

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 73, No. 161

Tuesday, August 19, 2008

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

August 14, 2008.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Agricultural Research Service

Title: Renew Information Collection for Use of the Grounds and Facilities as well as Commercial Photography and Cinematography.

OMB Control Number: 0518-0024.

Summary of Collection: The mission of the U.S. National Arboretum (USNA) is to conduct research, provide education, and conserve and display trees, shrubs, flowers, and other plants to enhance the environment. The USNA is a 446-acre public facility. The grounds of the USNA are available to the general public for purposes of education and passive recreation. The USNA has many spectacular feature and garden displays which are very popular to visitors and photographers. Section 890(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-107 ("FAIR ACT") provided statutory authorities regarding the USNA. These authorities include the ability to charge fees for temporary use by individuals or groups of USNA facilities and grounds for any purpose consistent with the mission of USNA. Also, the authority was provided to charge fees for the use of the USNA for commercial photography and cinematography.

Need and Use of the Information: USNA officials using applications in the form of questionnaires will collect the information. The collected information is used by USNA to determine if the requestor's needs can be met and the request is consistent with the mission and goals of the USNA uses of the information. If the basic information is not collected USNA officials will not be able to determine if the requestor's needs can be met.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Individuals or households; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 445.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 109.

Agricultural Research Service

Title: Food Stamp Nutrition Connection Recipe Submission and Review Forms.

OMB Control Number: 0518-0043.

Summary of Collection: The National Agricultural Library's Food Stamp Nutrition Connection (FSNC) <http://www.nal.usda.gov/foodstamp/> resource system developed an on-line recipe database, the Recipe Finder in Fiscal Year 2005. The purpose of the recipe database is to provide our target audience, Food Stamp Program Nutrition Educators (FSNE) providers, with low-cost, easy to prepare, healthy recipes for classes and demonstrations with FSNE participants. We rely on these same educators to submit their best recipes to us for review, analysis and posting in the database. Data collected using the "FSNC Recipe Review Form" will help identify the success or value of the nutrition education and budgeting tool with FSNE participants.

Need and Use of the Information: FSNE providers have the opportunity to submit recipes on-line saving the authors time while providing a fast and accurate vehicle in which to communicate with the authors. At the same time, submitted recipes will be reviewed for the purposes of ensuring that only high quality information remains in the database. The information will be collected electronically. If this collection was not conducted, it would inhibit the ability of the target audience to participate in a valuable resource that will assist them and in turn the FSNE participants.

Description of Respondents: Individual or households; Not-for-Profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 250.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 30.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-19202 Filed 8-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) To Invite Applications for the American Indian Credit Outreach Initiative

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is requesting applications for competitive cooperative agreement funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 for the credit outreach initiative targeted to American Indian farmers, ranchers, and youth residing primarily on Indian reservations within the contiguous United States. FSA anticipates the availability of \$746,496 in funding and the award to one successful applicant through a Cooperative Agreement. This request for applications is being made prior to passage of an FY 2009 appropriations bill to allow applicants sufficient time to submit proposals, give the Agency maximum time to process applications, and permit continuity of this program. FSA requests proposals from eligible non-profit organizations, land-grant institutions, and federally-recognized Indian tribal governments interested in a competitively-awarded cooperative agreement to create and implement a mechanism that will provide credit outreach and promotion, pre-loan education, and one-on-one loan application preparation assistance to American Indian farmers, ranchers, and youth. Successful proposals may include other innovative services intended to enhance participation by American Indians in specific FSA's Agricultural Credit Programs.

DATES: Applications must be completed and submitted to the Agency no later than 5 p.m. eastern time September 18, 2008. Late applications will not be accepted and will be returned to the applicant. Applicants must ensure that the service used to deliver the application can do so by the deadline. Due to security concerns, packages sent to the Agency by mail have been delayed several days or even weeks.

ADDRESSES: Submit applications and other required materials by mail to: Mike Hill, Director, Outreach Staff, Farm Service Agency, USDA, STOP 0511, Suite 508 Portals Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0511.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Hill, (202) 690-1098; e-mail: mike.hill@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of Solicitation

This solicitation is issued under 7 U.S.C. 2204b(b)(4), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements to improve the coordination and effectiveness of Federal programs affecting rural areas. The principal objective of this cooperative agreement is to continue a national outreach program that enables American Indian farmers, ranchers, and

youth primarily located on Indian reservations in the contiguous United States to understand and have access to the various FSA Agriculture Credit Programs.

Proposal Requirements

All proposed approaches must include a plan for how the project will have the following capabilities in place within three months after acceptance of award:

(1) A data tracking system that records and tracks all project credit outreach activities and has the ability to provide detailed statistical information on an ad hoc basis, that must also be functional on a real-time basis as well as being available online through the Internet, and

(2) The demonstrated ability to deliver these credit outreach services utilizing the FSA online Farm Business Plan software program.

Proposals must demonstrate innovative and unique ways of ensuring that American Indians have improved access to FSA Agricultural Credit Programs through targeted outreach activities including targeted promotional campaigns, educational programs, general information dissemination, and one-on-one assistance.

Background

Today, American Indians own and control approximately 66 million acres of agricultural lands held in trust by the United States Government and administered, for the most part, by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) of the Department of the Interior. Land-based agricultural enterprises are considered the primary source of revenue for most tribes, due in large part to their geographical isolation from any urban type industrial development activities. Thus, protecting this resource and utilizing it effectively is an important function of the elected tribal officials charged with operating business activities that take place within reservations.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides farmers and ranchers technical, financial, and educational resources. American Indian agricultural producers on reservations have historically been less able to benefit from USDA services than other farmers and ranchers. Since 1987, Congress has enacted Federal laws, such as the recent Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246, 2008 Farm Bill), to address American Indians' lack of access to USDA's programs and services; this has resulted in beginning to close some of the gaps

in access to these programs and services. As positive as these changes are, they have not fully addressed an implementation plan or the funds needed to carry out implementation of sorely needed agribusiness education and direct services to American Indian Reservation farmers and ranchers.

American Indian agribusinesses, as well as individual Indians, have consistently reported that the primary need in Indian agriculture is access to the capital required to own and operate their own farms or ranches. Therefore, FSA has created and implemented this cooperative funding mechanism to provide credit outreach and other related training and assistance services related to FSA's Agricultural Credit Programs, subject to funding, as a way to resolve some of the credit needs of Indian agriculture.

Definitions

The following definitions are applicable to this Notice.

Agency or FSA. The United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency.

Farm land. Land used for commercial agriculture crops, poultry and livestock enterprises, or aquaculture.

Federally-Recognized Indian Tribal Government. The governing body or a governmental agency of any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community (including any Native village as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)) certified by the Secretary of the Interior as eligible for the special programs and services provided through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Land Grant Institutions.

(1) A 1994 institution (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)), or an 1890 institution.

(2) An Indian tribal community college or an Alaska Native cooperative college.

(3) A Hispanic-serving institution (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)).

Non-Profit Organization. Any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization that:

(1) Is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest;

(2) Is not organized primarily for profit; and

(3) Is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as being certified as

501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)).

Recipient Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must either be a non-profit organization, a federally recognized Indian tribe, or a land grant institution as defined above. Applications without sufficient information to determine eligibility will not be considered.

Proposal Preparation

A proposal must contain an original and two copies of the following (Contact Mike Hill (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above) if you need help getting the forms):

1. Form SF-424, "Application for Federal Assistance."
2. Form SF-424A, "Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs."
3. Form SF-424B, "Assurances—Non-Construction Programs."
4. Table of Contents. For ease of locating information, each proposal must contain a detailed Table of Contents immediately following the required Federal forms. The Table of Contents should include page numbers for each component of the proposal. Pagination should begin immediately following the Table of Contents.
5. Proposal Summary. A summary of the project proposal, not to exceed one page, that includes the title of the project, a description of the project (including goals and tasks to be accomplished), the names of the individuals responsible for conducting and completing the tasks, and the expected time frame for completing all tasks (which should not exceed twelve months).

6. Eligibility. A detailed discussion, not to exceed two pages, describing how the applicant meets the definition of land grant institution, nonprofit organization, or Federally recognized Indian tribal government. In addition, the applicant must describe all other collaborative organizations that may be involved in the project.

7. Proposal Narrative. The narrative portion of the project proposal must be in a font such as Times New Roman (12 pt.) or comparable font and must include the following:

(a) Project Title. The title of the proposed project must be brief, not to exceed 100 characters, yet represent the major thrust of the project.

(b) Information Sheet. A separate one page information sheet that lists each of the seven evaluation criteria listed in this NOFA (see the "Evaluation Criteria and Weights" section below) followed by the page numbers of all relevant material and documentation contained

in the proposal that address or support that criteria.

(c) Goals and Objectives of the Project. A clear statement of the ultimate goals and objectives of the project must be presented.

(d) Evaluation Criteria. Each of the seven evaluation criteria listed in this NOFA (see the "Evaluation Criteria and Weights" section below) must be addressed specifically and individually by category. These criteria should be in narrative form with any specific supporting documentation attached as addenda and should be placed directly following the proposal narrative. If other materials, including financial statements, will be used to support any evaluation criteria it should also be placed directly following the proposal narrative. The applicant must also propose and delineate significant agency participation in the project.

Amount of Award

The amount of funds expected to be available for FY 2009 is approximately \$746,496 based on historical funding levels. If actual funding differs from this amount, the Agency will publish a separate Notice of Funds Availability. Expenses incurred in developing applications will be at the applicant's risk.

Number of Awards

Only one cooperative agreement will be awarded.

Eligible Cooperative Agreement Fund Uses

Cooperative agreement funds may be used to cover allowable costs incurred by the recipient and approved by the Agency. Allowable costs are governed by 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016, and 3019, as applicable, and applicable Office of Management and Budget Circulars.

Ineligible Fund Uses

Cooperative agreement funds must not be used to:

- (1) Plan, repair, rehabilitate, acquire, or construct a building or facility (including a processing facility);
- (2) Purchase, rent, or install fixed equipment, including mobile and other processing equipment;
- (3) Pay for the preparation of the cooperative agreement application;
- (4) Pay expenses not directly related to the funded venture (for example, cooperative agreement funds cannot be used to support the organization's general operations);
- (5) Fund political or lobbying activities;
- (6) Pay costs incurred prior to receiving this Cooperative Agreement;

(7) Fund any activity prohibited by 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016, and 3019, as applicable; and

(8) Fund architectural or engineering design work for a specific physical facility.

Evaluation Criteria, Proposal Review

A National Office panel of USDA employees will review applications for eligibility, completeness, and responsiveness to this NOFA. Incomplete or non-responsive applications will be returned to the applicant and not evaluated further. If the submission deadline has not expired and time permits, ineligible applications may be returned to the applicants for possible revision.

The proposal will be evaluated using the criteria specified below. Failure to address any one of the criteria will disqualify the application. All proposals must be in compliance with this NOFA and applicable statutes.

Prior to technical examination, a preliminary review will be made by FSA Outreach Staff for responsiveness to this solicitation. Proposals that do not fall within the solicitation guidelines or are otherwise ineligible will be eliminated from competition. All responsive proposals will be reviewed by a panel of reviewers using the evaluation criteria stated below. The selected USDA employee reviewers will be chosen to provide maximum expertise and objective judgment in the evaluation of proposals. Evaluated proposals will be ranked by the FSA Outreach Staff based on the evaluation criteria and weights listed below. Final approval of those proposals will be made by the Administrator of FSA, subject to the availability of funding.

Evaluation Criteria and Weights

All responsive proposals will be reviewed based on the following seven criteria:

(1) Applicant's Commitment and Resources (15 points). The standard evaluates the degree to which the organization is committed to the project, and the experience, qualifications, competency, and availability of personnel and resources to direct and carry out the project. In addition, the applicant must demonstrate its ability to deliver credit outreach services utilizing the FSA online Farm Business Plan software program after acceptance of any financial award.

(2) Feasibility and Policy Consistency (20 points). The standard evaluates the degree to which the proposal clearly describes its objectives and evidences a high level of feasibility. This criterion relates to the adequacy and soundness

of the proposed approach to the solution of the problem and evaluates the plan of operation, timetable, evaluation, and dissemination plans.

(3) Detailed Description of Collaborative Partnerships, if any, and Program Recipients (20 points). This standard evaluates the degree to which the proposal reflects partnerships and collaborative initiatives with other agencies or organizations to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the program. Additionally, the areas and number of underserved American Indian farmers, ranchers, and youth who would benefit from the services offered will be evaluated.

(4) Outreach to Socially Disadvantaged American Indian Applicants (10 points). This standard evaluates the degree to which the proposal contains detailed programs to reach persons identified as socially disadvantaged American Indian farmers, ranchers, and youth. The proposal will be evaluated for its potential for encouraging and assisting socially disadvantaged American Indian farmers, ranchers, and youth to utilize the various FSA agriculture credit programs. Elements considered include impact, continuation plans, innovation, and expected products and results.

(5) Innovative Strategies (25 points). This standard evaluates the degree to which the proposal reflects innovative strategies for reaching the population targeted in the proposal and achieving the project objectives. This standard will also evaluate data tracking capability. For data tracking, the standard evaluates evidence that the applicant has the ability to put in place a data tracking system that can record and track all credit outreach activities and the ability to provide detailed statistical information on an ad hoc basis, with additional evidence supporting the system's ability to function on a real-time basis as well its ability to be available online through the Internet. For innovative solutions, the standard evaluates originality, practicality, and creativity in proposing ways to develop and test innovative solutions to existing or anticipated credit issues or problems of socially disadvantaged American Indian farmers, ranchers, and youth. The proposal will be reviewed for its responsiveness to the need to provide socially disadvantaged American Indian farmers, ranchers, and youth with promotion, relevant information, and direct assistance in applying for and receiving FSA agriculture credit, and other essential information to enhance participation in agricultural programs and conduct a

successful farming or ranching operation.

(6) Overall Quality of the Proposal (5 points). This standard evaluates the degree to which the proposal complies with this NOFA and is of high quality. Elements considered include adherence to instructions, accuracy and completeness of forms, clarity and organization of ideas, thoroughness and sufficiency of detail in the budget narrative, specificity of allocations between targeted areas if the proposal addresses more than one area, and completeness of vitae for all key personnel associated with the project.

(7) Accuracy of Proposed Budget and Justification (5 points). This standard evaluates the accuracy of the proposed budget and the accompanying budget justification. The proposed budget should provide a detailed description of each budget category that includes categorical subtotals as well as a separate budget justification that clearly defines and explains each and every proposed budget line item.

Selection Process

When the reviewers have completed their individual evaluations, the panel reviewers, based on the individual reviews, will make a recommendation to the Administrator that one responsive proposal be approved for support from available funds. Prior to award, the Administrator reserves the right to negotiate with an applicant whose project is recommended for funding regarding project revisions (for example, change in scope of work or the Agency's significant involvement), funding level, or period of support. A proposal may be withdrawn at any time before a final funding decision is made.

Cooperative Agreement Awards

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the Administrator will enter into a cooperative agreement with the successful applicant. The date specified by the Administrator as the effective date of the award will not be later than 12 months after the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law.

When To Submit an Application

The deadline for receipt of all applications is 5 p.m. eastern time September 18, 2008. The Agency will not accept any application received after the deadline.

Cooperator Requirements

Cooperators will be required to do the following:

- Sign required Federal grant-making forms including:
 - Form AD-1047, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters-Primary Covered Transactions;
 - Form AD-1048, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions;
 - Form AD-1049, Certification Regarding a Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (Grants); and
 - Form RD 400-4, Assurance Agreement (Civil Rights).
 - Use Standard Form 270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement to request payments.
 - Submit a Standard Form 269, Financial Status Report, and list expenditures according to agreed upon budget categories on a semi-annual basis. A semi-annual financial report is due within 45 days after the first 6-month project period and an annual financial report is due within 60 days after the second 6-month project period.
 - Submit quarterly performance reports that compare accomplishments to the objectives; if established objectives are not met, discuss problems, delays, or other problems that may affect completion of the project; establish objectives for the next reporting period; and discuss compliance with any special conditions on the use of awarded funds.
 - Maintain a financial management system that is acceptable to the Agency.
 - Submit a final project performance report.
 - Sign an agency approved cooperative agreement (an example of which is provided at the end of this notice).
- #### **Other Federal Statutes and Regulations That Apply**
- In addition to the requirements provided in this notice, other Federal statutes and regulations apply to proposals considered for review and to our cooperative agreement awarded. These include, but are not limited to:
- 7 CFR part 15, subpart A, Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Agriculture-Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;
 - 7 CFR part 3015, Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations;
 - 7 CFR parts 3016, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments;
 - 7 CFR part 3017, Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement);
 - 7 CFR part 3018, New Restrictions on Lobbying;

- 7 CFR part 3019, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-profit Organizations;

- 7 CFR part 3021, Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance); and

- 7 CFR part 3052, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply to this NOFA because the program does not receive applications from more than 10 persons covered by the 5 CFR 1320.3(c).

Signed in Washington, DC on August 13, 2008.

Glen L. Keppy,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency

Cooperative Agreement—American Indian Outreach Initiative

This Cooperative Agreement (Agreement) dated _____, between _____ (Cooperator), and the United States of America, acting through the Farm Service Agency of the Department of Agriculture (the Agency), for \$ _____ in cooperative agreement funds under the program, delineates the agreement of the parties.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the cooperative agreement;

The parties agree that:

(1) All the terms and provisions of the Notice entitled "Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the American Indian Credit Outreach Initiative," published in the **Federal Register** on August 19, 2008 and the application submitted by the Cooperator for this Agreement, including any attachments or amendments, are incorporated and included as part of this Agreement. Any changes to these documents or this agreement must be approved in writing by the Agency.

(2) As a condition of the Agreement, the Cooperator certifies that it is in compliance with and will comply in the course of the Agreement with all applicable laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and other generally applicable requirements, including those contained in 7 CFR 3015.205(b), which are incorporated into this agreement by reference, and such other statutory provisions as are specifically contained herein. The Cooperator will comply with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of

1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Executive Order 12250.

(3) The provisions of 7 CFR part 3015, Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, and 7 CFR part 3019, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations, as applicable, are incorporated herein and made a part hereof by reference.

Further, the Cooperator agrees that it will:

(1) Not use cooperative agreement funds to plan, repair, rehabilitate, acquire, or construct a building or facility (including a processing facility); or to purchase, rent, or install fixed equipment.

(2) Use funds only for the purpose and activities specified in the proposal approved by the Agency including the approved budget. Any uses not provided for in the approved budget must be approved in writing by the Agency in advance of obligation by the Agency.

(3) Submit a Standard Form 269, Financial Status Report and list expenditures according to agreed upon budget categories on a semi-annual basis. Reports are due by April 30 and October 30 after the cooperative agreement is awarded.

(4) Provide periodic reports as required by the Agency. A financial status report and a project performance report will be required on a semi-annual basis. The financial status report must show how cooperative agreement funds have been used to date and project the funds needed and their purposes for the next quarter. A final report may serve as the last semi-annual report. Cooperators must constantly monitor performance to ensure that time schedules are being met and projected goals by time periods are being accomplished. The project performance reports must include the following:

a. A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives for that period.

b. Reasons why established objectives were not met, if applicable.

c. Reasons for any problems, delays, or adverse conditions which will affect attainment of overall program objectives, prevent meeting time schedules or objectives, or preclude the attainment of particular objectives during established time periods. This disclosure must be accomplished by a statement of the action taken or planned to resolve the situation.

d. Objectives and timetables established for the next reporting period.

e. The final report will also address the following:

(i) What have been the most challenging or unexpected aspects of this program?

(ii) What advice you would give to other organizations planning a similar program. These should include strengths and limitations of the program. If you had the opportunity, what would you have done differently?

(iii) If an innovative approach was used successfully, the cooperator should describe their program in detail so that other organizations might consider replication in their areas.

5. Provide Financial Management Systems which will include:

a. Records that identify adequately the source and application of funds for cooperative agreement supported activities. Those records must contain information pertaining to grant and cooperative agreement awards and authorizations, obligations, un-obligated balances, assets, liabilities, outlays, and income.

b. Effective control over and accountability for all funds, property, and other assets. Cooperator must adequately safeguard all such assets and ensure that they are used solely for authorized purposes.

c. Accounting records supported by source documentation.

6. Retain financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other records pertinent to the cooperative agreement for a period of at least 3 years after closing, except that the records must be retained beyond the 3-year period if audit findings have not been resolved. Microfilm or photocopies or similar methods may be substituted in lieu of original records. The Agency and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, must have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Cooperator that are pertinent to the specific cooperative agreement program for the purpose of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcripts.

7. Not encumber, transfer, or dispose of the equipment or any part thereof, acquired wholly or in part with Agency funds without the written consent of the Agency.

8. Not duplicate other program purposes for which monies have been received, are committed, or are applied to from other sources (public or private).

The Agency agrees to make funds available to the Cooperator under this Agreement in an amount not to exceed the amount indicated above. The funds will be reimbursed or advanced based on submission to the Agency by the

Cooperator of a complete Standard Form 270.

Authorized and executed this day by:

(Cooperator)

(Title)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

By:

(Name)

(Title)

[FR Doc. E8-19156 Filed 8-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact—Little Choconut Creek Watershed, Broome County, NY

ACTION: Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact—Little Choconut Creek Watershed, Broome County, New York.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations (7 CFR Part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the Little Choconut Creek Flood Control Dam Site 2 rehabilitation project, Broome County, New York.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis DeWeese, Acting State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 441 S. Salina St., Suite 354, Syracuse, NY 13202; telephone: (315) 477-6504.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Dennis DeWeese, Acting State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement is not needed for this project.

The project purpose is to rehabilitate dam site 2 in order to extend the useful life of the structure and meet current dam safety criteria. The planned works of improvement include sediment

removal from behind the dam and increasing the height of the auxiliary spillway.

The Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and to various Federal, State, and local agencies and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Dennis DeWeese, Acting State Conservationist, New York.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under NO. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.)

Dated: August 4, 2008.

Dennis DeWeese,

Acting State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Syracuse, NY.

[FR Doc. E8-19160 Filed 8-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA): Section 515 Multi-Family Housing Preservation Revolving Loan Fund (PRLF) Demonstration Program for Fiscal Year 2008

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

Overview Information

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service of Rural Development announces the availability of funds and the timeframe to submit applications for loans to private non-profit organizations, or such non-profit organizations' affiliate loan funds and State and local housing finance agencies, to carry out a demonstration program to provide revolving loans for the preservation and revitalization of low-income Multi-Family Housing (MFH). Housing that is assisted by this demonstration program must be financed by Rural Development through its MFH loan program under Sections 515, 514 and 516 of the Housing Act of 1949. The goals of this demonstration program will be achieved

through loans made to intermediaries. The intermediaries will establish their programs for the purpose of providing loans to ultimate recipients for the preservation and revitalization of low income Sections 515, 514 and 516 MFH as affordable housing.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of all applications in response to this NOFA is 5 p.m., Eastern Time, *October 20, 2008*. The application closing deadline is firm as to date and hour. Rural Development 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, and postage due applications will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Henry Searcy, Jr., Senior Loan Specialist, Multi-Family Housing Processing Division, STOP 0781 (Room 1263-S), or Bonnie Edwards-Jackson, Senior Loan Specialist, Multi-Family Housing Processing Division, STOP 0781 (Room 1239-S), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0781 or by telephone at (202) 720-1753 or (202) 690-0759, TDD (302) 857-3585 or via e-mail at Henry.Searcy@wdc.usda.gov or Bonnie.Edwards@wdc.usda.gov. (Please note the phone numbers are not toll free numbers.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Paperwork Reduction Act

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 (2005) *et seq.*, OMB must approve all "collections of information" by Rural Development. 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 NOFA will receive less than 10 respondents, the Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply.

Programs Affected

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under Number 10.415.

Overview

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008 (Act) (Division A of Pub. L. 110-161, December 26, 2007) provided funding for, and authorizes Rural