

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Housing Service****Notice of Availability of Funds; Multi-Family Housing, Single Family Housing****AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) announces the availability of housing funds for fiscal year 2003 (FY 2003). This action is taken to comply with 42 U.S.C. 1490p, which requires that RHS publish in the **Federal Register** notice of the availability of any housing assistance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 16, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding this notice contact Teresa Sumpter, Loan Specialist, Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division, telephone (202) 720-1485, for single family housing (SFH) issues and Tammy S. Daniels, Loan Specialist, Multi-Family Housing Processing Division, telephone (202) 720-0021, for multi-family housing (MFH) issues, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250. (The telephone numbers listed are not toll free numbers). For information on applying for assistance, visit our Internet Web site at <http://offices.usda.gov> and select your State or check the blue pages in your local telephone directory under "Rural Development" for the office serving your area. Near the end of this Notice is a listing of Rural Development State Directors, State Office addresses, and phone numbers.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Programs Affected**

The following programs are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372 that requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. These programs or activities are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under Nos.

- 10.405 Farm Labor Housing (LH) Loans and Grants;
- 10.410 Very Low to Moderate Income Housing Loans;
- 10.411 Rural Housing Site Loans and Self-Help Housing Land Development Loans;
- 10.415 Rural Rental Housing Loans;
- 10.417 Very Low Income Housing Repair Loans and Grants;
- 10.420 Rural Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance;
- 10.427 Rural Rental Assistance Payments;
- 10.433 Rural Housing Preservation Grants;
- 10.442 Housing Application Packaging Grants.

Discussion of Notice

Part 1940, subpart L of 7 CFR contains the "Methodology and Formulas for Allocation of Loan and Grant Program Funds." To apply for assistance under these programs or for more information, contact the Rural Development Office for your area.

Multi-Family Housing (MFH)*I. General*

A. This provides guidance on MFH funding for the Rural Rental Housing program (RRH) for FY 2003 (it does not include carryover funds). Allocation computations have been performed in accordance with 7 CFR 1940.575 and 1940.578. For FY 2003, State Directors, under the Rural Housing Assistance Grants (RHAG), will have the flexibility to transfer their initial allocations of budget authority between the Single Family Housing (SFH) Section 504 Rural Housing Grants and Section 533 Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) programs.

B. MFH loan and grant levels for FY 2003 are as follows:

- MFH Loan Programs Credit Sales—
*\$1,987,851
- Section 514 Farm Labor Housing (LH) loans—*\$37,480,202
- Section 515 Rural Rental Housing (RRH) loans—*\$115,052,541
- Section 521 Rental Assistance (RA) and 502(c)(5)(C) Advance—
*\$721,281,000
- Section 516 LH grants—*\$17,698,209
- Sections 525 Technical and Supervisory Assistance grants
(TSA) and 509 Housing Application Packaging grants—\$1,093,978
(HAPG) (Shared between single and multi-family housing—(includes carryover)
- Section 533 Housing Preservation grants (HPG)—*\$9,935,000
- Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing program—*\$99,350,000
- *Does not include disaster or regular program carryover

II. Funds not Allocated to States

A. *Credit Sales Authority.* For FY 2003, \$1,987,851 will be set aside for credit sales to program and nonprogram buyers. Credit sale funding will not be allocated by State.

B. *Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program.* Guaranteed loan funds will be made available under a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) being published in this **Federal Register**. Additional guidance is provided in the NOFA.

III. Farm Labor Housing (LH) Loans and Grants

The Administrator has the authority to transfer the allocation of budget authority between the two programs. Upon NOFA closing, the Administrator will evaluate the responses and determine proper distribution of funds between loans and grants.

A. Section 514 Farm LH Loans.

- 1. These loans are funded in accordance with 7 CFR 1940.579(a).
—FY 2003 Appropriation—\$37,480,202
—Available for Off-Farm Loans—
\$30,480,202
—Available for On-Farm Loans—
\$3,000,000
—National Office Reserve—\$4,000,000

2. Off-farm loan funds will be made available under a NOFA being published in this **Federal Register**. Additional guidance is provided in the NOFA.

B. Section 516 Farm LH Grants.

- 1. Grants are funded in accordance with 7 CFR 1940.579(b). Unobligated prior year balances and cancellations will be added to the amount shown. FY 2003 Appropriation—\$17,698,209
Available for LH Grants for Off-Farm—
\$13,198,209
Available for Technical Assistance
Grants—\$1,500,000
National Office Reserve—\$3,000,000

2. Labor Housing grant funds for Off-Farm will be made available under a NOFA being published in this **Federal Register**. Additional guidance is provided in the NOFA.

C. *Labor Housing Rental Assistance (RA)* will be held in the National Office for use with LH loan and grant applications. RA is only available with a LH loan of at least 5 percent of the total development cost. Projects without a LH loan cannot receive RA.

IV. Section 515 RRH Loan Funds.

- FY 2003 Section 515 Rural Rental Housing allocation (Total)—
\$115,052,541
New Construction funds and set-asides—\$29,252,541
New construction loans—\$7,145,186
Set-aside for nonprofits—\$10,354,728
Set-aside for underserved counties and colonias—\$5,752,627
Earmark for EZ, EC, or REAP Zones—
\$5,000,000
State RA designated reserve—
\$1,000,000
Rehab and repair funds and equity—
\$60,800,000
Rehab and repair loans—\$55,800,000
Designated equity loan reserve—
\$5,000,000
General Reserve—\$25,000,000
- A. *New construction loan funds.* New construction loan funds will be made