

**USDA EQUITY COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING #4
January 31 – February 2, 2023
AGENDA**

**January 31, 2023: 10:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. ET
February 1, 2023: 10:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. ET
February 2, 2023: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET
Washington, DC and Zoom for Government
[Main Registration Link](#)**

TIME	TOPICS
<p>Overview: This document outlines the agenda for the fourth public meeting of the Equity Commission.</p> <p>Meeting Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equity Commission, Agriculture Subcommittee, and Rural Community Economic Development (RCED) Subcommittee will hear from USDA leadership and external experts on key equity topics. 2. RCED members will present their work, including preliminary recommendation topics, to the Equity Commission. 3. Equity Commission and Agriculture Subcommittee will discuss proposed amendments to the recommendations that were approved at the September public meeting. 4. Equity Commission will deliberate and vote on amendments and new recommendations for inclusion in the interim report. 	
DAY 1: EC and RCED – Tuesday, January 31, 2023	
9:45 a.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Zoom Room Open – Time for participants to log on and test their technology
10:00 a.m. <i>10 minutes</i>	<p>Opening of Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call Meeting to Order – <i>Cecilia Hernandez, Designated Federal Officer</i> – 1 min - Opening Remarks – <i>Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh (Co-Chair), Arturo Rodriguez (Co-Chair)</i> – 9 mins
10:10 a.m. <i>20 minutes</i>	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome Remarks – <i>Homer Wilkes, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment</i>
10:30 a.m. <i>10 minutes</i>	<p>Goals for the Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outline for Day 1 – <i>Cecilia Hernandez, Designated Federal Officer</i>
10:40 a.m. <i>50 minutes</i>	<p>Presentation: Rural Development Modernization – <i>Farah Ahmad, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: This session will focus on RD’s current work to modernize its service delivery efforts across the country. Priority focus will be given to recent improvements in staffing, IT support, and infrastructure.
11:30 a.m. <i>10 minutes</i>	Administrative Break
11:40 a.m. <i>50 minutes</i>	<p>Presentation: Place-based Initiatives – <i>Lee Jones, Executive Director of the Rural Partners Network and Andrew Berke, Rural Utilities Service Administrator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: This session will provide a deep dive on two of Rural Development’s current place-based initiatives, the Rural Partners Network and Closing the Wastewater Access Gap (a joint effort with EPA).

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TIME	TOPICS
12:30 p.m. 60 minutes	Break for Lunch
1:30 p.m. 15 minutes	Oral Public Comments – <i>Lionel Savage, Equity Commission Support Team</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: This session provides the public an opportunity to provide input for the Equity Commission to consider as it completes its work.
1:45 p.m. 15 minutes	RCED Focus Area Progress – <i>Cecilia Hernandez, Designated Federal Officer and Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: This session will provide a high-level overview of the RCED’s work to date since its launch in September 2022.
2:00 p.m. 75 minutes	Presentation – RCED Focus Areas – <i>Cecilia Hernandez, Designated Federal Officer and RCED members</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: This session will provide a forum for the RCED members to present their ideas and preliminary recommendations in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Transformational Capacity Building and Access o Rural Housing and Infrastructure o Community Facilities o Rural Business o Utilities
3:15 p.m. 15 minutes	Administrative Break
3:30 p.m. 75 minutes	Dialogue on Potential Recommendations – <i>Cecilia Hernandez, Designated Federal Officer</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: RCED and EC members will discuss preliminary recommendation topics and propose refinements and/or additional topics for consideration.
4:45 p.m. 5 minutes	Day 1 Recap / Day 2 Plan and Adjourn – <i>Cecilia Hernandez, Designated Federal Officer</i>

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DAY 2: EC, AG, and RCED – Wednesday, February 1, 2023	
9:45 a.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Zoom Room Open – Time for participants to log on and test their technology
10:00 a.m. <i>10 minutes</i>	Opening of Meeting and Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call Meeting to Order – <i>Cecilia Hernandez, Designated Federal Officer</i> – 2 mins - Opening Remarks – <i>Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh (Co-Chair), Arturo Rodriguez (Co-Chair)</i> – 8 mins
10:10 a.m. <i>5 minutes</i>	Goals for the Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outline for Day 2 – <i>Cecilia Hernandez, Designated Federal Officer</i>
10:15 a.m. <i>90 minutes</i>	Presentation – A History of Farm Policy and its Implications to Achieving Equity – <i>Jonathan Coppess, Associate Professor at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: This session will provide an overview of the history of farm policy at USDA with a specific focus on base acres and county committees. More specifically, the discussion will focus on how farm policies have impacted equity at USDA.
11:45 a.m. <i>60 minutes</i>	Lunch
12:45 p.m. <i>45 minutes</i>	Presentation – Equity in Procurement – <i>Oscar Gonzales, Assistant Secretary for Administration</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: This session will provide an overview of USDA’s work to increase equity in the procurement process and highlight recent successes in the Biden-Harris Administration.
1:30 p.m. <i>60 minutes</i>	Presentation – USDA Budget Overview – <i>John Rapp, Director of the Office of Budget and Program Analysis</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: This session will provide an overview of the USDA budget and the budget formulation process.
2:30 p.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Administrative Break RCED Members Depart (Optional)
2:45 p.m. <i>120 minutes</i>	Presentation on Interim Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: This session provides Equity Commission members the opportunity to present and discuss the recommendations for inclusion in the interim report.
4:45 p.m. <i>5 minutes</i>	Day 2 Recap / Day 3 Plan and Adjourn – <i>Cecilia Hernandez, Designated Federal Officer</i>

USDA EQUITY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

DAY 3: EC and AG – Thursday, February 2, 2023	
9:45 a.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Zoom Room Open – Time for participants to log on and test their technology
10:00 a.m. <i>10 minutes</i>	Opening of Meeting and Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call Meeting to Order – <i>Cecilia Hernandez, Designated Federal Officer</i> – 2 mins - Opening Remarks – <i>Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh (Co-Chair), Arturo Rodriguez (Co-Chair)</i> – 8 mins
10:10 a.m. <i>5 minutes</i>	Goals for the Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outline for Day 3 – <i>Cecilia Hernandez, Designated Federal Officer</i>
10:15 a.m. <i>20 minutes</i>	Oral Public Comments – <i>Lionel Savage, Equity Commission Support Team</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: This session provides the public an opportunity to provide input for the Equity Commission to consider as it completes its work.
10:35 a.m. <i>115 minutes</i>	Presentation on Interim Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: This session provides Equity Commission members the opportunity to present and discuss the recommendations for inclusion in the interim report.
12:30 p.m. <i>60 minutes</i>	Lunch
1:30 p.m. <i>105 minutes</i>	Presentation on Interim Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: This session provides Equity Commission members the opportunity to present and discuss the recommendations for inclusion in the interim report.
3:15 p.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Administrative Break
3:30 p.m. <i>30 minutes</i>	Deliberation/Voting on Interim Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective: This session provides Equity Commission members the opportunity to deliberate on recommendations and take a public vote on items for inclusion in the interim report.
4:00 p.m.	Adjourn – <i>Cecilia Hernandez, Designated Federal Officer</i>
+60 minutes	<i>Additional time to continue deliberation and voting if needed</i>