

statement of settlement costs to be used for all federally related transactions. Form RD 1940–59 is similar to the HUD–1 Settlement Statement used by HUD, the Veterans Administration, and the private mortgage industry, with some minor adaptations acceptable under RESPA.

Form RD 1940–59 is completed by Settlement Agents, Closing Attorneys, and Title Insurance Companies performing the closing of RHS loans and credit sales used to purchase or refinance Section 502 Housing, Rural Rental Housing and Farm Labor Housing. The same parties performing the closing of FSA Farm Ownership loans and credit sales also complete the form. The information is collected to provide the buyer and seller with a statement detailing the actual costs of the settlement services involved in the Agencies financed real estate transactions.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .50 hours per response.

Respondents: Settlement Agents, Closing Attorneys, and Title Insurance Companies performing the closing of the Agencies loans and credit sales.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 14,909.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Number of Responses: 14,909.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 7,455 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Tracy Givolekin, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692–0039.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agencies, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agencies' estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Tracy Givolekin, Regulation and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural

Development, Stop 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250–0742. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 3, 2004.

Arthur A. Garcia,
Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

Dated: February 29, 2004.

James Little,
Administrator, Farm Service Agency.
[FR Doc. 04–7700 Filed 4–5–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–XV–U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; Comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for Fire and Rescue Loans.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 7, 2004 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Derek L. Jones, Loan Specialist, Community Programs Division, RHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 0787, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–0787. Telephone (202) 720–1504.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Fire and Rescue Loans.

OMB Number: 0575–0120.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 2004.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Fire and Rescue Loan program is authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926) to make loans to public entities, nonprofit corporations, and Indian tribes for the development of community facilities for public use in rural areas and is covered by 7 CFR 1942–C. The primary regulation for administering the Community Facilities program is 7 CFR 1942–A (OMB Number 0575–0015) that outlines eligibility, project feasibility, security, and monitoring requirements.

The Community Facilities fire and rescue program has been in existence for many years. This program has financed a wide range of fire and rescue projects varying in size and complexity from construction of a fire station with fire fighting and rescue equipment to financing a 911 emergency system. These facilities are designed to provide fire protection and emergency rescue services to rural communities.

Information will be collected by the field offices from applicants, borrowers, and consultants. This information will be used to determine applicant/borrower eligibility, project feasibility, and to ensure borrowers operate on a sound basis and use funds for authorized purposes. Failure to collect proper information could result in improper determination of eligibility, improper use of funds, and/or unsound loans.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.15 hours per response.

Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions, State, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,544.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 5.33.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 8,232 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Brigitte Sumter, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, (202) 692–0042.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Rural Housing Service (RHS), including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RHS' estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Brigitte Sumter, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the

request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 16, 2004.

Arthur A. Garcia,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-7701 Filed 4-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Request for Proposals (RFP): Demonstration Program for Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Seafood Processing and/or Fishery Worker Housing Grants

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) announces the availability of funds, the timeframe to submit proposals, and the guidelines for proposals for agriculture, aquaculture, and seafood processing and/or fishery worker housing grants in the States of Alaska, Mississippi, Utah, and Wisconsin. Division A of Public Law 108-199 (Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004) authorizes RHS to establish a demonstration program to provide financial assistance (grants) for processing and/or fishery worker housing in the States of Alaska, Mississippi, Utah, and Wisconsin. This RFP requests proposals from qualified private and public nonprofit agencies, non-profit cooperatives, state and local governments, and tribal organizations in Alaska, Mississippi, Utah, and Wisconsin to construct housing for agriculture, aquaculture, and seafood processing and/or fishery workers. Any one project may not receive grant funds of more than \$1 million from this program. At least one project in each of the four States will be funded under this program (provided that a proposal is received from an eligible applicant in each of the four States and their proposals meet the requirements of this RFP). Housing facilities constructed under this RFP are expected to increase the supply of housing for agriculture, aquaculture, and seafood processing and/or fishery workers in markets where adequate housing is not available.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of all applications in response to this RFP is 5 p.m., eastern standard time, on July 6, 2004. The application closing deadline is firm as to date and hour. RHS will not consider any application that is received

after the closing deadline. Applicants intending to mail applications must provide sufficient time to permit delivery on or before the closing deadline. Acceptance by a post office or private mailer does not constitute delivery. Facsimile (FAX), Cash on Delivery (COD), and postage due applications will not be accepted.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be submitted to the USDA-Rural Housing Service, Attention: Douglas MacDowell, Senior Loan Specialist, USDA, Rural Housing Service, Multi-Family Housing Processing Division, STOP 0781, Room 1263, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0781. RHS will date and time certify incoming applications to evidence timely receipt and, upon request, will provide the applicant with a written acknowledgement of receipt.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and an application package, including all required forms, contact Douglas MacDowell, Senior Loan Specialist, USDA, Rural Housing Service, Multi-Family Housing Processing Division, Stop 0781, Room 1263, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0781, telephone (202) 720-1627. (This is not a toll-free number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Paperwork Reduction Act

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, OMB must approve all "collections of information" by RHS. The Act defines "collection of information" as a requirement for "answers to * * * identical reporting or recordkeeping requirements imposed on ten or more persons * * *." (44 U.S.C. 3502(3)(A)) Because this RFP will receive less than 10 respondents, the Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply.

General Information

The agriculture, aquaculture, and seafood processing and/or fishery worker housing grants authorized by Public Law 108-199 are for the purpose of developing a housing demonstration program for agriculture, aquaculture, and seafood processing and/or fishery worker housing in markets that have a demonstrated need for housing for such workers. Under Public Law 108-199, RHS has the authority to award \$4,970,500 in grant funds for a housing demonstration program for agriculture, aquaculture, and seafood processing and/or fishery workers in Alaska, Mississippi, Utah, and Wisconsin.

I. Purpose

Public Law 108-199 authorized funds to the Department to implement a demonstration grant program for the construction of housing for agriculture, aquaculture, and seafood processing and/or fishery workers in Alaska, Mississippi, Utah, and Wisconsin.

The demonstration program has been designed to increase the supply of rental housing for a growing segment of the population whose needs are not currently being met. The program is expected to provide housing opportunities for processing workers in markets that cannot support other forms of conventional and government housing models. Grantees may not require any occupant of the housing or related facilities, as a condition of occupancy, to work or be employed by any particular processor, fishery, or other place, or work for or be employed by any particular person, firm, or interest.

Developers of housing under this program will receive a grant of up to 80% of the Total Development Cost (TDC) of the project. TDC includes all hard costs, soft costs, initial operating reserves, administrative fees, furnishings and equipment, and related facilities.

Housing constructed under this program may not receive RHS Rental Assistance or Operating Subsidies authorized under 42 U.S.C. 1490a for payment of tenant rents. Project financial models should be structured to work without rental subsidies while keeping rents affordable for the target population.

Projects should be located close to tenants' workplaces and services as much as feasible. Location of the project is not limited to rural areas as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1490.

II. Project Threshold Criteria

All applications must meet the minimum threshold requirements contained in this RFP. The threshold criteria are as follows:

A. Occupancy Requirements

Eligibility for residency in facilities constructed under this RFP is limited to individuals and families who earn at least 40% of their income from work as an agriculture, aquaculture, or seafood processing and/or fishery worker and earn less than or equal to 60% of the National Median Income for a family of four as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau. Residents must be United States citizens or be legally admitted for permanent residence.