

**2020 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT**

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AGENCY-WIDE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Secretary established the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) to rapidly expand outreach to America’s agricultural community and facilitate greater access to USDA programs. Additionally, OPPE serves as the lead agent for USDA partnership and outreach activities with tasking and reporting authority to direct, coordinate and control all target programs. Programs include all components of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach including Small Farms and Beginning Farmer/Rancher and youth outreach and integration into workforce diversity 2030, Office of Tribal Relations, Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison and supporting Veterans Program Initiative, The Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and any other such programs the Secretary deems essential to serve the interest of USDA.

The Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO) is the largest mission area within OPPE and was established as an office under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Section 14013, P.L. 110-246 in October 2009. Section 12201 of the FY 2014 Farm Bill added new language to the outreach and assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers program to include veteran farmers and ranchers. OAO’s purpose is to improve access to USDA programs and enhance the viability and profitability of small farms and ranches, beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers. Through these actions, OAO will support the Department’s commitment to ensuring that all USDA constituents, including historically underserved groups and veteran farmers and ranchers, have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the programs offered by the Department. OAO serves as an advocate for underserved constituents and as an avenue for them to have input into programmatic and policy decisions to improve their viability and profitability.

In FY 2010, USDA received appropriations to maintain the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) in the Office of the Secretary, which became legislatively mandated in the Agricultural Act of 2014. OTR serves as the primary point of contact for tribal issues in USDA and has been delegated the following authorities by the Secretary of Agriculture: Serve as the Department’s primary point of contact for tribal issues; Advise the Secretary on politics related to Indian tribes; serve as the official with principle responsibility for the implementation of Executive Order 13175, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments,” including the provision of Department-wide guidance and oversight regarding tribal consultation, coordination, and collaboration; coordinate the Department’s programs involving assistance to American Indians and Alaska Natives; and enter into cooperative agreements to improve the coordination and effectiveness of Federal programs, services, and actions affecting rural areas; and to provide outreach and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers.

USDA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnership (The Center) was formally established in 2002 through Executive Order 13280, in recognition of the need to engage a broad and inclusive array of faith-based and community organizations to address the needs of low-income and other underserved persons and communities across the urban to rural spectrum. Faith-based and neighborhood organizations are vital to our Nation’s ability to address the needs of these communities. The American people are key drivers of fundamental change in our country, and few institutions are closer to the people than our faith-based and other neighborhood organizations.

Additionally, The Center is charged with preserving our fundamental constitutional commitments guaranteeing the equal protection of the laws, the free exercise of religion and while empowering faith-based and neighborhood organizations to deliver vital services in our communities as directed by Executive Order 13280 of December 12, 2002 (Responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture and the Agency for International Development With Respect to Faith-Based and Community Initiatives).

USDA’s Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison and supporting Veterans Program office enables and empowers military Veterans to pursue a career in agriculture or agribusiness, return to rural America, and strengthen the nation’s food safety and food security and our rural communities. The Initiative focuses on 3Es: Education, Entrepreneurship, and Employment. USDA’s Veterans Program Initiative pulls together information and resources across the department and shares them with transitioning service members, Veterans and their families in an effort to help them successfully transition into the food and ag sectors and back to rural America.

As of September 30, 2018, there were 46 permanent full-time OPPE employees including 23 employees in Washington, DC, and 23 located in the field.

OPPE did not have any Office of Inspector General or Government Accountability Office evaluation reports during the past year.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND STAFF YEARS

Table OPPE-1. Available Funds and Staff Years (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))

Item	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Actual	SY	Actual	SY	Estimate	SY	Budget	SY

Salaries and Expenses:

Item	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Actual	SY	Actual	SY	Estimate	SY	Budget	SY
Discretionary Appropriations.....	-	-	\$4,711	4	\$4,711	4	\$1,672	4
Mandatory Appropriations.....	-	-	10,000	3	15,000	3	15,000	3
Sequestration.....	-	-	-660	-	-930	-	-	-
Total Available.....	-	-	14,051	7	18,781	7	16,672	7
Lapsing Balances.....	-	-	-170	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Obligations, OPPE.....	-	-	13,881	7	18,781	7	16,672	7
Ob. Under Other USDA Appr.:								
Agency Partnership Outreach.....	-	-	6,605	35	7,240	34	7,240	34
Intertribal Technical Assistance Network.....	-	-	1,833	2	1,833	2	1,833	2
Office of Small Farms Coordination.....	-	-	-	-	185	1	185	1
Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.....								
Advisory Committee.....	-	-	23	-	112	-	112	-
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.....	-	-	1,083	-	1,600	-	1,600	-
Thurgood Marshall College Fund.....	-	-	532	-	800	-	800	-
Other OPPE Reimbursables.....	-	-	22	-	25	-	25	-
Total Ob. Under Other USDA Appr.....	-	-	10,098	37	11,795	37	11,795	37
Total, OPPE.....	-	-	23,979	44	30,576	44	28,467	44

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND STAFF YEARS

Table OPPE-2. Permanent Positions by Grade and Staff Years

Item	2017			2018			2019			2020		
	D.C.	Field	Total									
SES.....	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-15.....	-	-	-	6	-	6	6	-	6	6	-	6
GS-14.....	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
GS-13.....	-	-	-	7	19	26	7	17	24	7	17	24
GS-12.....	-	-	-	8	6	14	8	6	14	8	6	14
GS-11.....	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-10.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GS-7.....	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-6.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Graded.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ungraded.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Permanent.....	-	-	-	23	23	46	23	21	44	23	21	44
Unfilled, EOY.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Perm. FT EOY ...	-	-	-	23	23	46	23	21	44	23	21	44
Staff Year Est.....	-	-	-	19	25	44	19	25	44	19	25	44

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS

Table OPPE-3. Shared Funding Projects (dollars in thousands)

Item	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Budget
Working Capital Fund:				
Administration:				
Material Management Service.....	-	\$5	\$3	\$3
Mail and Reproduction Services.....	-	10	8	8
Integrated Procurement Systems.....	-	2	2	2
Procurement Operations Services.....	-	3	3	2
Human Resources Enterprise Management Systems....	-	-	-	1
Subtotal.....	-	20	15	16
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center.....	-	11	11	12
Financial Management Systems.....	-	43	158	43
Internal Control Support Services.....	-	-	-	-
Financial Management Support Services.....	-	241	307	383
Subtotal.....	-	295	475	438
Information Technology:				
Client Technology Services.....	-	214	240	244
National Information Technology Center.....	-	84	44	44
Enterprise Network Services.....	-	-	36	36
Subtotal.....	-	298	320	324
Correspondence Management.....	-	10	4	4
Total, Working Capital Fund.....	-	623	815	781
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services.....	-	3	7	7
Agency Partnership Outreach.....	-	1	1	1
Medical Services.....	-	1	1	1
Office of Customer Experience.....	-	-	-	1
Security Detail.....	-	1	1	1
Security Operations.....	-	1	2	2
UDSA Enterprise Data Analytics Services.....	-	-	-	1
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs.....	-	7	13	14
E-Gov:				
Grants.gov.....	-	12	11	11
Total, E-Gov.....	-	12	11	11
Agency Total.....	-	642	839	806

ACCOUNT 1: SALARIES AND EXPENSES

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table OPPE-4. Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2019 Annualized Continuing Resolution.....	\$4,711,000
Change in Appropriation	-3,039,000
Budget Estimate, 2020.....	1,672,000

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, \$41,373,000, of which not to exceed \$4,850,000 shall be available for the Immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed \$800,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development; not to exceed \$1,448,000 shall be available for the Office of Homeland Security; not to exceed \$1,672,000 shall be available for the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement; not to exceed \$22,251,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of which \$21,376,000 shall be available for Departmental Administration to provide for necessary expenses for management support services to offices of the Department and for general administration, security, repairs and alterations, and other miscellaneous supplies and expenses not otherwise provided for and necessary for

the practical and efficient work of the Department; not to exceed \$3,091,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations to carry out the programs funded by this Act, including programs involving intergovernmental affairs and liaison within the executive branch; and not to exceed \$7,261,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Rural Development mission area for salaries and expenses shall be available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development: *Provided further*, That funds made available by this Act to the Departmental Administration area for salaries and expenses shall be available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary for Administration: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$24,000 of the amount made available under this paragraph for the Immediate Office of the Secretary shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading for Departmental Administration shall be reimbursed from applicable appropriations in this Act for travel expenses incident to the holding of hearings as required by U.S.C. 551-558: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be transferred to agencies of the Department of Agriculture funded by this Act to maintain personnel at the agency level.

PROJECT STATEMENT

Table OPPE-5. Project Statement (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))

Item	2017 Actual	2018 SY	2018 Actual	2018 SY	2019 Estimate	2019 SY	Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key	2020 SY	2020 Budget	2020 SY
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagemen..	-	-	\$4,711	4	\$4,711	4	-\$3,039	(1)	-	\$1,672	4
Mandatory Appropriations:											
Disadvantaged Farmers, Ranchers and Veterans	-	-	10,000	3	15,000	3	-	-	-	15,000	3
Total Adjusted Approp	-	-	14,711	7	19,711	7	-3,039	-	-	16,672	7
Sequestration	-	-	-660	-	-930	-	+930	-	-	-	-
Total Available	-	-	14,051	7	18,781	7	-2,109	-	-	16,672	7
Lapsing Balances	-	-	-170	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations	-	-	13,881	7	18,781	7	-2,109	-	-	16,672	7

The base funds will continue to support the mission of Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement to ensure that small farmers and ranchers, beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and military veteran farmers and ranchers have access to, and equitable participation in programs and services of the Department.

(1) A decrease of \$3,039,000 (\$4,711,000 and 4 staff years available in 2019).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

A) A decrease of \$3,000,000 from grants, training, and web-design for socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers and veterans.

This reduction of \$3,000,000 is being addressed through decreased funds to support grants, training, and web-design and support to socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers and veterans.

B) A decrease of \$39,000 from non-personnel costs.

This reduction will be absorbed through lower-levels of travel, contracts, supplies and materials.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND STAFF YEARS

Table OPPE-6. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))

Discretionary

State/Territory/Country	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Actual	SY	Actual	SY	Estimate	SY	Budget	SY
District of Columbia.....	-	-	\$4,541	4	\$4,711	4	\$1,672	4
Lapsing Balances	-	-	170	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available.....	-	-	4,711	4	4,711	4	1,672	4

Mandatory

State/Territory/Country	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Actual	SY	Actual	SY	Estimate	SY	Budget	SY
Alabama.....	-	-	\$500	-	\$500	-	\$500	-
Alaska	-	-	150	-	150	-	150	-
Arizona	-	-	150	-	150	-	150	-
Arkansas	-	-	200	-	200	-	200	-
California.....	-	-	216	-	216	-	216	-
Colorado	-	-	250	-	250	-	250	-
Delaware.....	-	-	300	-	300	-	300	-
District of Columbia	-	-	700	3	5,430	3	6,360	3
Florida.....	-	-	620	-	620	-	620	-
Georgia	-	-	250	-	250	-	250	-
Illinois.....	-	-	150	-	150	-	150	-
Idaho.....	-	-	100	-	100	-	100	-
Kentucky.....	-	-	200	-	200	-	200	-
Louisiana	-	-	200	-	200	-	200	-
Maryland.....	-	-	200	-	200	-	200	-
Michigan.....	-	-	100	-	100	-	100	-
Minnesota	-	-	400	-	400	-	400	-
Mississippi.....	-	-	900	-	900	-	900	-
Missouri.....	-	-	200	-	200	-	200	-
Montana.....	-	-	240	-	240	-	240	-
New Mexico	-	-	200	-	200	-	200	-
New York	-	-	200	-	200	-	200	-
North Carolina	-	-	200	-	200	-	200	-
Ohio.....	-	-	200	-	200	-	200	-
Oklahoma.....	-	-	140	-	140	-	140	-
Oregon.....	-	-	100	-	100	-	100	-
Pennsylvania.....	-	-	194	-	194	-	194	-
Rhode Island.....	-	-	100	-	100	-	100	-
South Carolina	-	-	140	-	140	-	140	-
Tennessee.....	-	-	160	-	160	-	160	-
Texas.....	-	-	540	-	540	-	540	-
Vermont.....	-	-	40	-	40	-	40	-
Virginia.....	-	-	200	-	200	-	200	-
Washington.....	-	-	200	-	200	-	200	-
West Virginia.....	-	-	200	-	200	-	200	-
Wisconsin	-	-	500	-	500	-	500	-
Obligations	-	-	9,340	3	14,070	3	15,000	3
Lapsing Balances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available	-	-	9,340	3	14,070	3	15,000	3

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table OPPE-7 Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Discretionary

Item No.	Item	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Budget
Personnel Compensation:					
11	Total personnel compensation.....	-	\$906	\$928	\$1,000
12	Personal benefits	-	277	284	290
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	-	1	-	-
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	-	1,184	1,212	1,290
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	-	71	55	55
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	-	1	1	1
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	-	81	112	112
24.0	Printing and reproduction	-	25	10	10
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	-	737	186	86
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	-	1,478	2,147	80
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	-	10	26	26
31.0	Equipment	-	4	12	12
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	-	950	950	-
	Total, Other Objects	-	3,357	3,499	382
99.9	Total, new obligations	-	4,541	4,711	1,672
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3)	-	\$8	\$8	\$8
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	-	\$165,000	\$168,135	\$171,330
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	-	\$124,000	\$120,000	\$121,000
	Average Grade, GS Position	-	13.9	13.8	13.9

Mandatory

Item No.	Item	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Budget
Personnel Compensation:					
11	Total personnel compensation.....	-	\$316	\$320	\$322
12	Personal benefits	-	81	82	83
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	-	397	402	405
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	-	3	3	3
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	-	4	4	4
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	-	61	63	70
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	-	8,875	13,598	14,518
	Total, Other Objects	-	8,943	13,668	14,595
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	-	9,340	14,070	15,000

Position Data:

Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	-	\$104,000	\$107,000	\$108,200	
Average Grade, GS Position	-	13.3	13.4	13.4	107,000 107,000

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The Secretary established the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) to rapidly expand outreach to America's agricultural community and facilitate greater access to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs.

OPPE serves as the lead agent for USDA partnership and outreach activities with tasking and reporting authority to direct, coordinate, and control all target programs. Programs include all components of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach including Small Farms and Beginning Farmer/Rancher and youth outreach and integration, Office of Tribal Relations, Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison and supporting Veterans Program Initiative, The Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and any other such programs the Secretary deems essential to serve the interest of USDA.

The Office of Advocacy and Outreach is the largest division within OPPE and was established as an office under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Section 14013, P.L. 110-246 in October 2009. Section 12201 of Farm Bill added new language to the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Program to include veteran farmers and ranchers. OPPE's purpose is to improve access to USDA programs and enhance the viability and profitability of small farms and ranches, beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and veteran farmers and ranchers. Through these actions, OPPE will support the Department's commitment to ensuring that all USDA constituents, including historically underserved groups and veteran farmers and ranchers, can participate in and benefit from the programs offered by the Department. OPPE serves as an advocate for underserved constituents and as an avenue for them to have input into programmatic and policy decisions to improve their viability and profitability.

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Current Activities

OPPE provides management, direction, guidance, and supervision to each of these programs. It conducts strategic planning; coordinates and implements outreach and other activities; and measures program performance. Additionally, the OPPE promotes and keeps the public informed about these programs.

OPPE administers and manages grants under the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (Section 2501, Public Law 101-624, 7 U.S.C 2279). The grant program was funded through the 2014 Farm Bill for fiscal years 2014-2018.

The OPPE administers, manages, and supports the following Federal Advisory Committees:

1. The Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers
2. The Minority Farmer Advisory Committee
3. Council for Native American Farming and Ranching
4. USDA/Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Selected Examples of Recent Progress**Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships:**

Conducted national community assessments - Held over 20 community assessments in 12 states empowering over 1,000 community leaders focusing on e-connectivity, economic development, innovation and technology, workforce, and quality of life. The Center for Faith and Opportunity has successfully launched its pilot, Communities of Faith and Opportunity, across the USA. Held an Inaugural Summit for Communities of Faith and Opportunity, hosting over 20 communities from across the country for a day-long event highlighting struggles from rural communities and best practices. We had representatives from across the Federal Government and outlined numerous federal resources to address rural poverty and economic development with faith-based organizations functioning as the hub. Worked with Rural Development and the Department of Health and Human Services at opioid roundtables across the country. The Center has helped organize and mobilize faith-based organizations to partner with the Federal Government in addressing prevention, addiction, and recovery. Conducted preparation meetings in eight Mississippi counties to coordinate the establishment of the potential “Communities of Faith and Opportunity”. These pre-meetings were organized to prepare communities for the upcoming inaugural summit and the establishment of “Local Prosperity Councils”. Spoke at the 138th Annual Session of the National Baptist Convention in Minneapolis, MN. Provided information on the Communities of Faith and Opportunity and the OneUSDA model outlining agencies, programs, opportunities and resources available to eligible communities and individuals. Also met with the National President, State Presidents and numerous boards regarding USDA agencies, programs, opportunities, and resources. Spoke at the 87th Annual Session of the Texas State Baptist Convention and presented information on Communities of Faith and Opportunity and the OneUSDA model outlining agencies, programs, opportunities, and resources available to eligible communities and individuals. Also met with the National President, State Presidents, and numerous boards regarding USDA agencies, programs, opportunities, and resources.

Farm Worker Coordinator:

The USDA Farmworker Coordinator continues to work with Community-Based Organization’s in disseminating information to insure Farmworkers have access to emergency services provided by USDA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. OPPE outreach is primarily by phone, in both English and Spanish, fax and e-mails. The Farmworker Organizations list was updated, and organizations were contacted to share information on USDA programs that may assist farmworkers. USDA is working closely with other Federal agencies to better identify and address the needs of farmworker communities. Coordinator continues to provide farmworker perspective to USDA leadership and agencies.

Higher Education Institutions Programs - USDA/1890 Land Grant Institutions National Program:

Coordinated, managed, and provided supervisory oversight to the program and a field staff of 19 Liaisons stationed across the United States southeastern corridor and parts of the mid-west with no National Office Staff for 6 months before gaining a student coordinator in June resulting in the outstanding accomplishments by the National Office and the Field Staff as described. Coordinated and disseminated the Department-wide data call for the 2018 Annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Agency Plans. Assimilated, analyzed, and wrote the Department-wide 2018 Annual HBCU Agency Performance Plan. Wrote and submitted the nomination package to reconstitute the USDA/1890 Taskforce. Reconstituted the 1890 Agency Coordinators group. This group helps to

establish partnerships between the department and the agencies and staff offices in support of the 1890 program and provides technical assistance to the USDA/1890 Executive Committee. Managed and coordinated the selection of 15 National Scholars and 66 Thurgood Marshall College Fund interns. The program was responsible for the collection, invoice reconciliation, and payment of more than \$700,000 in funds committed to provide third-party interns across the Department and assigned across the country. Provided technical assistance and guidance to the universities to enable the serving of more than 4,740 meals to “At Risk Youth.” Participated in the 2501 Annual Symposium as a Speaker and Panel member. The event was attended by more than 100 participants. Coached two student teams to win their 6th (Lincoln University) and 5th (UMES) consecutive Regional MANRRS Chapter of the Year contests making them eligible to participate in the National Chapter of the year competitions. Conducted more than 250 presentations to community-based organizations, university staff and faculty, local middle and high schools, churches, and parent groups across the southeastern corridor and the mid-west for more than 2,000 participants.

USDA/1994 Land Grant Institutions National Program:

Updated the memorandum of agreement between USDA and the 1994 Tribal Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. Developed a draft Departmental Regulation to provide implementation guidance to USDA agencies and Staff Offices. Developed a white paper to promote USDA as a co-lead on Federal initiatives with other executive agencies targeting 1994 Land-Grants. Mapped Tribal liaisons and Service Centers in relation to the locations of the 1994 Land-Grant Colleges and intern placements. Developed a Tribal collaboration presentation for the 2018 United Tribes Technical University Tribal Leaders Summit. The session focused on USDA programs and establishes a baseline standard for working with the 1994 Land-Grants. Collaborated with the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) to conduct three Tribal Consultations on the Farm Bill.

The consultations were held at a national conference, a roundtable meeting with 1994 leadership and students regarding workforce development and the institutions legislative priorities and a meeting with tribal leaders. Worked with three 1994 institutions to develop an Agriculture Business Certificate program. Collaborated with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Forest Service (FS) to host on-site hiring events at or near 1994 locations to improve attendance and application levels for the students and Native Americans living near the event. Each of the agencies have hosted events or committed to hosting career opportunity events. Collaborated with FS to develop and implement a career opportunities camp for high school and 1994 students in 2019. Collaborated with the third-party internship providers for the 1890 National Program and the Hispanic Service Institutions Program to recruit and place two students in FS and one student in the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement. Developed promotional material. ARS and our program hosted six students as part of a collaborative, progressive, three-tiered approach.

The second and third tier will occur the summers of 2019 and 2020, respectively. Analyzed USDA 2015 Minority-Serving Institutions Report to identify areas for potential 1994 Land-Grant inclusion and used these to engage Agencies.

Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) National Program:

Executed the 2018 E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship Program, consisting of 19 fellows broken down into three tracks: 10 in education, 6 in science, and 3 in high school. The participants represented five states, the territory of Puerto Rico and 18 separate HSIs. Managed the USDA Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) National Internship Program hosting 292 HACU Interns (a 30 intern increase over FY 2017). This included 66 students during the Spring session, 124 in the Summer, and 102 during the Fall. Interns were hosted by 11 agencies and 3 staff offices. Partnered with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to establish the first ever West Coast AgDiscovery Program at Fresno State. Sixteen Central/Northern California and Washington State: Regional Director worked with Reedley’s College (RC) Upward Bound (UB) Program to implement the 2018 Ag. Ambassadors Program. Hosted two workshops during the UB program attended by nearly 600 students, parents, educators, and other community leaders. Worked with the Regents of the University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the University of California Desert Research and Extension Center/FARM SMART to implement the 2018 USDA Food and AgScience Summer Program, a 2-week experiential learning program to help students explore careers in agriculture, food, and natural resources. Worked with the Arizona Board of Regents and the University of Arizona-Yuma on the implementation of the 2018 USDA “STEAM” Summer Residential Program. This weeklong enrichment program is designed to inspire, motivate, and engage students from Imperial Valley College into STEAM-related fields of study. Organized USDA’s contribution to the 16th annual Hispanic Engineering, Science, and Technology Week at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Participated in breakout sessions on Educator Day and Student Leadership Day. Two hundred and forty students, teachers, and parents participated in the activities. Coordinated the OPPE co-sponsorship of the 2018 Northeastern Illinois

STEAM Conference. Served as a facilitator for the day-long K-12 student conference, introducing students from Chicago Public Schools to STEAM careers and related academics.

The conference offered over 30 workshops as well as prominent speakers in areas of STEAM. Led interactive STEAM related workshops and served on panels to discuss career options. More than 1,000 K-12 students, as well as college students from the greater Chicago area participated in the event.

Military Veteran's Assistance Liaison (MVAL):

Collaborated with FSA to open talks with the Veteran's Administration (VA) on a joint venture to reduce or eliminate regulations preventing veteran's from purchasing farm land with a residence on the land. Participated in the Urban Agriculture in the District of Columbia discussion at University of the District of Columbia to provide information about veteran's opportunities at USDA. Met with various major veterans' groups (American Legion, Veterans' of Foreign Wars, Wounded Warriors, etc.) to discuss farming opportunities and employment opportunities available in addition to the impact of the Faith and Opportunities Summits on the veteran community. Participated as a member of the panel, "Facing Today's Challenges After Three Decades of Struggle for Inclusion, Diversity, and Opportunity". collaborated with the USDA Office of Congressional Relations and Congressional offices to create an opportunity to provide veterans with information about the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program. Participated in the U.S. Air National Guard Post Deployment Yellow Ribbon event in St. Augustine, FL. This event was conducted for service members returning from an operational deployment. Provided information on USDA's 3Es (education, employment, entrepreneurship) to service members, spouses, families, veterans, veterans entrepreneurs, and veterans non-profit organizations.

Collaborated with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to fill vacancies in Food Inspection and Warehouse Examiner using non-competitive hiring authorities for Veterans. Interviewed by PBS NewsHour, Radio Talk (out of Norfolk), and American Legion Magazine to discuss opportunities for veterans; Conducted a live Webinar with Military Officer's Association of America about opportunities for Veterans at USDA for 293 registered guests. Met with U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) to discuss USDA's Veterans Program 3Es. IMCOM leadership has committed to scheduling a webinar for MVAL to educate Transition Assistance Coordinators across the county on USDA Veterans Program. Met with VA leadership to discuss collaborating on the use of a \$4 billion grant award to the VA for agricultural training for Behavior Health, PTSD, and Suicide Prevention. Participated in a teleconference with Rural Development and the VA to discuss sharing brick and mortar resources (telehealth) for veterans who cannot make it to a VA clinic or hospital.

Office of Tribal Relations:

The OTR has established a memorandum of understanding with the Intertribal Agriculture Council to have it maintain the Intertribal Technical Assistance Network (ITAN). ITAN provides technical assistance to members of Indian Country regarding USDA programs. This assistance allows for greater accessibility and understanding of USDA programs and leads to greater participation. During FY 2018, ITAN resolved over 830 issues, participated in over 375 outreach events, and had nearly 1,000 interactions with youth. Funding is also used to support the outreach activities of the office.

The OTR established an interagency agreement between the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the OPPE. FSA approached the OTR with the concept of working with the tribal colleges to develop career-ready curriculum in agribusiness. FSA provided \$200,000 and the OPPE provided another \$200,000 to the project. A cooperative agreement was developed between USDA and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium for \$400,000 wherein a six-course curriculum leading to a certificate in agribusiness is being developed. The curriculum will be available to all tribal colleges, and other community colleges or organizations interested in utilizing the curriculum. In preparation for the Farm Bill and to ensure consistency across the Department, the OTR has been working to enhance clarity and support USDA and its agencies around tribal consultation. This has been a multiple pronged approach including:

- The development and placement of Tier I consultation training in AgLearn.
- Forest Service took the lead developing a tribal consultation database. OTR worked with them to ensure that the reporting requirements are in line with the Departmental Regulation and would be useful to all agencies. This will be made available to all agencies soon.
- The OTR is in the process of combining the three consultation departmental regulations into one. A manual and tool kit is developed to establish procedure, share best practices, and provide templates.
- The OTR was involved with three consultations with the Food and Nutrition Service on the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, one on the reorganization of USDA, and one on the Farm Bill. The OTR also facilitated multiple meetings with tribal leaders and conducted several listening sessions. The OTR also conducted two meetings with the Council for Native American Farming and Ranching.

The OTR has undertaken extensive work to enhance the OneUSDA concept across the Department and to improve customer service in Indian Country and for the agencies. The Native American Work Group is comprised of the senior tribal contacts in the agencies across USDA. The vision of these efforts is to enhance and leverage the talents and abilities of tribal liaisons through facilitated discussions, work groups, a SharePoint site, and other means.

Outreach and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Program/Socially Disadvantaged Policy Research Center:

The OPPE hosted the 3rd Annual 2501 Symposium in Jackson, Mississippi on September 18-19. This symposium benefitted both the USDA and the stakeholders/grantees/partners by disseminating information about USDA programs and services and resolving concerns and issues expressed by the participants; the OPPE implemented and led the internal and external teleconferences to ensure stakeholders received the most updated programmatic and funding opportunity information; in FY 2018, 52 new 2501 projects were funded for \$9.4 million in 29 states. An additional \$400,000 was obligated to the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Center to continue research and policy at Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi. A set of recommendations were submitted to Congress and a copy was provided to the Secretary to better assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, resulting from policy research conducted by The Center's staff. The OPPE maintains a database with these organizations' contacts to send periodic notifications, events, and information useful to the socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers to help our community-based organizations, higher education institutions, industry leaders, stakeholders, partners, and former grantees to keep them abreast of USDA programs, services, and funding opportunities; in May and June of 2018, the OPPE provided two capacity building training sessions for all potential grantees during the open period of the Funding Opportunity Announcement in order to address any clarifying questions perspective applicants might have. The 2501 staff provided data testing and user acceptance to contractors for the implementation of its new Grants Management System (ezFedGrants).