

determined the borrower does not have the ability to finance the prepayment, the prepayment request will be denied. The borrower will be notified of the reasons for the decision and appeal rights will be given.

§ 1965.212 Appraisals.

To determine the appropriate incentives to offer a borrower, an appraisal must be completed. The purpose of the appraisal is to determine if the borrower's current equity in the project exceeds the initial investment. The project will be appraised as unsubsidized conventional multi-family housing. The effect on value of any hard and soft costs of conversion of the project from subsidized housing to unsubsidized conventional housing will be considered. Additionally, project reserve accounts and the present worth of any unexpired non-FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 project based tenant subsidies will be valued as assets of the project for inclusion in the appraisal. FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 Instruction 1922-B (available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office) will be used for guidance in conducting multi-family housing appraisals. After receipt of the appraisal, the Servicing Official or other designated official will determine the amount of the equity loan, if any, the number of Rental Assistance (RA) units necessary, the amount of annual return on investment to be offered, and whether excess Section 8 rents may be released to the borrower, if applicable.

§ 1965.213 Offer of incentives to borrowers.

The Servicing Official must offer an incentive package to the borrower as an inducement to not prepay if the borrower's loan(s) is not subject to prohibitions on prepayment or the borrower has not previously accepted incentive offers on the project for which the associated restrictive-use period has not expired. If a prepayment incentive offer which includes any equity loan is accepted, the equity loan may be processed and closed with the current borrower or any eligible transferee.

(a) *Availability of incentives.* Incentives may be offered only if the restric-

tive period has expired for any RRH project loan.

(b) *Available incentives.* One or more of the following incentives will be offered to the borrower. The amount of incentives will be determined in accordance with Exhibits D and E of this subpart (available in any Rural Development State or District Office).

(1) *Equity loans.* In RRH projects, a subsequent loan may be offered for equity for the difference between the current unpaid loan balance and a maximum of 90 percent of the project's value appraised as unsubsidized conventional housing. Equity loans may not be offered unless the servicing official determines that other incentives offered under this paragraph are not adequate to provide a fair return on the investment of the borrower, to prevent prepayment of the loan, or to prevent the displacement of project tenants.

(2) *Rental assistance.* Additional RA will be offered if needed by current tenants if found necessary by a market determination of need. The number of RA units offered will be based upon:

(i) The increase in rent overburden that will be experienced by tenants, in the project as a result of the incentives offered. The Multiple Housing Tenant File System (MTFS) will be reviewed to determine the number of tenants that will be rent overburdened by the increase in rents resulting from any subsequent loan made for equity. The number of RA units offered will be equal to the number of tenants experiencing rent overburden; and/or

(ii) A change in the market increasing the need for affordable housing. This criteria will usually be used when the project is experiencing substantial vacancies due to market factors. Generally, if the incentive offer contains a substantial equity loan, it would be unlikely that this provision would be consistent with the determination that the project is located in a strong unsubsidized market.

(iii) Reamortizing the existing debt under the provisions of § 1965.70 of subpart B of this part should be examined to determine if reamortization will lower existing debt service, thereby reducing tenant rent overburden and the need for additional RA.