

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6621

To provide technical assistance for geographically underserved and distressed areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 6, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To provide technical assistance for geographically underserved and distressed areas, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Uplift and Revi-
5 talization Assistance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY**
7 **UNDERSERVED AND DISTRESSED AREAS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of
9 the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Agriculture
10 (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall di-

1 rectly, or through cooperative agreements, provide tech-
2 nical assistance and strengthen local capacity to improve
3 access to rural development programs administered by the
4 Secretary for local partners (including local governments,
5 cooperatives, businesses, healthcare facilities and net-
6 works, community anchor institutions (as defined in sec-
7 tion 60302(6) of the Digital Equity Act of 2021), and
8 nonprofit organizations) in geographically underserved
9 and distressed areas.

10 (b) REPORTS.—Beginning 1 year after the date of
11 the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall annually
12 publish, make available to the public, and submit to the
13 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
14 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
15 estry of the Senate a report on how the provision of tech-
16 nical assistance under subsection (a) has affected geo-
17 graphically underserved and distressed areas in the year
18 covered by the report.

19 (c) DEFINITION OF GEOGRAPHICALLY UNDER-
20 SERVED AND DISTRESSED AREA.—In this section, the
21 term “geographically underserved and distressed area”
22 means a rural area (as determined by the Secretary)—

23 (1) in a socially vulnerable community (as de-
24 termined by the Secretary);

1 (2) in a persistent poverty county (as deter-
2 mined by the Secretary);

3 (3) in a economically distressed area (as deter-
4 mined by the Secretary); or

5 (4) that lacks adequate water services, sewer
6 services, or decent housing in any region near the
7 border between the United States and Mexico.

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