

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

OCT 18 2016

SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM 1076-015

Realignment of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum is to realign the Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO) from a staff office within the Departmental Management organization to a staff office whose head reports directly to the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary).

2. ACTIONS ORDERED

- a. OAO, previously established within the Departmental Management organization, is transferred from the supervision of the Assistant Secretary for Administration to the supervision of the Secretary. OAO will be headed by the Director, OAO, who will report directly to the Secretary.
- b. The Director, OAO, is hereby delegated authority for the performance and oversight of the following functions within the Department:
 - (1) Ensure that small farmers and ranchers, beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and military veteran farmers and ranchers have access to, and equitable participation in, programs and services of the Department;
 - (2) Oversee the Advisory Committee for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers;
 - (3) Oversee the operations of the Office of Small Farms Coordination;
 - (4) Administer the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (the 2501 grant program);
 - (5) Oversee the Minority Farmers Advisory Committee;
 - (6) Administer the low-income migrant and seasonal farmworker grants program;
 - (7) Consult with appropriate entities regarding integration of farmworker interests into Department programs, including assisting farmworkers in becoming agricultural producers or landowners through research, program improvements, and agricultural education opportunities for low-income and migrant seasonal farmworkers;

- (8) Administer the grants program under section 14204 of FCEA (7 U.S.C. 2008q-1) to improve the supply, stability, safety, and training of the agricultural labor force;
- (9) Administer and coordinate a Department-wide outreach program in collaboration with USDA agencies;
- (10) Administer the Receipt for Service initiative, including the authority to coordinate Department policy for the issuance of receipts;
- (11) Provide strategic planning and performance measurements, coordinate outreach activities, monitor goals and objectives, and evaluate Department programs and activities involving small farmers and ranchers, beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and military veteran farmers and ranchers;
- (12) Administer the USDA/1994 Land Grant Institutions (Tribal Colleges) Programs;
- (13) Administer the USDA/1890 Liaison Officers Program;
- (14) Administer the Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program, including through the use of cooperative agreements under 7 U.S.C. 3318(b);
- (15) Serve as a lead agency in carrying out student internship programs (7 U.S.C. 2279c); and
- (16) Coordinate special outreach initiatives of the Secretary to engage Department stakeholder communities.

c. The delegations of authority for advocacy and outreach to the Assistant Secretary for Administration at 7 CFR 2.24(a)(7) are hereby rescinded.

3. INCIDENTAL TRANSFERS

The Assistant Secretary for Administration and the Chief Financial Officer are authorized to approve such transfers of funds, personnel, employment authority, space, records, property, and incidentals as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Memorandum.

4. EXISTING DIRECTIVES

Prior delegations of authority, administrative regulations, and other directives not inconsistent with the provisions of this Memorandum shall remain in full force and effect.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION

This Memorandum is effective immediately and will remain in effect for one year from the effective date, or until such earlier time as the Department's published delegations of authority have been revised to incorporate the provisions of this Memorandum.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Wilsack', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas J. Wilsack
Secretary