



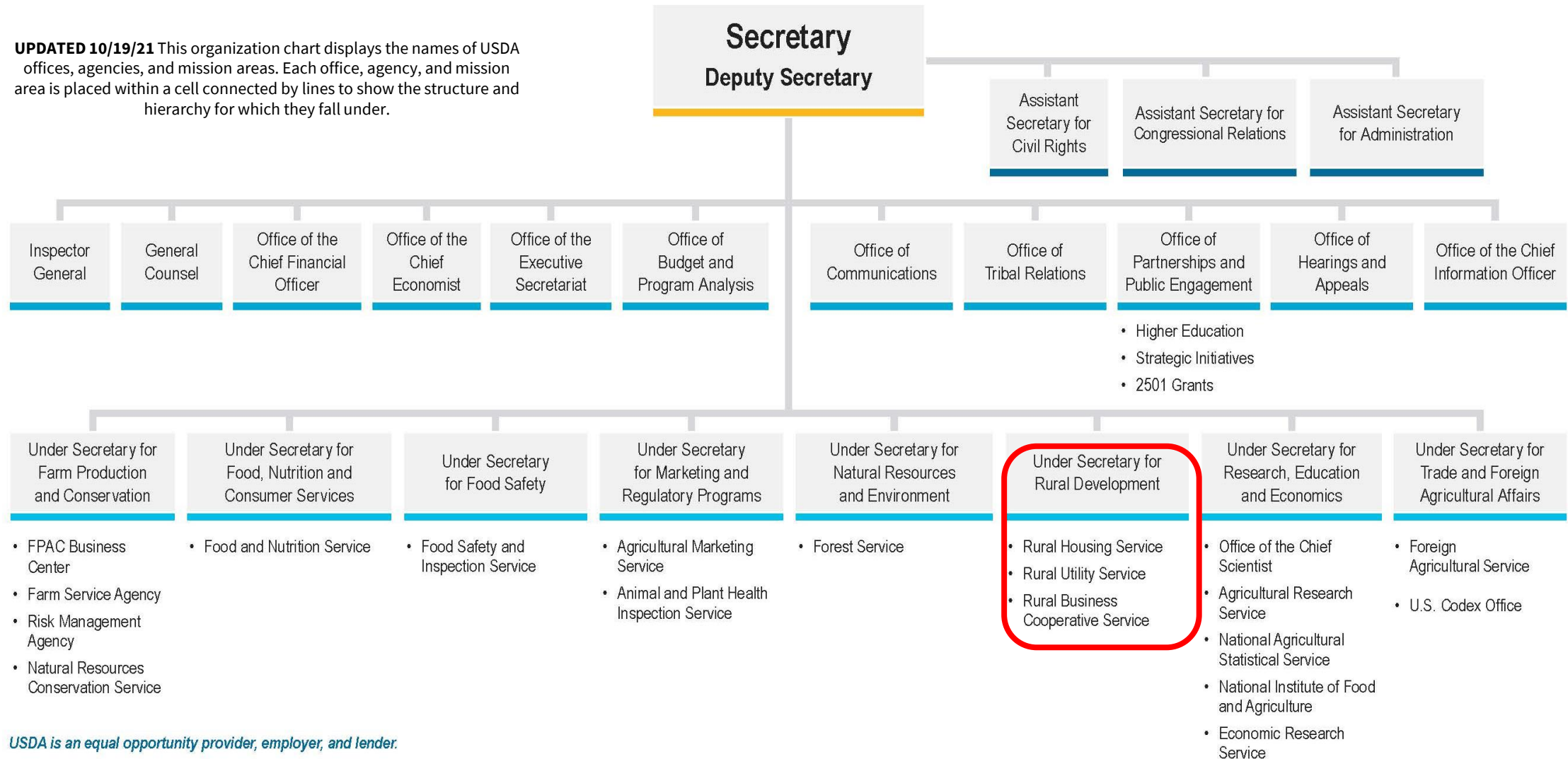
2023 Rural Maryland Council

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Karama Neal, PhD | Administrator

USDA Organization Chart

UPDATED 10/19/21 This organization chart displays the names of USDA offices, agencies, and mission areas. Each office, agency, and mission area is placed within a cell connected by lines to show the structure and hierarchy for which they fall under.



USDA Mission and Vision

Mission

To serve all Americans by providing effective, innovative, science-based public policy leadership in agriculture, food and nutrition, natural resource protection and management, [rural development](#), and related issues with a commitment to deliverable equitable and climate-smart opportunities that inspire and help America thrive.

Vision

An equitable and climate-smart food and agriculture economy that protects and improves the health, nutrition, and quality of life of all Americans; yields healthy land, forests, and clean water; helps [rural America thrive](#); and feeds the world.

USDA Strategic Goals

- 1. Combat climate change to support America's working lands, natural resources, and communities**
 - Investments in climate-smart agriculture, forestry, and renewable energy will reduce emissions and create new and better market opportunities for all producers.
- 2. Ensure America's Agricultural system is equitable, resilient, and prosperous**
 - Historically underserved communities will have improved access to USDA programs and opportunities as USDA roots out generations of systemic racism and discrimination.
- 3. Foster an equitable and competitive marketplace for all agricultural producers**
 - New tools, funding, and research will help a diverse array of producers and landowners adopt conservation practices and access new products and markets.
- 4. Provide all Americans safe, nutritious food**
 - All Americans will benefit from investments that provide consistent access to safe, healthy, affordable food essential to optimal health and well-being and address food and nutrition security
- 5. Expand opportunities for economic development and improve quality of life in rural and Tribal communities**
 - Rural and Tribal communities will benefit from historic investments in broadband, clean water, and clean and renewable energy infrastructure that will foster new job and market opportunities.
- 6. Attract, inspire, and retain an engaged and motivated workforce that's proud to represent USDA**
 - The USDA workforce will be strong, healthy, and inclusive, comprised of leaders and staff who work together to build a culture that welcomes, respects, and supports everyone to reach their highest potential.

USDA Core Values

- Respect and Dignity: We treat all people with courtesy and respect, and we value the inherent dignity of every individual.
- Equity and Inclusion: We seek to end discrimination in all forms, wherever it exists, and expand services and opportunities to underserved people and communities across America, starting with our workforce.
- Trust and Integrity: We act in a manner that is deserving of the public's trust and with the utmost integrity in everything we do as public servants.
- Service and Results: We listen to our internal and external customers and actively incorporate their ideas on how to best reach our diverse customers and deliver service that significantly and positively impacts the lives of all Americans.
- Science Leadership: We base our decisions and policy on science and data that are reliable, timely, relevant and free from political interference.

USDA Cross-Cutting Priorities



Addressing climate change via climate smart agriculture, forestry, & renewable energy



Creating more & better market opportunities for producers and consumers at home and abroad

Tackling food & nutrition insecurity while maintaining a safe food supply



Advancing racial justice, equity, & opportunity

Making USDA a great place to work for everyone



USDA Rural Development Priorities

Addressing Climate Change and Environmental Justice

Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.

Advancing Racial Justice, Place-Based Equity, and Opportunity

Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to Rural Development programs and benefits from Rural Development funded projects.

Creating More and Better Market Opportunities

Assisting rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure.

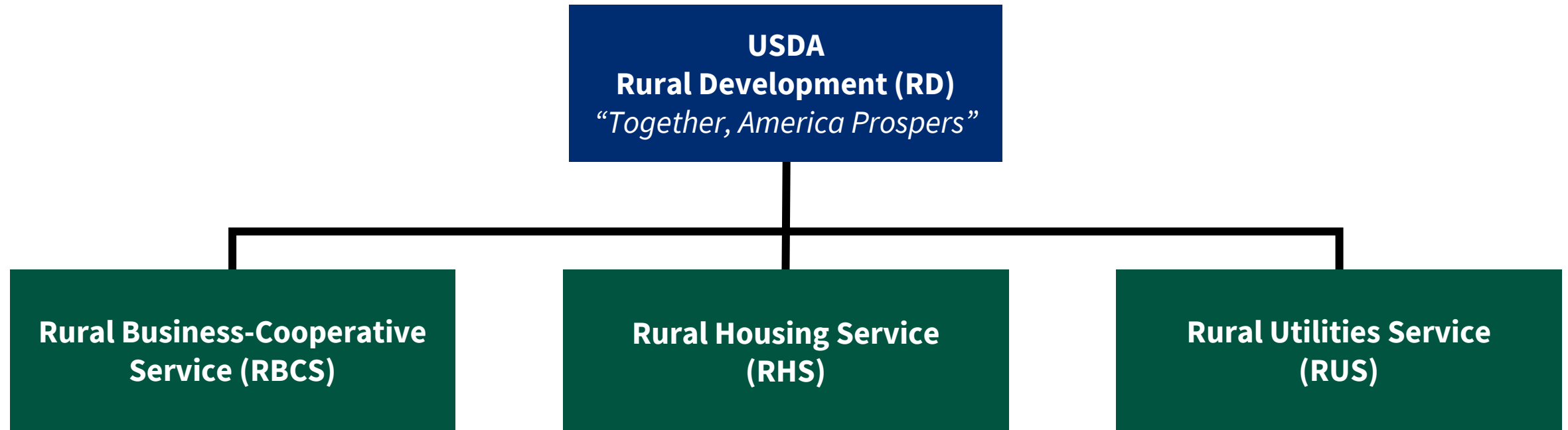
RD Geographic Breakdown

47 State Offices

400 Area Offices



Mission Area: Rural Development (RD)



Rural Development administers **more than 70 programs** and supports rural communities with **loan and grant investments of ~\$50 billion annually**. The current RD portfolio of investments exceeds ~\$220 billion.

RBCS – Selected Grants

Rural Business Development Grant Program (RBDG)

- Provides technical assistance and training for small rural businesses (less than 50 workers and less than \$1 million in gross revenue).
- Website: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-business-development-grants>

Value-Added Producer Grants Program (VAPG)

- Helps agricultural producers enter value-added activities to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income. Priority applicants can be beginning farmers or ranchers, socially-disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, small or medium-sized farms, ranches structured as family farms, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and those proposing a mid-tier value chain.
- Website: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/value-added-producer-grants>

Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program (RCDG)

- RCDG improves the economic condition of rural areas by helping individuals and businesses start, expand or improve rural cooperatives and other mutually-owned businesses through Cooperative Development Centers.
- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-cooperative-development-grant-program>

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OneRD Guarantee Loan Initiative



What is the OneRD Guarantee Loan Initiative?

➤ A standard policy and process for RD guaranteed loan making in four programs:

- **Water and Waste (WWD)**
- **Community Facilities (CF)**
- **Business and Industry (B&I)**
- **Rural Energy for America (REAP)**



Other Resources

- Sector-specific resource guides:
 - Child Care Guide
 - Recreational Economy Guide
 - Resources for Rural Entrepreneurs
 - Disaster Resiliency and Recovery Guide
 - Higher Education
 - More at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/publications/resource-guides>

Rural Data Gateway

The **Rural Data Gateway** makes Rural Development's data more available and easier to access for the public. The dashboard types significantly expand access to RD financial data through easy-to-use interfaces that allow data from **more than 65 RD programs** to be viewed and downloaded. Dashboard types include:

- Overview
- Program Area
- Socially Vulnerable Communities
- Geography by County
- Geography by Congressional District
- Data Download

Need help or have questions? Use the [Quick Reference Guide](#) or email USDA.RD.DATA@usda.gov

Contact Information

Assistance under USDA Rural Development programs is available to applicants in areas designated as “rural.” Under law, the definition of “rural area” is different for each program.

Contact your local USDA Rural Development office for more information.

<https://rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices>

Or go to: www.rd.usda.gov

Or call 1 (800) 670-6553 (toll free)

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Thank you!



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