

Appendix Table-100 Years of Federal Programs for Rural Development

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Administration (Sec'y of Agriculture) Year	Major Legislation	New Programs	Organizational Changes (primarily USDA)
Grover Cleveland (Julius Morton) 1893 1896		Rural Free Delivery established	Office of Road Inquiry--organized to run demonstration/educational programs
Theodore Roosevelt (James Wilson) 1905 1908		Country Life Commission appointed to report on needs of rural population	Office of Public Roads replaces Office of Road Inquiry--constructs demonstration roads and tests road materials
William Taft (James Wilson) 1912	Funding appropriated for Office of Public Roads to supervise building of rural post roads	Parcel Post Delivery established	
Woodrow Wilson (David Houston) 1914 1916	Smith-Lever Act establishes Cooperative Extension Service Federal Highway Act funds construction of rural roads		

Warren Harding (Henry C. Wallace)			
1922	Capper-Volstead Act encourages rural cooperatives		
Calvin Coolidge (William Jardine)			
1927 and 1928	McNary-Haugen Bill, passed by Congress and then vetoed two years running, would have created a program of agricultural export subsidies to protect domestic farm prices from falling world prices.		
Herbert Hoover (Arthur Hyde)			
1929	Agricultural Marketing Act attempts to improve rural farm incomes		
Franklin Roosevelt (Henry A. Wallace)			
1933	Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) attempts to raise farm prices to improve rural farm incomes		Soil Erosion Service established in Department of Interior
	Federal Emergency Relief Act includes programs for rural relief		Tennessee Valley Authority established to develop electrical power and industry in disadvantaged rural region
1934	National Industrial Recovery Act authorizes subsistence homesteads program to resettle displaced workers	Rural Rehabilitation program established	
1935			Rural Electrification Administration (REA) organized
			Resettlement Administration organized to resettle farm laborers and disadvantaged rural

<p>1936</p>	<p>Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act replaces AAA and adds conservation programs to price support activities</p> <p>Rural Electrification Act establishes Federal authority to assist development of rural electric cooperatives</p>		<p>residents in part-time farming communities</p> <p>Soil Conservation Service, formerly Soil Erosion Service, moved to USDA</p> <p>Great Plains Drought Commission established to address problems of the Dust Bowl</p> <p>Special Commission on Farm Tenancy established to address widespread displacement of tenant farmers and sharecroppers</p>
<p>1937</p>	<p>Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act authorizes assistance to help tenant farmers acquire farms</p>		<p>Farm Security Administration supersedes Resettlement Administration</p>
<p>Harry Truman (Clinton Anderson)</p> <p>1946</p> <p>(Charles Brannan)</p> <p>1949</p>	<p>Senate Joint Committee of the Economic Report issues extensive report on rural poverty</p> <p>Housing Act authorizes loans for farm housing</p>	<p>Rural Telephone Loan program established</p>	<p>Farm Security Administration abolished and replaced by Farmers Home Administration (FmHA)</p>
<p>Dwight Eisenhower (Ezra Taft Benson)</p> <p>1953</p> <p>1955</p>	<p>Interstate Highway System receives first appropriations</p>	<p>Rural Development Committees organized to help local communities establish training programs and other</p>	

1956		activities Soil Bank established to remove vulnerable agricultural land from production as a conservation measure, but also functions to reduce surplus commodity production	
1959			Interdepartmental Committee on Rural Development organized to coordinate Federal rural development efforts
John Kennedy (Orville Freeman)			
1961	Area Redevelopment Act authorizes program to address rural underemployment		Office of Rural Areas Development and Rural Area Development Committees established to help eliminate rural underemployment. Rural Area Development Committees replace Rural Development Committees
1962		Rural Renewal program authorized by Congress	
Lyndon Johnson (Orville Freeman)			
1964	Economic Opportunity Act initiates War on Poverty	Job Corps organized to train disadvantaged youth	
1965	Appalachian Regional Commission authorized to address development needs of Appalachian region Housing and Urban Development Act passed to improve housing in urban and rural areas		Rural Community Development Service established to coordinate USDA's rural development activities Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Development established

1966			Economic Development Division (EDD) of Economic Research Service, USDA, given responsibility for rural development research
1967			National Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty (NACRP) organized to investigate conditions in rural areas NACRP report <i>The People Left Behind</i> calls attention to the extent of rural poverty
Richard Nixon (Clifford Hardin)			
1969			Presidential Task Force on Rural Development recommends programs for public and private sector
1970			Departmental Rural Development Committee replaces Rural Community Development Service as coordinator of USDA rural development programs
1971		Rural Telephone Bank organized to finance rural telephone cooperatives First Regional Rural Development Center established to carry out regional extension and research for rural development	USDA Committee for Rural Development set up in each State to coordinate USDA rural development programs at the State level; Rural Development Service organized to direct USDA rural development programs
(Earl Butz)			
1972	Rural Development Act authorizes a broadly defined set of rural development programs and designates USDA as lead agency		USDA becomes member of Federal Regional Councils

1973	Congressional Rural Caucus organized to emphasize needs of rural areas		William Erwin becomes first Assistant Secretary for Rural Development FmHA's Community Services Division reorganized into three divisions: Water and Waste Disposal, Community Facilities Loans, and Business and Industry Loans
Gerald Ford (Earl Butz) 1974	Housing and Community Development Act establishes Small Cities Community Development Block Grants Midwest Conference of Democratic Senators (Midwest Caucus) established to bring attention to rural needs		
1976	Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act includes requirement of grants to rural communities Health Manpower Act provides scholarships for physicians to serve in rural areas and loans to improve rural facilities		Health Underserved Rural Areas grants initiated to fund pilot programs and research Health Systems Agencies established to plan for areawide health care (mandated by 1974 Health Planning and Resources Development Act)
Jimmy Carter (Bob Bergland) 1977	Housing and Community Development Act provides funding for rural communities		Interagency Task Force on Rural Development Issues established to study rural issues as part of budget review
1978	Emergency Agricultural Credit Act authorizes loans to assist farmers, bringing additional funds to rural communities	White House Rural Development Initiatives begin	Rural Development Service transferred to FmHA and renamed Rural Development Policy Management and Coordination Staff; emphasizes rural housing needs

1979			White House Small Community and Rural Development Policy released Undersecretary for Small Community and Rural Development established
1980	Rural Development Policy Act (part of Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act Amendments) extends and expands rural development programs		National Advisory Council on Small Community and Rural Development established to allow interested groups an opportunity to participate in policy and program planning
Ronald Reagan (John Block)			
1981			Office of Rural Development Policy (ORDP) established to formulate policy and coordinate rural development programs. Mandated by 1980 Rural Development Policy Act, it absorbs rural development planning activities from FmHA State Rural Development Coordinating Committees become subcommittees of USDA State Coordinating Councils; USDA Rural Development Coordinating Committee absorbed into USDA Policy and Coordinating Council
1982			National Advisory Council on Rural Development established to identify rural problems and support rural development policies
1983		ORDP report <i>Better Country: A Strategy for Rural Development in the 1980s</i> articulates Reagan administration rural development goals	
1985	Congress closes ORDP by refusing to authorize funding		

<p>(Richard Lyng)</p> <p>1987</p> <p>1988</p>	<p>Food Security Act establishes a National Advisory Commission on Agricultural and Rural Development Policy to address the future of rural development policy in the context of the 1980s farm crisis</p>	<p>Six-Point Rural Regeneration Initiative issued to articulate ongoing and new rural development programs</p>	<p>National Advisory Council on Rural Development establishes a new citizens advisory panel to help develop policy</p> <p>National Rural Information Center established at National Agricultural Library to serve as development information clearinghouse</p>
<p>George Bush (Clayton Yeutter)</p> <p>1989</p> <p>1990</p> <p>(Edward Madigan)</p> <p>1992</p>	<p>Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act authorizes establishment of a Rural Development Administration in USDA; first rural development title included as part of Farm Act</p>	<p>Rural Revitalization Task Force of National Advisory Council on Rural Development recommends action to increase effectiveness of USDA rural development programs in its report <i>A Hard Look at USDA's Rural Development Programs</i></p> <p>Presidential Initiative <i>Rural Economic Development for the 90s</i> issued based on 1989 National Advisory Council on Rural Development recommendations</p>	<p>State Rural Development Councils (SRDCs) established by Presidential Initiative to provide coordination, flexibility, and local initiative in rural development program implementation</p> <p>Interdepartmental Working Group on Rural Development established by Presidential Initiative</p> <p>Rural Development Administration receives funding and begins coordination of USDA</p>

			rural development
<p>Bill Clinton (Mike Espy)</p> <p>1993</p>		<p>Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative issued to provide assistance to Pacific Northwest communities</p> <p>Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC) program established to encourage comprehensive planning and development in distressed communities</p> <p>North American Free Trade Agreement Trade Adjustment Assistance (NAFTA-TAA) program initiated to provide financial and development assistance to workers and communities adversely affected by NAFTA</p> <p>AmeriCorps National Service Initiative includes rural development projects among assignments for volunteers</p>	<p>Council on Sustainable Development established</p> <p>SRDC program becomes National Rural Development Partnership (NRDP) with increased Federal participation</p>
<p>1994</p> <p>(Dan Glickman)</p>	<p>Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Agriculture Reorganization Act reorganizes USDA into seven mission areas and reduces number of agencies to 17</p>	<p>General TAA program initiated to provide assistance to displaced workers and communities affected by free trade agreements</p> <p>Telecommunications and Information Assistance program of the Department of Commerce includes grants for projects to bring Internet service to rural areas</p>	<p>USDA reorganization establishes Rural Development mission area made up of three new agencies--Rural Utilities Service, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Business-Cooperative Service—which replace and incorporate rural development programs of FmHA, REA, Agricultural Cooperative Service. Adds the Office of Community Development to administer the EZ/EC and NRDP programs, and regional initiatives</p>

<p>1996</p>	<p>Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act reduces funding for rural development programs</p> <p>Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (FAIR) includes rural development title</p> <p>Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (welfare reform) provides grants to rural areas to meet requirement to provide child care, transportation, and education and training support to help welfare recipients move into paid employment</p>	<p>Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP), established by the FAIR Act, permits more flexible funding of USDA rural development programs when accompanied by strategic planning</p> <p>Rural Business Opportunity Grants replace Section 111 planning grants first established in the 1970s</p> <p>Fund for Rural America established by FAIR Act to support rural development research and pilot programs</p>	
<p>1999</p>		<p>Denali Commission established to support comprehensive planning and development in rural Alaska</p> <p>Delta Initiative established to support comprehensive planning and development in the Lower Mississippi Delta</p> <p>Department of Housing and Urban Development establishes its Rural Housing and Economic Development grant program</p> <p>Department of Transportation launches its Rural Transportation Initiative to help rural areas achieve coordinated planning and implementation across transportation solutions</p> <p>Liveable Communities Initiative established to assist rural communities facing rapid growth</p>	

2000		New Markets Initiative established to assist rural communities facing persistent economic distress Rural Community Development Initiative launched under RCAP	
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