

## HR 6661

### Strengthening Rural Cooperatives and Communities Act

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Agriculture and Food

**Introduced:** Dec 7, 2023

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development. (Jan 25, 2024)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6661>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Caraveo, Yadira [D-CO-8]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** CO • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Valadao, David G. [R-CA-22]	R · CA		Dec 7, 2023
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Apr 12, 2024

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 25, 2024

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## **Strengthening Rural Cooperatives and Communities Act**

This bill reauthorizes through FY2028 and modifies the Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) Program. This Department of Agriculture (USDA) program provides grants to nonprofit institutions to help individuals and businesses start, expand, or improve rural cooperatives and other mutually-owned businesses through Rural Cooperative Development Centers.

USDA must give preference to grants that commit to providing technical assistance and other services to socially vulnerable, underserved, or distressed communities. Under current law, USDA must give preference to underserved and economically distressed areas in rural areas.

In addition, USDA may give an additional preference to applications that commit to providing a 25% matching contribution for the center with private funds and in-kind contributions. Specifically, USDA may award the maximum points in application scoring criteria to applicants that satisfy this requirement.

Under the bill, cooperative development includes activities (e.g., outreach, education, training, and technical assistance) to support the startup, expansion, or ongoing sustainability of new and existing cooperatives. Current law does not define cooperative development.

The bill directs the RCDG interagency working group to submit an annual report to Congress on its activities.

Finally, the program currently includes cooperative research program requirements to collect data on the effects of all types of cooperatives on the national economy. Under the bill, USDA must analyze the data resulting from the research and include the data and analysis in the annual report to Congress.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jan 25, 2024:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development.
- **Dec 7, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 7, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.