please note that applicants will be held to outcomes provided, and failure to meet those outcomes may result in technical assistance or other intervention by DRA, and may also have a significant impact on decisions about future grants with DRA.



D. Definitions

Construction materials

Construction materials includes an article, material, or supply – other than an item of primarily iron or steel; a manufactured product; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives – that is or consists primarily of:

- non-ferrous metals;
- plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables);
- glass (including optic glass);
- lumber; or
- drywall.

Domestic content procurement preference means all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States; the manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States; or the construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.

Infrastructure:

Infrastructure includes, a minimum, the structure, facilities, and equipment for, in the United States (1) roads, highways, and bridges; (2) public transportation; (3) dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime systems; (4) intercity passenger and freight railroads; (5) freight and intermodal facilities; (6) airports; (7) water systems; including drinking water and wastewater systems; (8) electrical transmission facilities and systems; (9) utilities; (10) broadband infrastructure; and (11) buildings and real property. Infrastructure includes facilities that generate, transport, and distribute energy.

Project:

Project means the construction alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States.

IX. Appendix

A. Economically Distressed

DRA defines, pursuant to its statute, 7 USC 2009aa-5, a distressed community as a county, parish, or an isolated area of distress in a non-distressed county or parish



which are “the most severely and persistently distressed and underdeveloped and has high rates of poverty or unemployment.” This definition is applicable to all of DRA’s covered programs. A complete list of economically distressed counties and parishes and isolated areas of distress in non-distressed counties and parishes can be found [here](#).

B. Persistent Poverty

DRA applies the USDA Economic Research Service’s definition of persistent poverty to identify persistent poverty counties and parishes across the region. Persistent poverty counties and parishes are counties and parishes that have experienced a poverty rate of 20% or greater for at least 30 years.

State	County/Parish
AL	Barbour County
AL	Bullock County
AL	Butler County
AL	Choctaw County
AL	Clarke County
AL	Conecuh County
AL	Dallas County
AL	Escambia County
AL	Greene County
AL	Hale County
AL	Lowndes County
AL	Macon County
AL	Marengo County
AL	Monroe County
AL	Perry County



AL	Pickens County
AL	Sumter County
AL	Wilcox County
AR	Bradley County
AR	Chicot County
AR	Crittenden County
AR	Desha County
AR	Jefferson County
AR	Lee County
AR	Mississippi County
AR	Monroe County
AR	Phillips County
AR	Poinsett County
AR	St. Francis County
AR	Searcy County
AR	Woodruff County
IL	Alexander County
IL	Jackson County
IL	Pulaski County
KY	Fulton County
LA	Acadia Parish
LA	Avoyelles Parish
LA	Bienville Parish
LA	Catahoula Parish
LA	Claiborne Parish



LA	Concordia Parish
LA	East Carroll Parish
LA	East Feliciana Parish
LA	Evangeline Parish
LA	Franklin Parish
LA	Lincoln Parish
LA	Madison Parish
LA	Morehouse Parish
LA	Natchitoches Parish
LA	Orleans Parish
LA	Ouachita Parish
LA	Red River Parish
LA	Richland Parish
LA	St. Helena Parish
LA	St. Landry Parish
LA	Tangipahoa Parish
LA	Tensas Parish
LA	Washington Parish
LA	West Carroll Parish
LA	Winn Parish
MS	Adams County
MS	Amite County
MS	Attala County



MS	Benton County
MS	Bolivar County
MS	Claiborne County
MS	Coahoma County
MS	Copiah County
MS	Covington County
MS	Franklin County
MS	Grenada County
MS	Holmes County
MS	Humphreys County
MS	Issaquena County
MS	Jasper County
MS	Jefferson County
MS	Jefferson Davis County
MS	Lafayette County
MS	Leflore County
MS	Marion County
MS	Marshall County
MS	Montgomery County
MS	Panola County
MS	Pike County
MS	Quitman County
MS	Sharkey County
MS	Simpson County



MS	Sunflower County
MS	Tallahatchie County
MS	Tunica County
MS	Walthall County
MS	Washington County
MS	Wilkinson County
MS	Yalobusha County
MS	Yazoo County
MO	Carter County
MO	Dunklin County
MO	Mississippi County
MO	New Madrid County
MO	Oregon County
MO	Pemiscot County
MO	Reynolds County
MO	Ripley County
MO	Shannon County
MO	Texas County
MO	Washington County
MO	Wayne County
MO	Wright County
TN	Lake County



C. Underserved Communities

DRA applies the definition of underserved communities used in Executive Order 13985, titled “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.” This E.O. defines underserved communities as, “populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life...” The E.O. lists individuals that belong to underserved communities as, “Black, Latino, and indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.”