

Matching funds points will be awarded as listed below.

25 percent to 35 percent match—2 points

35 percent to 50 percent match—5 points

50 percent to 75 percent match—7 points

75 percent match—10 points

Up to 5 additional points may be awarded based on the applicant's capacity to leverage additional funds and resources from other private and nonprivate sources to support this outreach initiative. Applicants must provide sufficient information on the amount and sources of leveraging activities for the evaluation panel to properly rate this criterion.

(c) *Economic Need of Community (Up to 20 points)*—This criterion will be evaluated based on the economic need of the targeted communities.

A maximum of 7 points will automatically be awarded to proposals with one or more of the following entities in a targeted community(s): Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, Champion Communities, Federally-recognized Indian Tribal groups, and other Federally declared economic depressed or disaster areas. Applicants must provide sufficient information for the panel to properly rate this part of the above criterion. The proposals must state the name and location of the declared economic depressed area.

Rural underserved targeted counties/communities should be the same as the RBS definition for rural eligibility, which is any area other than a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants and the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town, as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census using the latest decennial census of the United States.

Also, for this criterion, a maximum of 8 points will be awarded for demonstrated economic need based on the currently available poverty rate of the targeted local community(s).

Applicants may use targeted county/or community poverty rates if available. When multi-communities proposals are submitted, the overall weighted average for all counties or communities will be used. Applicants must use current (2000 Census) poverty data for each targeted county/or community and for their respective State. Points will be awarded based on the differences in the targeted county/or community average poverty rate from the respective State poverty rate (average targeted county or community poverty rate-State poverty rate) as

following. Percents will be rounded to the next whole number.

Less than 3 percent—0 points

3–6 percent—1 point

7–10 percent—2 points

11–15 percent—5 points

Greater than 15 percent—8 points

Up to five additional points may be awarded for this criterion based on the applicant's ability to demonstrate or identify other economic needs of the targeted communities, such as, but not limited to, unemployment rates, education levels, and job availability. The applicant must provide sufficient information for the panel to properly rate this part of the above criterion.

(d) *Previous Accomplishments (Up to 10 points)*—This criterion will be evaluated based on the applicant's previous accomplishments with this outreach initiative and/or demonstrative capacity to conduct similar outreach work.

A point will be awarded to those institutions for each year they have been awarded a cooperative agreement under this program up to 5 years. Applicants must provide evidence of satisfactorily completing the agreement for each year that they claim for credit.

Up to five additional points may be awarded based on the applicant's ability to document the impact of their project upon the targeted underserved rural communities. It is incumbent upon the applicant to provide information as to the type of services delivered, the names of rural communities, and the number of targeted audiences served the last year awarded.

Applicants with zero or less than 5 recent years of awards in this program may receive up to the maximum 10 points by highlighting the institution's commitment and previous performance on this project or projects with similar outreach objectives. The applicant should discuss the potential impact of their project upon the targeted underserved rural communities, as well as describing previous similar outreach work.

(e) *Statement of Work (up to 20 Points)*—This criterion relates to the degree to which the proposed project addresses the major purposes for the "1890 Land Grant Institutions Rural Entrepreneurial Program Outreach Initiative." Points will be awarded according to the degree to which the statement of work reflects innovative strategies for providing outreach and assistance to the targeted underserved rural entrepreneurs, businesses and communities, and the potential for achieving project objectives. To receive the maximum points, proposals must

have a clearly and concisely stated work plan showing objectives, goals, timetables, expected results, measurable outcomes, and who will be performing various activities, including RBS involvement.

(f) *Digital Technology Outreach (Up to 10 points)*—This criterion is meant to evaluate the applicant's level of outreach and capacity to provide innovative and effective computer technology outreach to the underserved targeted rural communities.

A maximum of 5 points will be awarded based on the applicant's demonstrated capacity to promote innovations and improvements in the delivery of computer technology benefits to underserved rural communities whose share in these benefits is disproportionately low. Examples of innovations and improvements in this needed area include, but are not limited to, computer-base, decision support systems to assist entrepreneurs and rural community governments in taking advantage of relevant technologies or efficacious delivery systems for business information or resource management assistance for rural underserved entrepreneurs and local governments and providing business information systems network.

Up to five additional points may be awarded based on the qualification and subject skill level of the individuals directly conducting the technology outreach activities. Applicants must provide sufficient information for the evaluation panel to properly rate this technology criterion.

(g) *Coordination and Management of the Project (Up to 15 points)*—This criterion will be evaluated based on the applicant's demonstrated capacity to coordinate and manage this type of outreach initiative among the various stakeholders.

A maximum of 8 points will be awarded for the coordination plan. Applicants will need to describe the role and coordination mechanisms among various participants, including communities, the applicant, and RBS. The nature of the collaborations and benefits to participants must also be described.

By definition, a cooperative agreement requires sufficient involvement by the funding agent in carrying out the project objectives in the project. Therefore, up to 7 additional points may be awarded for this criterion based on demonstration of broad involvement and collaboration with each applicant's respective RBS State Office as related to the outreach project. This involvement and collaboration