

a. Specific tasks (whether it be by type of service or specific project) to be completed using grant and matching funds;

b. How customers will be identified;

c. Key personnel; and

d. The evaluation methods to be used to determine the success of specific tasks and overall objectives of Center operations.

The budget must present a breakdown of the estimated costs associated with cooperative and business development activities as well as the operation of the Center and allocate these costs to each of the tasks to be undertaken. Matching funds as well as grant funds must be accounted for in the budget.

9. Qualifications of those Performing the Tasks (maximum score of 10 points). A panel of USDA employees will evaluate your application to determine if the personnel expected to perform key tasks have a track record of:

a. Positive solutions for complex cooperative development and/or marketing problems; or

b. A successful record of conducting accurate feasibility studies, business plans, marketing analysis, or other activities relevant to your success as determined by the tasks identified in the your work plan; and

c. Whether the personnel expected to perform the tasks are full/part-time employees of your organization or are contract personnel.

If you demonstrate commitment/availability of qualified personnel expected to perform the tasks, you will score higher on this factor.

10. Local and Future Support (maximum score of 10 points). A panel of USDA employees will evaluate your application for local and future support. Support should be discussed directly within the response to this criterion.

a. Discussion on local support should include previous and/or expected local support and plans for coordinating with other developmental organizations in the proposed service area or with state and local government institutions. If you demonstrate strong support from potential beneficiaries and formal evidence of intent to coordinate with other developmental organizations, you will score higher on this factor. You may also submit a maximum of 10 letters of support or intent to coordinate with the application. These letters should be included in Appendix B of your application and will not count against the 40-page limit for the narrative.

b. Discussion on future support will include your vision for funding operations in future years. You should document:

(i) New and existing funding sources that support your goals;

(ii) Alternative funding sources that reduce reliance on Federal, State, and local grants; and

(iii) The use of in-house personnel for providing services versus contracting out for that expertise.

If you demonstrate vision and likelihood of long-term sustainability with diversification of funding sources and building in-house technical assistance capacity, you will score higher on this factor.

## VI. Award Administration Information

### A. Award Notices

If your application is successful, you will receive notification regarding funding from the State Office where your application is submitted or headquarter if you submit your application via Grants.gov. You must comply with all applicable statutes, regulations, and notice requirements before the grant award will be approved. If your application is not successful, you will receive notification, including mediation and appeal rights by mail. See 7 CFR part 11 for USDA National Appeals Division procedures.

### Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Additional requirements that apply to grantees selected for this program can be found in 7 CFR part 4284, subparts A and F, parts 3015, 3019, 3052 and 2 CFR parts 215 and 417. All recipients of Federal financial assistance are required to report information about first-tier subawards and executive compensation (See 2 CFR part 170). You will be required to have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the Transparency Act reporting requirements (See 2 CFR 170.200(b), unless you are exempt under 2 CFR 170.110(b)).

The following additional requirements apply to grantees selected for this program:

- Agency-approved Grant Agreement.
- Letter of Conditions.
- Form RD 1940-1, "Request for Obligation of Funds."
- Form RD 1942-46, "Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions."
- 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 Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (Grants)."

- Form AD-3031, "Assurance Regarding Felony Conviction or Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants."

- Form RD 400-4, "Assurance Agreement."

- SF LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," if applicable.

## VII. Agency Contacts

If you have questions about this Notice, please contact the State Office as identified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this Notice.

## VIII. Nondiscrimination Statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Dated: May 16, 2013.

**Lillian Salerno,**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Business Cooperative Service.*

[FR Doc. 2013-12329 Filed 5-22-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

#### Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Loan Guarantees Under Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program (GRRHP) for Fiscal Year 2013

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** NOFA.

**SUMMARY:** This is a request for proposals for guaranteed loans under the Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing

Program (GRRHP) pursuant to 7 CFR 3565.4 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013, Public Law 113-6 (March 26, 2013) appropriated \$150 million in FY 2013. The commitment of program dollars will be made first to approved and complete applications from prior years notices, then to applicants of selected responses in the order they are ranked under this notice that have fulfilled the necessary requirements for obligation. Successful applications will be selected by the Agency for funding and subsequently awarded to the extent that funding may ultimately be made available to the Agency through appropriations.

Expenses incurred in developing applications will be at the applicant's risk. The following paragraphs outline the timeframes, eligibility requirements, lender responsibilities, and the overall response and application processes.

Eligible lenders are invited to submit responses for new construction and acquisition with rehabilitation of affordable rural rental housing. The Agency will review responses submitted by eligible lenders, on the lender's letterhead, and signed by both the prospective borrower and lender. Although a complete application is not required in response to this notice, eligible lenders may submit a complete application concurrently with the response. Submitting a complete application will not have any effect on the respondent's response score.

**DATES:** Eligible responses to this notice will be accepted until December 31, 2013, 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Selected responses that develop into complete applications and meet all Federal eligibility requirements prior to September 30, 2013 will receive conditional commitments until all FY 2013 funds are expended. Selected responses to this notice that are deemed eligible for further processing after September 30, 2013, will be funded to the extent an appropriation act provides funding for GRRHP for FY 2014 and will be subject to the fee structure in the FY 2014 notice.

Eligible lenders mailing a response or application must provide sufficient time to permit delivery to the appropriate *submission address* below on or before the closing deadline date and time. Acceptance by a U.S. Post Office or private mailer does not constitute delivery. Postage due responses and applications will not be accepted.

**ADDRESSES:** *Submission Address:* Eligible lenders will send responses to the Multi-Family Housing Program

Director of the State Office where the project will be located.

USDA Rural Development State Offices, their addresses, and telephone numbers, follow: [This information may also be found at [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd\\_map.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html)]

**Note:** Telephone numbers listed are not toll-free.

**Alabama State Office**

Sterling Centre, Suite 601, 4121 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL 36106-3683, (334) 279-3400, TDD (334) 279-3495.

**Alaska State Office**

800 West Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer, AK 99645-6539, (907) 761-7740, TDD (907) 761-8905, Arizona State Office, 230 North First Avenue, Suite 206, Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706, (602) 280-8755, TDD (602) 280-8706.

**Arkansas State Office**

700 W. Capitol Avenue, Room 3416, Little Rock, AR 72201-3225, (501) 301-3200, TDD (501) 301-3279.

**California State Office**

430 G Street, #4169, Davis, CA 95616-4169, (530) 792-5800, TDD (530) 792-5848.

**Colorado State Office**

Denver Federal Center, Building 56, Room 2300, PO Box 25426, Denver, CO 80255-0426, (720) 544-2903, TDD (720) 544-2976.

**Connecticut**

Served by Massachusetts State Office.

**Delaware and Maryland State Office**

1221 College Park Drive, Suite 200, Dover, DE 19904, (302) 857-3580, TDD (302) 857-3585.

**Florida and Virgin Islands State Office**

4440 NW. 25th Place, PO Box 147010, Gainesville, FL 32614, -7010, (352) 338-3400, TDD (352) 338-3499.

**Georgia State Office**

Stephens Federal Building, 355 E. Hancock Avenue—Stop 307, Athens, GA 30601-2768, (706) 546-2162, TDD (706) 546-2034.

**Hawaii State Office**

(Services all Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and Western Pacific) Room 311, Federal Building, 154 Waiianuenue Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720, (808) 933-8380, TDD (808) 933-8321.

**Idaho State Office**

9713 West Barnes Drive, Suite A1, Boise, ID 83709, (208) 378-5630, TDD (208) 378-5644.

**Illinois State Office**

2118 West Park Court, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821-2986, (217) 403-6200, TDD (217) 403-6240.

**Indiana State Office**

5975 Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46278-1966, (317)

290-3100 (ext. 4) TDD (317) 290-3343.

**Iowa State Office**

210 Walnut Street, Room 873, Des Moines, IA 50273, (515) 284-4663, TDD (515) 284-4858.

**Kansas State Office**

1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040, (785) 271-2700, TDD (785) 271-2767.

**Kentucky State Office**

771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40503, (859) 224-7300, TDD (859) 224-7422.

**Louisiana State Office**

3727 Government Street, Alexandria, LA 71302, (318) 473-7921, TDD (318) 473-7655.

**Maine State Office**

967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, Bangor, ME 04402-0405, (207) 990-9100 (ext. 4), TDD (207) 942-7331.

**Maryland**

Served by Delaware State Office.

**Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island State Office**

451 West Street, Suite 2, Amherst, MA 01002, (413) 253-4300, TDD (413) 253-4590.

**Michigan State Office**

3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 324-5190, TDD (800) 649-3777.

**Minnesota State Office**

375 Jackson Street, Suite 410, St. Paul, MN 55101-1853, (651) 602-7800, TDD (651) 602-7830.

**Mississippi State Office**

Federal Building, Suite 831, 100 W. Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269, (601) 965-4318, TDD (601) 965-5850.

**Missouri State Office**

601 Business Loop 70 West, Parkade Center, Suite 235, Columbia, MO 65203, (573) 876-0976, TDD (573) 876-9480.

**Montana State Office**

2229 Boot Hill Court, Bozeman, MT 59715, (406) 585-2540, TDD (406) 585-2562.

**Nebraska State Office**

Federal Building, Room 152, 100 Centennial Mall N, Lincoln, NE 68508, (402) 437-5551, TDD (402) 437-5093.

**Nevada State Office**

1390 South Curry Street, Carson City, NV 89703-9910, (775) 887-1222 (ext. 100), TDD (775) 885-0633.

**New Hampshire State Office**

10 Ferry Street, Concord, NH 03301-5004, Suite 218, (603) 223-6046, TDD (802) 828-6365.

**New Jersey State Office**

8000 Midlantic Drive, 5th Floor North Suite 500 Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054, (856) 787-7700, TDD (856) 787-7784.

New Mexico State Office  
6200 Jefferson Street NE,  
Albuquerque, NM 87109, (505)  
761-4950, TDD (505) 761-4938.

New York State Office  
The Galleries of Syracuse, 441 S.  
Salina Street, Suite 357, Syracuse,  
NY 13202-2541, (315) 477-6400,  
TDD (315) 477-6447.

North Carolina State Office  
4405 Bland Road, Suite 260, Raleigh,  
NC 27609, (919) 873-2000, TDD  
711 (state relay system).

North Dakota State Office  
Federal Building, Room 208, 220 East  
Rosser, PO Box 1737, Bismarck, ND  
58502, (701) 530-2061, TDD (701)  
530-2090.

Ohio State Office  
Federal Building, Room 507, 200  
North High Street, Columbus, OH  
43215-2477, (614) 255-2400, TDD  
(800) 877-8339.

Oklahoma State Office  
100 USDA, Suite 108, Stillwater, OK  
74074-2654, (405) 742-1000, TDD  
(405) 742-1007.

Oregon State Office  
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 801,  
Portland, OR 97232-1274, (503)  
414-3300, TDD (503) 414-3387.

Pennsylvania State Office  
One Credit Union Place, Suite 330,  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996, (717)  
237-2299, TDD (717) 237-2261.

Puerto Rico State Office  
654 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 601,  
San Juan, PR 00918, (787) 766-  
5095, TDD (787) 766-5332.

Rhode Island  
Served by Massachusetts State Office.

South Carolina State Office  
Strom Thurmond Federal Building,  
1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007,  
Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 765-  
5163, TDD (803) 765-5697.

South Dakota State Office  
Federal Building, Room 210, 200  
Fourth Street SW., Huron, SD  
57350, (605) 352-1100, TDD (605)  
352-1147.

Tennessee State Office  
3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300,  
Nashville, TN 37203, (615) 783-  
1300, TDD (615) 783-1397.

Texas State Office  
Federal Building, Suite 102, 101  
South Main, Temple, TX 76501,  
(254) 742-9700, TDD (254) 742-  
9712.

Utah State Office  
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building,  
125 S. State Street, Room 4311, Salt  
Lake City, UT 84138, (801) 524-  
4320, TDD (801) 524-3309.

Vermont State Office  
City Center, 3rd Floor, 89 Main Street,  
Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-  
6080, TDD (802) 223-6365.

Virgin Islands  
Served by Florida State Office.

Virginia State Office  
1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 238,  
Richmond, VA 23229, (804) 287-  
1500, TDD (804) 287-1753.

Washington State Office  
1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW., Suite B,  
Olympia, WA 98512, (360) 704-  
7740, TDD (360) 704-7772.

Western Pacific Territories  
Served by Hawaii State Office.

West Virginia State Office  
Federal Building, 1550 Earl Core  
Road, Suite 101, Morgantown, WV  
26505, (304) 284-4881, TDD (304)  
284-4836.

Wisconsin State Office  
5417 Clem's Way, Stevens Point, WI  
54481, (715) 345-7600, TDD (715)  
345-7614.

Wyoming State Office  
100 East B. Street Room 1005, Casper,  
WY 82601, (307) 233-6700, TDD  
(307) 233-6733.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Tammy Daniels, Financial and Loan  
Analyst, USDA Rural Development  
Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing  
Program, Multi-Family Housing  
Guaranteed Loan Division, U.S.  
Department of Agriculture, South  
Agriculture Building, Room 1263-S,  
STOP 0781, 1400 Independence Avenue  
SW., Washington, DC 20250-0781.  
Email: [tammy.daniels@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:tammy.daniels@wdc.usda.gov).  
Telephone: (202) 720-0021. This  
number is not toll-free. Hearing or  
speech-impaired persons may access  
that number by calling the Federal  
Information Relay Service toll-free at  
(800) 877-8339.

#### Overview

*Federal Agency:* Rural Housing  
Service.

*Solicitation Opportunity Title:*  
Guaranteed Multi-Family Housing  
Loans.

*Announcement Type:* Initial  
Solicitation Announcement.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance:  
10.438.

*Dates:* Response Deadline: December  
31, 2013, 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

#### I. Funding Opportunity Description

The GRRHP is authorized by Section 538 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1490p-2) and operates under 7 CFR part 3565. The purpose of the GRRHP is to increase the supply of affordable rural rental housing through the use of loan guarantees that encourage partnerships between the Agency, private lenders, and public agencies. The Agency advises all interested parties that the applicant

bears the burden in preparing and submitting an application in response to this Notice whether or not funding is appropriated for this program in FY 2013.

*Eligibility of Prior Year Selected Responses:* Prior fiscal year response selections that did not develop into complete applications within the time constraints stipulated by the corresponding State Office have been cancelled. Applicants have been notified of the cancellation by the State Office. A new response for the project may be submitted subject to the conditions of this Notice.

Prior years responses that were selected by the Agency, with a complete application submitted by the lender within 90 days from the date of notification of response selection (unless an extension was granted by the Agency), will be eligible for FY 2013 program dollars without having to complete a FY 2013 response. A complete application includes all Federal environmental documents required by 7 CFR part 1940, subpart G, and a Form RD 3565-1, "Application for Loan and Guarantee." Any approved applications originating from FY 2012 and previous fiscal years (outstanding prior years approved applications) that are obligated in FY 2013, however, are subject to "Program Fees For FY 2013" section in this Notice. Outstanding prior years approved applications will be obligated to the extent of available funding in order of priority score with the highest scores obligated first. The scores the applications received under the NOFA the year the application was submitted will be used for the ranking. In the case of tied scores, the project with the greatest leveraging (lowest loan to cost ratio) will receive selection priority. Once the outstanding prior years approved applications have been funded, the Agency will select FY 2013 responses for further processing in rank order as determined by the scoring criteria set forth in this Notice to the extent that funds remain available.

#### II. Award Information

Anyone interested in submitting an application for funding under this program is encouraged to consult the Rural Development Web site periodically for updated information regarding the status of funding authorized for this program.

*Qualifying Properties:* Qualifying properties include new construction for multi-family housing units and the acquisition of existing structures with a minimum per unit rehabilitation expenditure requirement in accordance with 7 CFR 3565.252.

Also eligible is the revitalization, repair and transfer (as stipulated in 7 CFR 3560.406) of existing direct Section 515 housing (transfer costs are subject to Agency approval and must be an eligible use of loan proceeds as listed in 7 CFR 3565.205), and properties involved in the Agency's Multi-Family Preservation and Revitalization (MPR) program. Equity payment, as stipulated in 7 CFR 3560.406, in the transfer of existing direct Section 515 housing, is an eligible use of guaranteed loan proceeds; however, the amount of funding available for transfers of existing Section 515 properties involving equity payments will be limited to 25 percent of the FY 2013 funding level through July 31, 2013. Once the Agency has committed 25 percent of the total funding available for transfers of existing Section 515 properties with equity payments, no further funding will be available for transfers of existing Section 515 properties with equity payments until after July 31, 2013, if funding is available.

If there is funding available after July 31, 2013, funding requests for transfers of existing Section 515 properties involving equity payments will be selected for obligation according to the selection criteria stipulated in the "Obligation of Program Funds" section of this Notice. Funding requests for transfers of existing Section 515 properties involving equity payments will be kept in a separate queue. The 25 percent limit is solely for equity payments and does not affect Section 515 properties' use of Section 538 loan guarantees exclusively for rehabilitation and repairs. In order to be considered, the transfer of Section 515 housing and MPR projects must need repairs and undergo revitalization of a minimum of \$6,500 per unit.

**Eligible Financing Sources:** Any form of Federal, state, and conventional sources of financing can be used in conjunction with the loan guarantee, including Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) grant funds, tax exempt bonds, and Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC).

**Types of Guarantees:** The Agency offers three types of guarantees which are set forth at 7 CFR 3565.52(c). The Agency's liability under any guarantee will decrease or increase, in proportion to any decrease or increase in the amount of the unpaid portion of the loan, up to the maximum amount specified in the Loan Note Guarantee. Penalties incurred as a result of default are not covered by any of the program's guarantees. The Agency may provide a lesser guarantee based upon its

evaluation of the credit quality of the loan.

**Energy Conservation:** All new multi-family housing projects financed in whole or in part by the USDA, are encouraged to engage in sustainable building development that emphasizes energy-efficiency and conservation. In order to assist in the achievement of this goal, any GRRHP project that participates in one or all of the programs included in priority 8 under the "Scoring of Priority Criteria for Selection of Projects" Section of this Notice may receive a maximum of 25 additional points added to their project score. Participation in these nationwide initiatives is voluntary, but strongly encouraged.

**Interest Credit:** The Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2013 did not fund interest credit.

**Program Fees For FY 2013:** The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013, Public Law 113-6 (March 26, 2013) continued the provision "That to support the loan program level for Section 538 guaranteed loans made available under this heading the Secretary may charge or adjust any fees to cover the projected cost of such loan guarantees pursuant to the provisions of the Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq), and the interest on such loans may not be subsidized." The following fees have been determined necessary to cover the projected cost of such loan guarantees for FY 2013. These fees may be adjusted in future years to cover the projected costs of loan guarantees in those future years or additional fees may be charged. These fees are also applicable to all outstanding prior years responses funded with FY 2013 funds. The fees are as follows:

1. Initial guarantee fee. The Agency will charge an initial guarantee fee equal to 1% of the guarantee principal amount. For purposes of calculating this fee, the guarantee amount is the product of the percentage of the guarantee times the initial principal amount of the guaranteed loan.

2. Annual guarantee fee. An annual guarantee fee of 50 basis points (1/2%) of the outstanding principal amount of the loan as of December 31 will be charged each year or portion of a year that the guarantee is outstanding.

3. As permitted under 7 CFR 3565.302(b)(5), there is a non-refundable service fee of \$1,500 for the review and approval of a lender's first request to extend the term of a guarantee commitment beyond its original expiration (the request must be received by the Agency prior to the commitment's expiration). For any

subsequent extension request, the fee will be \$2,500.

4. As permitted under 7 CFR 3565.302(b)(5), there is a non-refundable service fee of \$3,500 for the review and approval of a lender's first request to reopen an application when a commitment has expired. For any subsequent extension request to reopen an application after the commitment has expired, the fee will be \$3,500.

5. As permitted under 7 CFR 3565.302(b)(4), there is a non-refundable service fee of \$1,500 in connection with a lender's request to approve the transfer of property or a change in composition of the ownership entity.

6. There is no lender application fee for lender approval.

7. There is no surcharge for the guarantee of construction advances.

### III. Eligibility Information

**Eligible Lenders:** An eligible lender for the Section 538 GRRHP as required by 7 CFR 3565.102 must be a licensed business entity or Housing Finance Agency (HFA) in good standing in the state or states where it conducts business. Lender eligibility requirements are contained in 7 CFR 3565.102. Please review that section for a complete list of all of the criteria. The Agency will only accept responses from GRRHP eligible or approved lenders as described in 7 CFR 3565.102 and 3565.103 respectively. Lenders whose responses are selected will be notified by the Agency to submit a request for GRRHP lender approval within 30 days of notification. Lenders who request GRRHP approval must meet the standards in 7 CFR 3565.103.

Lenders that have received GRRHP lender approval that remain in good standing do not need to reapply for GRRHP lender approval. A lender making a construction loan must demonstrate an ability to originate and service construction loans, in addition to meeting the other requirements of 7 CFR part 3565, subpart C.

**Submission of Documentation For GRRHP Lender Approval:** All lenders that have not yet received GRRHP lender approval must submit a complete lender application to: Director, Multi-Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Division, Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 1263-S, STOP 0781, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0781. Lender applications must be identified as "Lender Application—Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program" on the envelope.

**IV. Application and Submission Information**

*Content of Responses:* All responses require lender information and project specific data as set out in this Notice. Incomplete responses will not be considered for funding. Lenders will be notified of incomplete responses no later than 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the response by the Agency. Complete responses are to include a signed cover letter from the lender, on the lender’s letterhead, to the

office address identified in the “Submission Address” section of this Notice for the scoring and ranking of a proposed GRRHP project. The lender must provide the requested information concerning the project, to establish the purpose of the proposed project, its location, and how it meets the established priorities for funding. The Agency will determine the highest ranked responses based on priority criteria and a threshold score.

(1) *Lender Certification:* The lender must certify that the lender will make a

loan to the prospective borrower for the proposed project, under specified terms and conditions subject to the issuance of the GRRHP guarantee. Lender certification must be on the lender’s letterhead and signed by both the lender and the prospective borrower.

(2) *Project Specific Data:* The lender must submit the project specific data below on the lender’s letterhead, signed by both the lender and the prospective borrower:

Data element	Information that must be included
Lender Name .....	Insert the lender’s name.
Lender Tax ID # .....	Insert lender’s tax ID number.
Lender Contact Name .....	Name of the lender contact for loan.
Mailing Address .....	Lender’s complete mailing address.
Phone # .....	Phone number for lender contact.
Fax # .....	Insert lender’s fax number.
Email Address .....	Insert lender contact email address.
Borrower Name and Organization Type .....	State whether borrower is a Limited Partnership, Corporation, Indian Tribe, etc.
Equal Opportunity Survey .....	Optional Completion.
Tax Classification Type .....	State whether borrower is for profit, not for profit, etc.
Borrower Tax ID # .....	Insert borrower’s tax ID number.
Borrower DUNS # .....	Insert DUNS number.
Borrower Address, including County .....	Insert borrower’s address and county.
Borrower Phone #, fax # and email address .....	Insert borrower’s phone number, fax number and email address.
Principal or Key Member for the Borrower .....	Insert name and title. List the general partners if a limited partnership, officers if a corporation or members of a Limited Liability Corporation.
Borrower Information and Statement of Housing Development Experience.	Attach relevant information.
New Construction, Acquisition With Rehabilitation .....	State whether the project is new construction or acquisition with rehabilitation.
Revitalization, Repair, and Transfer (as stipulated in 7 CFR 3560.406) of Existing Direct Section 515 Housing or MPR.	Yes or No (Transfer costs, including equity payments, are subject to Agency approval and must be an eligible use of loan proceeds in 7 CFR 3565.205).
Project Location Town or City .....	Town or city in which the project is located.
Project County .....	County in which the project is located.
Project State .....	State in which the project is located.
Project Zip Code .....	Insert Zip Code where the project is located.
Project Congressional District .....	Congressional District for project location.
Project Name .....	Insert project name.
Project Type .....	Family, senior (all residents 55 years or older), or mixed.
Property Description and Proposed Development Schedule .....	Provide as an attachment.
Total Project Development Cost .....	Enter amount for total project.
# of Units .....	Insert the number of units in the project.
Ratio of 3–5 bedroom units to total units .....	Insert percentage of 3–5 bedroom units to total units.
Cost per Unit .....	Total development cost divided by number of units.
Rent .....	Proposed rent structure.
Median Income for Community .....	Provide median income for the community.
Evidence of Site Control .....	Attach relevant information.
Description of Any Environmental Issues .....	Attach relevant information.
Loan Amount .....	Insert the loan amount.
Borrower’s Proposed Equity .....	Insert amount and source.
Tax Credits .....	Have tax credits been awarded? If tax credits were awarded, submit a copy of the award/evidence of award with your response. If not, when do you anticipate an award will be made (announced)? What is the [estimated] value of the tax credits? Letters of application and commitment letters should be included, if available.
Other Sources of Funds .....	List all funding sources other than tax credits and amounts for each source, type, rates and terms of loans or grant funds.
Loan to Total Development Cost .....	Guaranteed loan divided by the total development costs of project.
Debt Coverage Ratio .....	Net Operating Income divided by debt service payments.
Percentage of Guarantee .....	Percentage guarantee requested.
Collateral .....	Attach relevant information.

Data element	Information that must be included
Colonia, Tribal Lands, or State's Consolidated Plan or State Needs Assessment.	Colonia, on an Indian Reservation, or in a place identified in the State's Consolidated Plan or State Needs Assessment as a high need community for multi-family housing.
Is the Property Located in a Federally Declared Disaster Area? .....	If yes, please provide documentation (i.e., Presidential Declaration document).
Population .....	Provide the population of the county, city, or town where the project is or will be located.
What type of guarantee is being requested, Permanent only (Option 1), Construction and Permanent (Option 2) or Continuous (Option 3).	Enter the type of guarantee.
Loan Term .....	Minimum 25-year term. Maximum 40-year term (includes construction period). May amortize up to 40 years. Balloon mortgages permitted after the 25th year.
Participation in Energy Efficient Programs .....	Initial checklist indicating prerequisites to register for participation in a particular energy efficient program. All checklists must be accompanied by a signed affidavit by the project architect stating that the goals are achievable. If property management is certified for green property management, the certification must be provided.

*(3) The Proposed Borrower Information:*

a) Lender certification that the borrower or principals of the owner are not barred from participating in Federal housing programs and are not delinquent on any Federal debt.

b) Borrower's unaudited or audited financial statements.

c) Statement of borrower's housing development experience.

*(4) Lender Eligibility and Approval Status:* Evidence that the lender is either an approved lender for the purposes of the GRRHP or that the lender is eligible to apply for approved lender status. The lender's application for approved lender status can be submitted with the response but must be submitted to the National Office within 30 calendar days of the lender's receipt of the "Notice to Proceed with Application Processing" letter.

*(5) Competitive Criteria:* Information that shows how the proposal is responsive to the selection criteria specified in this notice.

**V. Application Review Information**

*Scoring of Priority Criteria For Selection:* All FY 2013 responses will be scored based on the criteria set forth below to establish their priority for further processing. Per 7 CFR 3565.5(b), priority will be given to projects: In smaller rural communities, in the most needy communities having the highest percentage of leveraging, having the lowest interest rate, or having the highest ratio of 3–5 bedroom units to total units. In addition, as permitted in 7 CFR 3565.5(b), in order to meet important program goals, priority points will be given for projects that include LIHTC funding, Section 515 projects with no equity payments and projects that are participating in specified energy efficient programs.

The eight priority scoring criteria for projects are listed below.

*Priority 1—* Projects located in eligible rural communities with the lowest populations will receive the highest points.

Population size	Points
0–5,000 .....	30
5,001–10,000 people .....	15
10,001–15,000 people .....	10
15,001–20,000 people .....	5

*Priority 2—*The neediest communities as determined by the median income from the most recent census data published by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), will receive points. The Agency will allocate points to projects located in communities having the lowest median income. Points for median income will be awarded as follows:

Median income (dollars)	Points
Less than \$45,000 .....	20
\$45,000—less than \$55,000 .....	15
\$55,000—less than \$65,000 .....	10
\$65,000—less than \$75,000 .....	5
\$75,000 or more .....	0

*Priority 3—*Projects that demonstrate partnering and leveraging in order to develop the maximum number of units and promote partnerships with state and local communities will also receive points. Points will be awarded as follows:

Loan to total development cost ratio (percentage %)	Points
Less than 25 .....	60
Less than 50 to 25 .....	30
Less than 70 to 50 .....	10
70 or more .....	0

*Priority 4—*Responses that include equity from low income housing tax credits will receive an additional 50 points.

*Priority 5—*The USDA Rural Development will award points to projects with the highest ratio of 3–5 bedroom units to total units as follows:

Ratio of 3–5 bedroom units to total units	Points
More than 50% .....	10
21%–50% .....	5
Less than 21%—more than 0% .....	1

*Priority 6—*Responses for the revitalization, repair, and transfer (as stipulated in 7 CFR 3560.406) of existing direct section 515 housing and properties involved in the Agency's MPR program (transfer costs, including equity payments, are subject to Agency approval and must be an eligible use of loan proceeds listed in 7 CFR 3565.205) will receive an additional 10 points. If the transfer of existing section 515 properties includes equity payments, 0 points will be awarded.

*Priority 7—*Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Projects—Projects in which Section 538 funds will not be used to finance new construction of Section 515 Rural Rental Housing projects will receive 20 points.

*Priority 8—*Energy-Efficiency.  
(A) Projects that are energy-efficient and registered for participation in the following programs will receive points as indicated up to a maximum of 25 points. Each program has an initial checklist indicating prerequisites for participation. Each applicant must provide a checklist establishing that the prerequisites for each program's participation will be met. Additional points will be awarded for checklists that achieve higher levels of energy efficiency certification as set forth

below. All checklists must be accompanied by a signed affidavit by the project architect stating that the goals are achievable. Points will be awarded for the listed programs as follows:

- *Energy Star for Homes*—5 points;
- *Green Communities* by the Enterprise Community Partners ([www.enterprisefoundation.org](http://www.enterprisefoundation.org))—10 points;
- *LEED for Homes* program by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) ([www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org))—Certified (10 points), Silver (12 points), Gold (15 points), or Platinum (25 points);
- *National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) ICC 700–2008—National Green Building Standard™* ([www.nahb.org](http://www.nahb.org))—Bronze (10 points), Silver (12 points), Gold (15 points), or Emerald (25 points); or
- A State or local green building program—2 points.

(B) Projects that will be managed by a property management company that are certified green property management companies will receive 5 points. Applicants must provide proof of certification. Certification may be achieved through one of the following programs:

- National Apartment Association, Credential for Green Property Management (CGPM); [www.naahq.org/EDUCATION/DESIGNATIONPROGRAMS/OTHER/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.naahq.org/EDUCATION/DESIGNATIONPROGRAMS/OTHER/Pages/default.aspx);
- National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA), Credential for Green Property Management (CGPM); [www.nahma.org/content/greencred.html](http://www.nahma.org/content/greencred.html); or
- U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) LEED AP (any discipline) or LEED Green Associate; [www.gbci.org](http://www.gbci.org).

**Notifications:** Responses will be reviewed for completeness and eligibility. The Agency will notify those lenders whose responses are selected via a Notice to Proceed with Application Processing letter. The Agency will request lenders without GRRHP lender approval to apply for GRRHP lender approval within 30 days upon receipt of notification of selection.

Lenders will also be invited to submit a complete application to the USDA Rural Development State Office where the project is located.

**Submission of GRRHP Applications:** Notification letters will instruct lenders to contact the USDA Rural Development State Office immediately following notification of selection to schedule required agency reviews.

USDA Rural Development State Office staff will work with lenders in the development of an application package. The deadline for the submission of a complete application is 90 calendar days from the date of notification of response selection. If the application is not received by the appropriate State Office within 90 calendar days from the date of notification, the selection is subject to cancellation, thereby allowing another response that is ready to proceed with processing to be selected. The Agency may extend this 90 day deadline for receipt of an application at its own discretion.

#### VI. Award Administration Information

**Obligation of Program Funds:** The Agency will only obligate funds to projects that meet the requirements for obligation under 7 CFR part 3565 and this Notice, including having undergone a satisfactory environmental review in accordance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and completed Form RD 3565–1 for the selected project.

The Agency will prioritize the obligation requests using the highest score and the procedures outlined as follows. The Agency will select the responses that meet eligibility criteria and invite lenders to submit complete applications to the Agency. Once a complete application is received and approved, the State Office will submit a request to obligate funds to the National Office. In the event of a tie, priority will be given to the request for the project that has the highest percentage of leveraging (lowest Loan to Cost) and in the event there is still a tie, priority will be given to the project in the smaller rural community.

**Conditional Commitment:** Once the required documents for obligation are received and all NEPA and regulatory requirements have been met, the USDA Rural Development State Office will issue a conditional commitment, which stipulates the conditions that must be fulfilled before the issuance of a guarantee, in accordance with 7 CFR 3565.303.

**Issuance of Guarantee:** The USDA Rural Development Office will issue a guarantee to the lender for a project in accordance with 7 CFR 3565.303. No guarantee can be issued without a complete application, review of appropriate certifications, satisfactory assessment of the appropriate level of environmental review, and the completion of any conditional requirements.

#### Non-Discrimination Statement

USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). "USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender."

Dated: May 14, 2013.

**Tammye H. Treviño,**

*Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P**

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## COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

### Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that a planning meeting of the Massachusetts Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 12:00 p.m. (ET) on Wednesday, June 19, 2013, at the McCarter and English Law Office, 265 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110. The purpose of the meeting is for project planning.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments. The comments must be received in the regional office by Tuesday, July 19, 2013. Comments may be mailed to the Eastern Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 1150, Washington, DC 20425, faxed to (202) 376-7548, or emailed to [ero@usccr.gov](mailto:ero@usccr.gov). Persons who desire additional