

Cooperator marketing plan budgets and the 2-year share (1996-97) of foreign overhead provided for co-location within a U.S. agricultural office;

(c) Projected Export Goals (15)

- The total dollar value of projected exports promoted by the applicant for 1998 compared to
- The applicant's requested funding level;

(d) Accuracy of Past Projections (15)

- Actual exports for 1996 as reported in the 1998 MAP application compared to
- Past projections of exports for 1996 as specified in the 1996 MAP application.

The Commodity Divisions' recommended program levels for each applicant are converted to a percent of the total MAP funds available and multiplied by the total weight factor as described above to determine the amount of funds allocated to each applicant.

Closing Date for Applications

All applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time, April 20, 1998, at the following addresses:

Hand Delivery (including FedEx, DHL, etc.): U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Marketing Operations Staff, Room 4932-S, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-1042.

U.S. Postal Delivery: Marketing Operations Staff, STOP 1042, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-1042.

Electronic mail:
mosadmin@fas.usda.gov.

Facsimile: (202) 720-9361.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Economic Research Service

Notice of Intent to Seek Approval to Collect Information

AGENCY: Economic Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub.L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Economic Research Service's (ERS) intention to request approval for a new information collection on multifamily rental housing funded through USDA's Rural Rental Housing Program. This information will contribute to a better understanding of how USDA housing programs help to provide adequate and affordable rental housing for low-income residents in rural areas.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 23, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Leslie Whitener, Food Assistance, Poverty, and Well-Being Branch, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room S2079, 1800 M. St., NW, Washington, DC. 20036-5831, 202-694-5444.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application for ERS collection of information on multifamily rental housing funded through USDA's Rural Rental Housing Program.

Type of Request: Approval to collect information on multifamily rental housing funded through USDA's Rural Rental Housing Program.

Abstract: The Economic Research Service has the responsibility to provide social and economic intelligence on changing rural housing needs in the United States to help assess the relationship between Federal housing assistance policies and rural development. Research activities focus on three major objectives: (1) Identification of trends in rural housing availability, affordability, and adequacy which underlie an understanding of rural housing needs; (2) assessment of the use and effectiveness of Federal housing assistance programs in rural areas, particularly as they relate to low-income residents; and (3) investigation of the potential effects of Federal policy changes on rural housing programs and housing needs in rural communities. Housing has a major influence on the quality of life of rural residents, and is an important focus of the Department's rural development efforts. Research findings are provided to public and private decision-makers for use in developing and evaluating policies and programs to insure that adequate and affordable housing is available to low-income and other rural residents.

USDA's Rural Rental Housing Section 515 Program provides affordable rental housing to very low-, low-, and moderate-income rural families; elderly residents; and persons with disabilities.

The Program employs a public-private partnership by providing loans to developers to construct or renovate modest-cost rental complexes and cooperative buildings in rural areas. These loans are direct, competitive mortgage loans made to individuals, partnerships, for-profit corporations, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and others to provide affordable multifamily rental housing in rural areas. The long-term, low percentage loans provided by this Program allow the debt service on the property to be sufficiently low to support below market rents affordable to low-income tenants. Tenants pay basic rent or 30 percent of adjusted income, whichever is greater. Those living in substandard housing are given first priority for tenancy. Since 1963, the Program had funded construction of 515,000 units in 26,000 rental housing projects across the country. Appropriations for this Program total \$150 million in fiscal year 1998.

While the Department maintains a national account tracking system and a local project information system, information on the impact of the Rural Rental Housing Program on the community and on the tenants served by the Program is difficult to obtain on a national basis. The data collection effort proposed here will provide a unique information base by soliciting information from a sample of property managers who oversee multifamily rental housing financed by USDA's Rural Rental Housing Program. The survey will interview property managers to ascertain general housing conditions within their projects, neighborhood quality, access to services, and demographic, employment, and income information on tenants. This information will help to fill a serious gap in our understanding of the effects of rental housing programs on low-income rural residents and their communities, and will provide USDA and other policy makers with sound information to help evaluate current programs and develop more effective rural housing policies.

The Economic Research Service, working with Washington State University's Social and Economic Sciences Research Center, will conduct a telephone survey of property managers overseeing multifamily rental housing funded through USDA's Section 515 Program. Property managers to be interviewed will be selected from a simple random national sample of current property managers, taken from USDA's Rural Development administrative records. Survey data will be collected using Computer-Assisted

Telephone Interviewing (CATI) techniques, which are more efficient and less time consuming than traditional written interview techniques. Responses are voluntary and confidential. Survey data will be used for statistical purposes and reported only in aggregate or statistical form.

Information to be obtained from property managers includes: rental property characteristics, general conditions within the properties, neighborhood quality, access to amenities and local services, property managers' experiences with USDA's Rural Development staff, demographic, employment, and income information on tenants, and tenant satisfaction. No existing data sources, including USDA administrative data, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Property Owners and Managers Survey, or the Bureau of the Census' American Housing Survey, provide the level of detail necessary to adequately explore these issues for USDA's Rural Rental Housing Program. These data and the research they will support are vital to the Department's ability to assess the impact of its rural housing programs on rural residents and their communities.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this data collection is estimated to average 15 minutes per completed interview, including time for listening to instructions, gathering data needed, and responding to questionnaire items.

Respondents: Property managers who currently oversee multifamily rental housing funded under USDA's Rural Rental Housing Section 515 Program.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,000

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 250 hours

Information concerning the data collection can be obtained from Leslie Whitener, Food Assistance, Poverty and Well-Being Branch, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room S2079, 1800 M. St., NW, Washington, DC. 20036-5831, 202-694-5444.

Comments

Comments are invited on (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's 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 on those who are to respond, such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques. Comments may be sent to Leslie Whitener, Food Assistance, Poverty and Well-Being Branch, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room S2079, 1800 M. St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036-5831. 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.

Signed at Washington, D.C.

Betsey Kuhn,

Director, Food and Rural Economics Division.

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BILLING CODE 3410-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Information Collection

AGENCIES: The Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Utilities Service, and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Utilities Service's (RUS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the programs for 7 CFR Part 1780, Water and Waste Loans; 7 CFR Part 1823 Subpart N, Loans to Indian Tribes and Tribal Corporations; 7 CFR Part 1942 Subpart A, Community Facilities Loans; 7 CFR Part 1948 Subpart C, Intermediary Relending Program; and 7 CFR Part 1980 Subpart E, Business and Industry Loan Programs.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 20, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: H. Richard Kelly, Loan Specialist, Operations Branch, Water Programs Division, Rural Utilities Service, USDA, STOP 1570, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1570, telephone: (202) 720-9589.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Form RD 1910-11, "Applicant Certification, Federal Collection Policies for Consumer or Commercial Debts"

OMB Number: 0575-0127

Expiration Date of Approval: November 30, 1997.

Type of Request: Reinstate information collection

Abstract: The water and waste loans, community facilities loans, tribe and tribal corporation loans, intermediary relending program loans, and business and industry direct loans are authorized by various sections of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, (7 U.S.C. 1921 *et seq.*), as amended. The water and waste program provides loan funds for water and waste projects serving rural communities. Community facilities loans assist rural communities to develop facilities that are essential for their communities. Loans to Indian tribes or tribal corporations are offered for the acquisition of land within tribal reservations and Alaskan communities. The intermediary relending program provides loans to intermediary organizations to establish revolving loan funds that assist with rural economic and community development. The direct business and industry direct loan program provides funds to rural businesses that cannot get adequate financing from other sources.

OMB Circular A-129, "Policies for Federal Credit Programs and Non-Tax Receivables" requires that an agency will inform its loan applicants of the Federal government's debt collection policies and procedures prior to extending credit. The Circular states that further information on the implementation of credit management and debt collection can be found in the Treasury Financial Manual. A supplement to the Treasury Financial Manual requires that the Agency will ask the applicant to sign a debt collection certification statement to certify knowledge of the Government's policies. This certification statement details the consequences of delinquency on Federal loans.

The Agencies will use Form RD 1910-11 to meet the requirements of OMB Circular A-129 and the supplement to the Treasury Financial Manual for the identified programs. This form will uniformly advise applicants of the debt collection methods that will be used in recovering delinquent or defaulted loans.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .167 hours per response.

Respondents: Business or other for profit organizations, not-for-profit