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# 7 U.S. Code § 2008w

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## Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program

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### **(a) Definitions**

In this section:

#### **(1) Eligible entity**

The term “eligible entity” means a rural jobs accelerator partnership established after December 20, 2018, that—

(A) organizes key community and regional stakeholders into a working group that—

(i) focuses on the shared goals and needs of the industry clusters that are objectively identified as existing, emerging, or declining;

(ii) represents a region defined by the partnership in accordance with subparagraph (B);

(iii) includes 1 or more representatives of—

(I) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 1001 of title 20);

(II) a private entity; or

(III) a government entity; and

(iv) has, as a lead applicant—

(I) a District Organization (as defined in section 300.3 of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation));

(II) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 5304 of title 25), or a consortium of Indian tribes;

(III) a State or a political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;

(IV) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 1001 of title 20) or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or

(V) a public or private nonprofit organization; and

(B) subject to approval by the Secretary, may—

(i) serve a region that is—

(I) a single jurisdiction; or

(II) if the region is a rural area, multijurisdictional; and

(ii) define the region that the partnership represents, if the region—

(I) is large enough to contain critical elements of the industry cluster prioritized by the partnership;

(II) is small enough to enable close collaboration among members of the partnership;

(III) includes a majority of communities that are located in—

(aa) a nonmetropolitan area that qualifies as a low-income community (as defined in section 45D(e))

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of title 26); and

(bb) an area that has access to or has a plan to achieve broadband service (within the meaning of title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.)); and

(IV)

(aa) has a population of 50,000 or fewer inhabitants; or

(bb) for a region with a population of more than 50,000 inhabitants, is the subject of a positive determination by the Secretary with respect to a rural-in-character petition, including such a petition submitted concurrently with the application of the partnership for a grant under this section.

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