

2016 Explanatory Notes
Office of the Secretary
Office of Advocacy and Outreach

Contents

Purpose Statement	3-1
Statement of Available Funds and Staff Years	3-2
Permanent Positions by Grade and Staff Years Summary	3-2
Salaries and Expenses	
Appropriations Language	3-3
Lead-off Tabular Statement.....	3-3
Summary of Increases and Decreases.....	3-4
Project Statement.....	3-4
Justifications	3-4
Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years.....	3-5
Classification by Objects	3-6
Shared Funding Projects.....	3-8
Status of Programs.....	3-9
Summary of Budget and Performance	
Statement of Goals and Objectives.....	3-13
Key Performance Outcomes and Measures	3-13
Full Cost by Strategic Objective.....	3-15

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Purpose Statement

The Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO) 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. The funds will be appropriated to Commodity Credit Corporation and transferred to OAO. 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.

OAO has two liaisons in Alabama, and one liaison in Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Delaware, West Virginia, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas. As of September 30, 2014, there were 40 permanent full-time OAO employees including 26 employees in Washington, DC, and 15 located in the field.

OIG Reports – Open

91099-0002-21 2014 Strike Force Initiative audit

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Available Funds and Staff Years (SYs)
(Dollars in thousands)

Item	2013 Actual		2014 Actual		2015 Enacted		2016 Estimate	
	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs
Salaries and Expenses:								
Discretionary Appropriations.....	\$1,422	7	\$1,209	5	\$1,209	4	\$1,228	4
Mandatory Appropriations.....	-	-	10,000	3	10,000	4	10,000	4
Rescission.....	-39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sequestration.....	-63	-	-	-	-730	-	-	-
Total Available.....	1,320	7	11,209	8	10,479	8	11,228	8
Lapsing Balances.....	-43	-	-61	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Obligations, OAO.....	1,277	7	11,148	8	10,479	8	11,228	8
Obligations under other USDA appropriations:								
1890 Initiatives.....	2,773	21	2,718	17	2,787	21	2,787	21
1994 Program.....	725	4	713	5	743	4	743	4
Hispanic Serving Institutions.....	1,874	11	1,889	11	1,890	10	1,890	10
Office of Small Farms Coordination.....	-	-	-	-	185	1	185	1
Beginning Farmers and Ranchers- Advisory Committee.....	-	-	77	-	80	-	80	-
Other OAO Reimbursable.....	1,218	2	1,880	-	2,000	2	2,000	2
Total, Other USDA.....	6,590	38	7,277	33	7,685	38	7,685	38
Total, OAO.....	7,867	45	18,425	41	18,164	46	18,913	46

Permanent Positions by Grade and Staff Year Summary

Item	2013 Actual			2014 Actual			2015 Enacted			2016 Estimate		
	Wash.		Total	Wash.		Total	Wash.		Total	Wash.		Total
	D.C.	Field		D.C.	Field		D.C.	Field		D.C.	Field	
SES.....	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-15.....	7	-	7	7	-	7	6	-	6	6	-	6
GS-14.....	4	-	4	4	-	4	4	-	4	4	-	4
GS-13.....	1	13	14	1	13	14	1	12	13	1	12	13
GS-12.....	1	8	9	1	7	8	1	7	8	1	7	8
GS-11.....	10	-	10	8	-	8	9	-	9	9	-	9
GS-9.....	3	-	3	3	-	3	2	-	2	2	-	2
GS-7.....	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-6.....	3	-	3	3	-	3	2	-	2	2	-	2
GS-5.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Graded Pos.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Perm. Pos.....	31	21	52	29	20	49	27	19	46	27	19	46
Unfilled, EOY.....	5	5	10	3	5	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Perm Full-Time												
Employment EOY.....	26	16	42	26	15	41	27	19	46	27	19	46
Staff Year Est.....	40	10	50	26	15	41	27	19	46	27	19	46

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

The estimates include appropriation language for this item as follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

Salaries and Expenses:

Office of the Secretary

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, [~~\$45,805,000~~] \$47,308,000, of which not exceed [~~\$5,051,000~~] \$5,137,000 shall be available for the Immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed [~~\$502,000~~] \$507,000 shall be available for the Office of Tribal Relations; not to exceed \$250,000 shall be available for the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison; not to exceed [~~\$1,496,000~~] \$1,520,000 shall be available for the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Coordination; not to exceed [~~\$1,209,000~~] \$1,228,000 shall be available for the Office of Advocacy and Outreach; not to exceed [~~\$25,928,000~~] \$26,504,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of which [~~\$25,124,000~~] \$25,688,000 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 [~~\$3,869,000~~] \$3,934,000 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 [~~\$7,750,000~~] \$8,228,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications: *Provided*, 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 \$11,000 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 5 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 [*Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency].

1

The first change in language is for the purpose of deleting restrictive language in the Consolidated and further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, that requires Congressional notification prior to funds being obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment.

Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Budget Estimate, 2016.....	\$1,228,000
2015 Enacted.....	<u>1,209,000</u>
Change in Appropriation.....	<u><u>+19,000</u></u>

Summary of Increases and Decreases
(Dollars in thousands)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Estimate</u>
Discretionary Appropriations:					
Office of Advocacy and Outreach.....	\$1,320	-\$111	-	+\$19	\$1,228

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Project Statement

Adjusted Appropriations Detail and Staff Years (SYs)
(Dollars in thousands)

Program	<u>2013 Actual</u>		<u>2014 Actual</u>		<u>2015 Enacted</u>		<u>Inc. or Dec.</u>		<u>2016 Estimate</u>	
	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs
Discretionary Appropriations:										
Office of Advocacy and Outreach.....	\$1,320	7	\$1,209	5	\$1,209	4	+\$19 (1)	-	\$1,228	4
Mandatory Appropriations:										
Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers- and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers.....	-	-	10,000	3	10,000	4	-	-	10,000	4
Rescissions, Transfers, and Seq. (Net).....	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriation.....	1,422	7	11,209	8	11,209	8	+19	-	11,228	8
Rescission.....	-39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sequestration.....	-63	-	-	-	-730	-	+730	-	-	-
Total Available.....	1,320	7	11,209	8	10,479	8	+749	-	11,228	8
Lapsing Balances.....	-43	-	-61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations.....	1,277	7	11,148	8	10,479	8	+749	-	11,228	8

Project Statement

Obligations Detail and Staff Years (SYs)
(Dollars in thousands)

Program	<u>2013 Actual</u>		<u>2014 Actual</u>		<u>2015 Enacted</u>		<u>Inc. or Dec.</u>		<u>2016 Estimate</u>	
	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs
Discretionary Obligations:										
Office of Advocacy and Outreach.....	\$1,277	7	\$1,166	5	\$1,209	4	+\$19 (1)	-	\$1,228	4
Mandatory Obligations:										
Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers- and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers.....	-	-	9,982	3	9,270	4	+\$730 (2)	-	10,000	4
Total Obligations.....	1,277	7	11,148	8	10,479	8	+749	-	11,228	8
Lapsing Balances.....	43	-	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available.....	1,320	7	11,209	8	10,479	8	+749	-	11,228	8
Rescission.....	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sequestration.....	63	-	-	-	730	-	-730	-	-	-
Total Appropriation.....	1,422	7	11,209	8	11,209	8	+19	-	11,228	8

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Justification of Increases and Decreases

- (1) An increase of \$19,000 for the Office of Advocacy and Outreach (\$1,209,000 and 8 staff years available in 2015).

Base funds will continue to support the mission of OAO to improve access to USDA programs and enhance the viability and profitability of small farms and ranches, beginning farmers and ranchers, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. In addition to the activities and functions specifically described in the budget request, current year and budget year base funds will be used to carry out activities and functions consistent with the full range of authorities and activities delegated to the office. In addition to Departmental Administration funding used by the Office of Human Resources Management for human resources operational services, current year and budget year base funds will also be used to support expedited and enhanced classification, staffing and processing efforts.

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- a) An increase of \$11,000 for pay costs (which includes \$2,000 for annualization of the fiscal year in 2015 pay raise and \$9,000 for the anticipated fiscal year 2016 pay raise).

This increase is needed to maintain the current level of staffing to ensure OAO staffs serve as advocates for underserved constituents and as an avenue for them to have input into programmatic and policy decisions to improve their viability and profitability.

- b. An increase of \$8,000 for operating costs.

This increase is needed to maintain support to the Beginning Farmers and Rancher and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Programs.

Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years
(Dollars in thousands and Staff Years (SYs))

State/Territory	2013 Actual		2014 Actual		2015 Enacted		2016 Estimate	
	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs	Amount	SYs
District of Columbia.....	\$1,277	7	\$11,148	8	\$11,209	8	\$11,228	8
Lapsing Balances.....	43	-	61	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations.....	1,320	7	11,209	8	11,209	8	11,228	8

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Direct Appropriation
Classification by Objects
(Dollars in thousands)

	2013	2014	2015	2016
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Enacted</u>	<u>Estimate</u>
Personnel Compensation:				
Washington D.C.....	\$678	\$611	\$550	\$567
11 Total personnel compensation.....	678	611	550	567
12 Personal benefits.....	171	118	140	145
Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	849	729	690	712
Other Objects:				
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons.....	16	27	30	30
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	47	24	26	26
24.0 Printing and reproduction.....	26	10	12	12
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources.....	35	27	30	30
25.3 Other purchases of goods and services from Federal sources.....	266	264	321	318
26.0 Supplies and materials.....	34	45	50	50
31.0 Equipment.....	4	40	50	50
Total, Other Objects.....	428	437	519	516
99.9 Total, new obligations.....	1,277	1,166	1,209	1,228
Position Data:				
Average Salary (dollars), SES Position.....	\$175,200	\$175,200	\$175,200	\$175,200
Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$94,969	\$95,919	\$99,905	\$102,932
Average Grade, GS Position.....	13.3	13.3	13.4	13.5

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers

Classification by Objects

(Dollars in thousands)

	2013	2014	2015	2016
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Enacted</u>	<u>Estimate</u>
Personnel Compensation:				
Washington D.C.....	-	\$123	\$190	\$193
11 Total personnel compensation.....	-	123	190	193
12 Personal benefits.....	-	63	50	52
Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	-	186	240	245
Other Objects:				
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons.....	-	-	6	6
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	-	-	6	6
24.0 Printing and reproduction.....	-	-	5	5
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources.....	-	-	100	105
25.3 Other purchases of goods and services				
from Federal sources.....	-	42	100	100
31.0 Equipment.....	-	-	5	5
41.0 Grants.....	-	9,754	8,808	9,528
Total, Other Objects.....	-	9,796	9,030	9,755
99.9 Total, new obligations.....	-	9,982	9,270	10,000
Position Data:				
Average Salary (dollars), SES Position.....	-	-	-	-
Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	-	\$101,914	\$102,932	\$102,932
Average Grade, GS Position.....	-	13.5	13.5	13.5

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Shared Funding Projects
(Dollars in thousands)

	2013	2014	2015	2016
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Enacted</u>	<u>Estimate</u>
Working Capital Fund:				
Administration:				
Beltsville Service Center.....	\$4	\$4	\$6	\$6
Mail and Reproduction Management.....	47	21	34	35
Procurement Operations.....	9	8	1	1
Financial Management Services.....	-	219	339	343
Integrated Procurement System.....	3	3	2	2
Subtotal.....	<u>63</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>382</u>	<u>387</u>
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center.....	23	4	24	25
Finance and Management:				
NFC/USDA.....	11	14	12	12
Financial Systems.....	119	17	14	15
Internal Control Support Services.....	2	1	1	8
Subtotal.....	<u>132</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>35</u>
Information Technology:				
NITC/USDA.....	58	53	13	5
Telecommunications Services.....	208	182	197	200
Subtotal.....	<u>266</u>	<u>235</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>205</u>
Correspondence Management.....	20	18	10	12
Total, Working Capital Fund.....	<u>504</u>	<u>544</u>	<u>653</u>	<u>664</u>
Departmental Shared Cost Programs:				
1890's USDA Initiatives.....	1	-	-	-
Advisory Committee Liason Services.....	-	3	4	4
E-GOV Initiatives HSPD-12.....	1	-	1	1
Medical Services.....	2	-	-	-
Pre-authorizing Funding.....	1	-	-	-
Sign Language Interpreter Services.....	3	-	-	-
Total, Departmental Shared Cost Programs.....	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
E-Gov:				
E-Training.....	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total, E-Gov.....	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Agency Total.....	<u>514</u>	<u>547</u>	<u>658</u>	<u>669</u>

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Status of Programs

The Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO) office was established by Section 14013 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill), P.L. 110-246. The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) (P.L. 113-79) broadened the OAO's responsibilities to include advocacy and outreach for veteran farmers and ranchers.

OAO supports and advances USDA's commitments to "cultural transformation" and serves as an advocate for historically underserved groups, providing an avenue for them to have input into and participate in USDA programs and policy; and it provides outreach on behalf of USDA to engage historically underserved groups.

Current Activities:

OAO is responsible for five USDA programs: (1) Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program; (2) Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program; (3) Farm Worker Coordination Program; (4) Higher Education Institutions Program (including programs for 1890 Land-Grant institutions, 1994 Land-Grant institutions, and Hispanic-Serving institutions); and (5) the Community Engagement Program. With respect to these programs, OAO provides management, direction, guidance, and supervision. It promotes and keeps the public informed about these programs on a dedicated web site (<http://www.outreach.usda.gov/>).

OAO administers grants under the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (Section 2501, Public Law 101-624, 7 U.S.C 2279).

In addition, OAO supports the following Federal Advisory Committees: the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers; the Minority Farmer Advisory Committee; and Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program:

- Incorporated OIG's recommendations listed in the 2012 audit and redefined the internal policies and procedures into an enhanced standard operating procedure. In addition, this document was tested with the 2014 grant funding cycle, as relates to the roles and responsibilities, with more streamlined grant-making, approval, and servicing processes and was deemed a huge success by OIG;
- A secured and centralized electronic and physical filing system has been maintained for all grantees for easy access to reports for monitoring purposes;
- Implemented many improvements since 2013, which resulted in increased productivity, accountability, and overall continued success for the program. Several community-based organizations experienced increased productivity in large part because of their access to grants funded through the 2501 Program;
- Oversaw outstanding grants and provided management support to remaining grantees;
- Performed administrative functions necessary to ensure adequate controls are in place for appropriate program management, as the program is ended; and
- Managed the Minority Farm Register to maintain a database of minority farmers and keep them informed of current USDA activities and funding opportunities.

Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program:

- Worked closely with and supported the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers with enhancing and expanding Federal partnerships to provide financing for beginning farmers and ranchers;
- Supported the Small and Beginning Farmers Working Group in collaborating with subject matter experts from various USDA agencies regarding the barriers and sustainability of small and beginning farmers and ranchers;
- Collaborated with USDA agencies to assist customers in better understanding credit, tax, tenure, and other USDA program requirements; and

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

- Partnered with the National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC) to oversee USDA for Veterans, Reservists, and Military Families, an interagency task force charged with developing program outreach and delivery strategies targeted to veterans, reservists, and their families.

Farm Worker Coordination Program:

- Coordinated several outreach sessions between the Environmental Protection Agency, USDA's Pesticide Management Agency, and members of several Farmworker Organizations. The purpose of these meetings was to bring all parties together that would be deciding on how to best move forward with the proposed Worker Protection Standards that were being updated;
- Collaborated with the Food and Nutrition Service in an outreach endeavor benefitting farm worker organizations on three webinars held regarding the summer feeding sites;
- Worked with the Office of Civil Rights to help generate turnout within the agency during their Civil Rights Series "In Conversations With." For their final event, Westminster vs. Menendez, our office helped to identify and invite the speakers, and create the agenda;
- Coordinated a meeting with the White House Office of Violent Prevention and Alianza Campesina (Largest Women Farmworker Organization) to discuss having farm worker women's issues included in a their annual report, regarding sexual harassment at the workplace;
- Engaged "Cesar Chavez Interns" from the College Assistance Migrant Program at the U.S. Department of Education with USDA Interns; and
- Developed partnerships with local nongovernmental organizations to maximize the use of all USDA programs within the farm worker community.

Higher Education Institutions Program:

1890 Land-Grant Institutions National Program:

- Worked with the Future Farmers of America and the 4-H to host agriculture-based events for more than 35,524 K-12 and college level students from the southeast and the mid-west;
- Networked with USDA agencies to secure \$771,500 in additional scholarships for 1890 non-scholarship students to support the "Stay in School" program;
- Provided technical assistance to the University Extension Staff resulting in USDA Grants and Cooperative Agreements totaling \$6,214,033;
- Worked with university staff to develop the curriculum for an Introduction to Agriculture class for freshmen Ag Students at Southern University;
- Coordinated an international agricultural student exchange with a Caribbean nation to focus on organic farming, technology exchange, and heirloom seed saving;
- Assisted Rural Development, a prominent Community-Based Organization, and 1890 Universities to coordinate and host Renewable Energy for America Program trainings in southeastern and western states targeting underserved communities; and
- Served on the planning committee to develop the curriculum for the second annual Urban Agriculture Academy, which partners with state and local Legislative Service Organizations, 1890 Land Grant institutions, and some 20 other HBCUs to bring agriculture programs to students and educators.

1994 Land-Grant Institutions National Program:

- Developed a plan for USDA to review Indian preference as a hiring authority with the Office of Personnel Management for internship opportunities located "on or near" an Indian reservation. Most students at 1994 Land-Grants would be eligible. Departments of Health and Human Services and Interior and the Office of Personnel Management have become engaged with USDA's Office of Tribal Relations and the Senior Advisor for Pathways;
- Developed a strategy to improve or include students from the 1994 Land-Grants in Agencies' plans for FY 2015. The strategy engages three career channels: human resources, civil rights, and administrators; and one political channel: the mission area representatives to the USDA and AIHEC Leadership Group;
- Engaged with various agency student coordinators to discuss ways to improve recruitment of tribal students for agency internships including teleconferences and face to face meetings;
- Identified disparities in programming and funding for Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), using USDA agencies' self-reports;

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

- Compiled recommendations for engaging USDA and American Indian Higher Education Consortium, resulting in a MOU between USDA and 1994 Land-Grant institutions; and
- Engaged USDA, state government, NGOs, and a tribal agriculture council to improve coordination with farmers and producers and 1994 Land-Grant institutions in Michigan, specifically Bay Mills Community College, creating a resource guide which will be useful to USDA in encouraging collaboration and enhancing capacity at 1994 Land-Grant institutions in other communities.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program:

- Established a partnership with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and USDA which has resulted in an MOU to create international opportunities for students;
- Coordinated third annual spring immersion program in partnership with Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) and the ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (NCAUR) in Peoria, IL. The purpose of the Spring Immersion Program is to expose students to agriculture research science conducted by USDA Scientists at a USDA research facility;
- Partnered with Northeastern Illinois University and sponsored their “STEAM Conference.” The daylong student conference for grades 6-12, aimed at providing a platform for middle and high school students to become introduced to as well as become excited about topics related to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Architecture/Agriculture, and Math (STEAM);
- Partnered with Pajaro Valley Unified School District and the Regional Occupational Program for Santa Cruz County. The “1st Annual Career in Agriculture” event is designed to expose junior and senior high school students to career opportunities in agriculture within Pajaro Valley. Additionally, provide them with entry level jobs/internship information with the local Ag industry through various workshops conducted by local farmers, writers, business professionals, culinary specialist, USDA representatives, and other professionals;
- Partnered with local USDA agencies in Florida and Puerto Rico to place students in the 2014 iServe Internship Program. The 25 student interns worked with USDA agencies as volunteers as part of the iServe program;
- Coordinated the development of a MOU between Imperial Valley College and CETYS Universidad Baja California. The MOU is “First-of-Its-Kind” with a community college from the United States and a university from Mexico with a focus on Business & Entrepreneurship - STEM. Additionally, CETYS Universidad Baja California is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), with the first ever granted international accreditation in Mexico;
- Partnered with Northeastern Illinois University to sponsor students to attend the “Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food, Know Your Farm Bill Convening.” The daylong convening offered farmers, businesses, organizations, government agencies, institutions, and others the unique opportunity to learn more about the resources offered through USDA;
- Participated in the Forest Service’s “The Latino Legacy Youth Leadership In Nature Challenge (Y-LINC):” Multi-day immersion experience targeting underserved (primarily Latino) high school youth and millennials. The Program provides a series of experiential learning opportunities geared toward connecting youth with nature, developing leadership skills, inspiring civic duty and providing educational and career pathway opportunities in STEM, natural resource conservation and management and agricultural fields. HSINP partnered with Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District to host “Acknowledging Agriculture Expo.” Participated in Hispanic-Serving Institutions Consortium Spring Conference held at St. Edward’s University. Presentations for the conference included Environmental Protection Agency, who presented grant opportunities available for HSIs and ways for HSIs to partner with their agency. Conferences allowed for networking with many HSIs in one location;
- Partnered with the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program to host Leadership conference for 8th-9th grade Latino/Hispanic Students with a focus on leadership training, public service, public speaking, career/academic counseling, and cultural awareness. Rural Development participated in career day exploration sessions along with HSINP staff. 120 student participants, 75+ volunteers. 99% of participants graduate from high school and 90% attend college;
- Partnered with Congressman Joe Garcia to organize “USDA Growth and Opportunity Summit.” The summit aimed to increase participation in USDA program and services, including Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Rural Development, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service. USDA Growth and Opportunity Summit. 80 agricultural leaders participated in the summit increasing participation by 400 percent from previous attempts made by the Congressman’s office;

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

- Promoted the USDA 2501 Grant Program throughout all the regions. HSINP staff from DC and Florida participated in the grant review process. Recommendations for improvements of the review process were made. Florida International University received 2501 grant to provide outreach and technical assistance to 50 disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers. Developed collaboration between FIU and FSA and NRCS; and
- HSINP partnered with Miami Dade College and NRCS to develop “USDA Conservation Career Development Program”. The HSINP organized career workshops for diverse students interested in internships and employment in conservation and natural resources. Miami Dade College received \$5,000 grant from NRCS.

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OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Summary of Budget and Performance
Statement of Agency Goals and Objectives

The Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO) was established as an office under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Section 14013, P.L. 110-246. The Director of OAO reports to the Assistant Secretary for Administration. The mission of OAO is to increase access to programs of the Department and increase the viability and profitability of small farms and ranches, beginning farmers or ranchers, and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

OAO has one strategic goal and one strategic objective that contribute to USDA’s strategic goal.

USDA Strategic Goal 5: Create a USDA for the 21st century that is high-performing, efficient, and adaptable.

USDA Strategic Objective: Develop a customer-centric, inclusive, and high-performing workforce by investing in and engaging employees to improve service delivery. (Objective 5.1)

USDA Strategic Objective: Maximize the return on taxpayer investment in USDA through enhanced stewardship activities and focused program evaluations. (Objective 5.3)

Agency Strategic Goal	<u>Agency Objective</u>	<u>Programs that Contribute</u>	<u>Key Outcome</u>
Increase access to programs of the Department, and increase the viability and profitability of small farms and ranches, beginning farmers or ranchers, and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, and veteran farmers and ranchers.	Ensure the Department and its programs are open and transparent.	Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers Competitive Grants Program.	Increase the viability and profitability of small farms and ranches, beginning farmers or ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers.

Key Performance Measures:

Measure	2010 <u>Actual</u>	2011 <u>Actual</u>	2012 <u>Actual</u>	2013 <u>Actual</u>	2014 <u>Actual</u>	2015 <u>Target</u>	2016 <u>Target</u>
Increase the number of minority, underserved, socially disadvantaged persons served by key programs	Est. Baseline	4%	10%	1%	3%	3%	3%
Cost (thousands)	\$21,284	\$21,329	\$21,174	\$1,277	\$11,148	\$11,217	\$11,228

Select Past Accomplishments Toward Achievement of the Key Outcome:

- Awarded grants to 62 community-based and non-profit organizations, and educational institutions to conduct training, outreach and technical assistance for socially disadvantaged (including tribal) and veteran farmers and ranchers. These awards are distributed through the Outreach and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program, also known as the “2501 Program”.
- Held quarterly teleconferences for community-based organizations to make them aware of grant opportunities both within and outside of USDA providing an open forum for their questions and feedback.
- Conducted technical assistance and grant writing workshops for community-based organizations.
- Received and processed over 200 applications for the 2501 Program and approved 62 projects from organizations representing 36 States totaling \$9.7 million.

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OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

- Solicited and processed applications for the Advisory Committee for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers resulting in 20 members being recommended and approved by the Secretary.
- Hosted 2 meetings with the newly formed committee members of the Advisory Committee for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers (one in Davis, CA and another in Austin, TX).
- Reestablished the Minority Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee.
- Participated in several outreach meetings and events both internally and nation-wide to demonstrate USDA's commitment to assisting minority farmers and ranchers.

Selected Accomplishments Expected at the 2016 Proposed Resource Level:

OAO will continue to perform the following activities:

- Serve 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 of their farming operations;
- Administering the grant for the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers by:
 - Reaching out to current and prospective socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers and veteran farmers or ranchers in an appropriate manner.
 - Improving the participation of disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers in USDA's programs.
- Administering a grant program for the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Center by:
 - Coordinating with the successful institution to ascertain issues of concern amongst minority farmers and ranchers nation-wide.
 - Collaborating on strategies to increase the awareness of and participation in USDA's programs and services in minority communities.
- Conducting bi-monthly meetings with 2501 Outreach grantees, connecting them with USDA program leaders to better assist underserved communities.
- Automating and managing the Minority Farm Register to maintain a database of minority farmers and keep them informed of current USDA news, activities and funding opportunities.
- Hosting quarterly teleconferences for community-based organizations to make them aware of grant opportunities both within and outside of USDA, as well as providing an open forum for their questions and feedback.
- Partnering with other USDA agencies to conduct technical assistance and grant writing workshops for community-based organizations, stakeholders, agricultural organizations and new and existing farmers and ranchers.
- Continue meetings with the Advisory Committee for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers to finalize a complete set of recommendations for the Secretary on how to better assist new and beginning farmers and ranchers.
- Host Minority Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee meetings to assist the committee with framing a new set of recommendations for the Secretary on strategies to meet the goal of assisting minority farmers and ranchers in owning and successfully sustaining their farms and ranches.

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OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Strategic Goal Funding Matrix
(Dollars in thousands)

<u>Program/ Program Items</u>	2013 <u>Actual</u>	2014 <u>Actual</u>	2015 <u>Enacted</u>	Increase or <u>Decrease</u>	2016 <u>Estimate</u>
Department Strategic Goal 5: Create a USDA for the 21st century that is high-performing, efficient, and adaptable.					
Department Strategic Objective 5.1: Develop a customer-centric, inclusive, and high-performing workforce by investing in and engaging employees to improve service delivery					
Office of Advocacy and Outreach.....	\$1,277	\$11,148	\$10,479	+\$749	\$11,228
Staff Years	7	8	8	-	8

Full Cost by Department Strategic Goal
(Dollars in thousands)

Department Strategic Goal 5: Create a USDA for the 21st century that is high-performing, efficient, and adaptable.

<u>Program/ Program Items</u>	2013 <u>Actual</u>	2014 <u>Actual</u>	2015 <u>Enacted</u>	2016 <u>Estimate</u>
<u>Office of Advocacy and Outreach</u>				
Administrative costs (direct).....	849	915	\$930	\$957
Indirect costs.....	428	10,233	9,549	10,271
Total Costs.....	1,277	11,148	10,479	11,228
FTEs.....	7	8	8	8
Performance Measure:				
disadvantaged persons served by key programs.				
Measure.....	10%	3%	3%	3%
Cost per measure (unit cost).....	\$1,277	\$11,148	\$10,479	\$11,228