

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Announces Intent to Establish an Equity Commission, Solicits Nominations for Membership

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8, 2021 – United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it will establish an Equity Commission and is requesting nominations for membership on the Equity Commission Advisory Committee and Equity Commission Subcommittee on Agriculture. The notice represents an important step towards implementing President Biden’s commitment to create an Equity Commission and the American Rescue Plan Act provision that directs USDA to “address historical discrimination and disparities in the agriculture sector... [through] one or more equity commissions to address racial equity issues within USDA and its programs.”

The Equity Commission will advise the Secretary of Agriculture by identifying USDA programs, policies, systems, structures, and practices that contribute to barriers to inclusion or access, systemic discrimination, or exacerbate or perpetuate racial, economic, health and social disparities. The Subcommittee on Agriculture will be formed concurrently and will report back to the Equity Commission and provide recommendations on issues of concern related to agriculture. Subsequent subcommittees will focus on other policy areas, such as rural community and economic development. The Equity Commission will deliver an interim report and provide actionable recommendations no later than 12 months after inception. A final report will be generated within a two-year timeframe.

USDA is soliciting nominations to consider membership on both the Equity Commission and the Subcommittee on Agriculture. Both seek to reflect a diversity in demographics, regions of the country, background, and in experience and expertise. USDA Rural Development strongly encourages leaders in community-based organizations including community development finance institutions, colleges and universities (tribal and historically black colleges and universities), and rural mission-driven non-profits that represent underserved communities in rural areas to apply.

Nominations will be considered that are submitted via email or postmarked by Oct. 27, 2021.

Please submit nominations to Dr. Dewayne L. Goldmon, USDA Senior Advisor for Racial Equity, Office of the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 6006-S, Washington, DC 20250; or send by email to: EquityCommission@usda.gov. A federal official of USDA will acknowledge receipt of nominations.

For further information, contact Dewayne L. Goldmon, Ph.D., by phone at (202) 997-2100 or email at dewayne.goldmon@usda.gov.

For more information read the [press release](#) and [Federal Register notice](#).

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